

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 581

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of the Veterans' Land Board.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 2155, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2155.149 to read as follows:

Sec. 2155.149. CERTAIN PURCHASES BY VETERANS' LAND BOARD.

(a) The Veterans' Land Board is delegated all purchasing functions relating to veterans homes and veterans cemeteries.

(b) The Veterans' Land Board shall acquire goods and services by any procurement method that provides the best value to the Veterans' Land Board. The Veterans' Land Board shall consider the best value standards listed in Section 2155.074.

(c) The commission shall procure goods and services for the Veterans' Land Board at the request of the Veterans' Land Board, and the Veterans' Land Board may use the services of the commission in procuring goods and services.

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 2166.003, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Unless otherwise provided, this chapter does not apply to:

(1) a project constructed by and for the Texas Department of Transportation;

(2) a project constructed by and for a state institution of higher education;

1 (3) a pen, shed, or ancillary building constructed by
2 and for the Department of Agriculture for the processing of
3 livestock before export;

4 (4) a project constructed by the Parks and Wildlife
5 Department;

6 (5) a repair or rehabilitation project, except a major
7 renovation, of buildings and grounds on the commission inventory;

8 (6) a repair and rehabilitation project of another
9 using agency, if all labor for the project is provided by the
10 regular maintenance force of the using agency under specific
11 legislative authorization and the project does not require the
12 advance preparation of working plans or drawings;

13 (7) a repair and rehabilitation project involving the
14 use of contract labor, if the project has been excluded from this
15 chapter by commission rule and does not require the advance
16 preparation of working plans or drawings;

17 (8) an action taken by the Texas Natural Resource
18 Conservation Commission under Subchapter F or I, Chapter 361,
19 Health and Safety Code; ~~or~~

20 (9) a repair, rehabilitation, or construction project
21 on property owned by the Texas Department of Housing and Community
22 Affairs or the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation; or

23 (10) a project constructed by and for the Veterans'
24 Land Board.

25 SECTION 3. Subdivision (7), Subsection (a), Section
26 161.001, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

27 (7) "Veteran" means a person who:

1 (A)(i) served not less than 90 [~~continuous~~] days,
2 unless sooner discharged by reason of a service-connected
3 disability, on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast
4 Guard, United States Public Health Service (as constituted under 42
5 U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.), or Marine Corps of the United States
6 after September 16, 1940, and who on the date of filing an
7 application under the program has not been dishonorably discharged
8 from the branch of the service in which the person served;

9 (ii) has at least 20 years of active or
10 reserve military service as computed when determining the person's
11 eligibility to receive retired pay under applicable federal law;

12 (iii) has enlisted or received an
13 appointment in the Texas National Guard, who has completed all
14 initial active duty training required as a condition of the
15 enlistment or appointment, and who on the date of filing the
16 person's application has not been dishonorably discharged from the
17 Texas National Guard; or

18 (iv) served in the armed forces of the
19 Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, if
20 the board adopts a rule regarding these veterans under Subsection
21 (b);

22 (B) at the time of the person's enlistment,
23 induction, commissioning, appointment, or drafting was a bona fide
24 resident of this state or has resided in this state at least one
25 year immediately before the date of filing an application under
26 this chapter; and

27 (C) at the time of the person's application under

1 this chapter is a bona fide resident of this state. The term
2 includes the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran who died or who
3 is identified as missing in action if the deceased or missing
4 veteran meets the requirements of this section, with the exception
5 that the deceased or missing veteran need not have served 90
6 [~~continuous~~] days under Paragraph (A)(i) of this subdivision, and
7 if the deceased or missing veteran was a bona fide resident of this
8 state at the time of enlistment, induction, commissioning,
9 appointment, or drafting.

10 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by Sections 1 and 2 of
11 this Act apply only to a contract or project for which the Veterans'
12 Land Board first advertises or otherwise solicits bids, proposals,
13 offers, or qualifications on or after the effective date of this
14 Act. A contract or project for which the Veterans' Land Board, or a
15 state agency acting on behalf of the Veterans' Land Board, first
16 advertised or otherwise solicited bids, offers, or qualifications
17 before that date is governed by the law in effect when the first
18 advertisement or solicitation was given, and the former law is
19 continued in effect for that purpose.

20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.