

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1714

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the operation of certain employment programs for veterans of the armed forces of the United States.

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

SECTION 1. Section 434.007, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 434.007. DUTIES. (a) The commission shall:

(1) compile federal, state, and local laws enacted to benefit members of the armed forces, veterans, and their families and dependents;

(2) collect information relating to services and facilities available to veterans;

(3) cooperate with veterans service agencies in the state;

(4) inform members and veterans of the armed forces, their families and dependents, and military and civilian authorities about the existence or availability of:

(A) educational training and retraining facilities;

(B) health, medical, rehabilitation, and housing services and facilities;

(C) employment and reemployment services;

(D) provisions of federal, state, and local law affording rights, privileges, and benefits to members and veterans

1 of the armed forces and their families and dependents; and

2 (E) other similar, related, or appropriate
3 matters;

4 (5) assist veterans and their families and dependents
5 in presenting, proving, and establishing claims, privileges,
6 rights, and benefits they may have under federal, state, or local
7 law;

8 (6) cooperate with all government and private agencies
9 securing services or benefits to veterans and their families and
10 dependents;

11 (7) investigate, and if possible correct, abuses or
12 exploitation of veterans or their families or dependents, and
13 recommend necessary legislation for full correction;

14 (8) coordinate the services and activities of state
15 departments and divisions having services and resources affecting
16 veterans or their families or dependents; ~~and~~

17 (9) provide training and certification of veterans
18 county service officers and assistant veterans county service
19 officers in accordance with Section 434.038; and

20 (10) operate programs in this state to enhance the
21 employment opportunities of veterans of the armed forces of the
22 United States, including the employment program funded under
23 Chapters 41 and 42, Title 38, United States Code.

24 (b) The programs described by Subsection (a)(10) must
25 exclusively enhance the employment opportunities of eligible
26 veterans, and the services provided under those programs must be
27 provided by state employees. A state employee providing services

1 under Subsection (a)(10) may only provide services to veterans.

2 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 302.021, Labor Code, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (b) In addition to the programs consolidated under the
5 authority of the commission under Subsection (a), the commission
6 shall administer:

7 (1) [~~programs in this state to enhance the employment~~
8 ~~opportunities of veterans of the armed services of the United~~
9 ~~States, including the employment program funded under Chapters 41~~
10 ~~and 42, Title 38, United States Code;~~

11 [~~2~~] child-care services provided under Chapter 44,
12 Human Resources Code; and

13 (2) [~~3~~] programs established in this state through
14 federal funding to conduct full service career development centers
15 and school-to-work transition services.

16 SECTION 3. Subsection (g), Section 302.062, Labor Code, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (g) Block grant funding under this section does not apply
19 to:

20 (1) the work and family policies program under Chapter
21 81;

22 (2) a program under the skills development fund
23 created under Chapter 303;

24 (3) the job counseling program for displaced
25 homemakers under Chapter 304;

26 (4) the Communities In Schools program under
27 Subchapter E, Chapter 33, Education Code, to the extent that funds

1 are available to the commission for that program;

2 (5) the reintegration of offenders program under
3 Chapter 306;

4 (6) apprenticeship programs under Chapter 133,
5 Education Code;

6 (7) the continuity of care program under Section
7 501.095, Government Code;

8 (8) employment programs under Chapter 31, Human
9 Resources Code;

10 (9) the senior citizens employment program under
11 Chapter 101, Human Resources Code;

12 (10) the programs described by Section 302.021(b)(2)
13 [~~302.021(b)(3)~~];

14 (11) the community service program under the National
15 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501 et seq.);

16 (12) the trade adjustment assistance program under
17 Part 2, Subchapter II, Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. Section 2271 et
18 seq.);

19 (13) the programs to enhance the employment
20 opportunities of veterans; and

21 (14) the functions of the State Occupational
22 Information Coordinating Committee.

23 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.