

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a reintegration counseling program for certain veterans and servicemembers.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter U to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER U. SERVICEMEMBER COUNSELING

Sec. 161.551. DEFINITIONS. (a) In this subchapter:

(1) "Active Duty" means that a servicemember is activated and deployed outside the state pursuant to federal orders under Title 10 or 32, United States Code.

(2) "Servicemember" means a resident of this state who is a member of the Texas National Guard or a reserve component of the United States armed forces in this state.

Sec. 161.552. REINTEGRATION COUNSELING PROGRAM. (a) The Department of State Health Services shall develop and implement a statewide reintegration counseling program for servicemembers and their immediate families. The program shall:

(1) be available to a servicemember and the servicemember's immediate family from the beginning date of active duty until one year after the date of the servicemember's return or deactivation, whichever is later; and

(2) include counseling services designed to facilitate the reintegration of the servicemember back into

1 civilian and family life.

2 (b) The Department of State Health Services shall seek input  
3 from the Texas National Guard regarding the content of the  
4 reintegration counseling program.

5 SECTION 2. The Department of State Health Services shall  
6 develop and implement the statewide reintegration counseling  
7 program under Section 161.552, Health and Safety Code, as added by  
8 this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
9 Act.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.