

1-1 By: West, et al. S.B. No. 1058
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 1, 2007; March 14, 2007, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; April 16, 2007, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4,
1-6 Nays 0; April 16, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1058 By: Van de Putte

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to reintegration counseling services and related
1-11 resources for military servicemembers.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Section 431.001, Government Code, is amended by
1-14 adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

1-15 (1-a) "Servicemember" has the meaning assigned by
1-16 Section 161.551, Health and Safety Code.

1-17 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 431, Government Code, is
1-18 amended by adding Section 431.0291 to read as follows:

1-19 Sec. 431.0291. SERVICE REFERRAL PROGRAM. (a) The
1-20 department shall develop a program to provide referrals to
1-21 servicemembers for reintegration services.

1-22 (b) The program shall:

1-23 (1) identify and make referrals to community-based
1-24 organizations that have existing programs that provide
1-25 reintegration services to servicemembers and their families;

1-26 (2) focus on early intervention and appropriate
1-27 referral to promote the health of servicemembers and the children
1-28 and other family members of the servicemembers;

1-29 (3) promote family cohesion and sustainability;

1-30 (4) be based on evidence-based best practices related
1-31 to meeting the needs of servicemembers and the children and other
1-32 family members of the servicemembers;

1-33 (5) be carried out, when appropriate, in a community
1-34 setting through peer counseling and other means effective for
1-35 community outreach;

1-36 (6) use existing service delivery facilities,
1-37 including churches, National Guard Bureau family education
1-38 facilities, and veterans centers and support facilities;

1-39 (7) use community-based and faith-based
1-40 organizations;

1-41 (8) be developed and administered in a manner that
1-42 promotes collaboration of service providers and results in the
1-43 referral of servicemembers, their children, and other family
1-44 members to the appropriate federal, state, and community services
1-45 for which they are eligible; and

1-46 (9) provide information and referral services
1-47 regarding the risks and consequences of trauma, including
1-48 post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other
1-49 conditions for which servicemembers are at risk.

1-50 (c) In developing the referral program, the department
1-51 shall consult with the state military forces, the National Guard
1-52 Bureau, the United States Veterans Health Administration, the Texas
1-53 A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, and The University
1-54 of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

1-55 SECTION 3. Section 434.007, Government Code, is amended to
1-56 read as follows:

1-57 Sec. 434.007. DUTIES. The commission shall:

1-58 (1) compile federal, state, and local laws enacted to
1-59 benefit members of the armed forces, veterans, and their families
1-60 and dependents;

1-61 (2) collect information relating to services and
1-62 facilities available to veterans;

1-63 (3) cooperate with veterans service agencies in the

2-1 state;

2-2 (4) inform members and veterans of the armed forces,

2-3 their families and dependents, and military and civilian

2-4 authorities about the existence or availability of:

2-5 (A) educational training and retraining

2-6 facilities;

2-7 (B) health, medical, rehabilitation, and housing

2-8 services and facilities;

2-9 (C) employment and reemployment services;

2-10 (D) provisions of federal, state, and local law

2-11 affording rights, privileges, and benefits to members and veterans

2-12 of the armed forces and their families and dependents; and

2-13 (E) other similar, related, or appropriate

2-14 matters;

2-15 (5) assist veterans and their families and dependents

2-16 in presenting, proving, and establishing claims, privileges,

2-17 rights, and benefits they may have under federal, state, or local

2-18 law;

2-19 (6) cooperate with all government and private agencies

2-20 securing services or benefits to veterans and their families and

2-21 dependents;

2-22 (7) investigate, and if possible correct, abuses or

2-23 exploitation of veterans or their families or dependents, and

2-24 recommend necessary legislation for full correction;

2-25 (8) coordinate the services and activities of state

2-26 departments and divisions having services and resources affecting

2-27 veterans or their families or dependents; ~~and~~

2-28 (9) provide training and certification of veterans

2-29 county service officers and assistant veterans county service

2-30 officers in accordance with Section 434.038; and

2-31 (10) through surveys or other reasonable and accurate

2-32 methods of estimation, collect and maintain for each county in the

2-33 state the number of servicemembers and veterans residing in the

2-34 county and annually update and publish the information on the

2-35 commission's website.

2-36 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 434, Government Code, is

2-37 amended by adding Section 434.107 to read as follows:

2-38 Sec. 434.107. DIRECTORY OF SERVICES. (a) The commission

2-39 shall collaborate with and assist the Department of State Health

2-40 Services and the Health and Human Services Commission in compiling

2-41 and maintaining the directory of services established under Section

2-42 161.552, Health and Safety Code.

2-43 (b) The commission shall provide the directory of services

2-44 established under Section 161.552, Health and Safety Code, on the

2-45 commission's website or through links appearing on the commission's

2-46 website.

2-47 SECTION 5. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is

2-48 amended by adding Section 531.093 to read as follows:

2-49 Sec. 531.093. SERVICES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL. (a) In

2-50 this section, "servicemember" has the meaning assigned by Section

2-51 161.551, Health and Safety Code.

2-52 (b) The executive commissioner shall ensure that each

2-53 health and human services agency adopts policies and procedures

2-54 that require the agency to:

2-55 (1) identify servicemembers who are seeking services

2-56 from the agency during the agency's intake and eligibility

2-57 determination process; and

2-58 (2) direct servicemembers seeking services to

2-59 appropriate service providers, including the United States

2-60 Veterans Health Administration, National Guard Bureau facilities,

2-61 and other federal, state, and local service providers.

2-62 (c) The executive commissioner shall make the directory of

2-63 resources established under Section 161.552, Health and Safety

2-64 Code, accessible to each health and human services agency.

2-65 SECTION 6. Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended

2-66 by adding Subchapter U to read as follows:

2-67 SUBCHAPTER U. INFORMATION REGARDING PROGRAMS FOR MILITARY

2-68 PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES

2-69 Sec. 161.551. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

3-1 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services
3-2 Commission.

3-3 (2) "Department" means the Department of State Health
3-4 Services.

3-5 (3) "Servicemember" means a resident of this state who
3-6 is a member or former member of the state military forces or a
3-7 component of the United States armed forces, including a reserve
3-8 component. In this section, "state military forces" has the
3-9 meaning assigned by Section 431.001, Government Code.

3-10 Sec. 161.552. DIRECTORY OF SERVICES. (a) The department
3-11 and commission shall compile, maintain, and disseminate through the
3-12 Texas Information and Referral Network and through other
3-13 appropriate media, a directory of services and other resources,
3-14 tools, and counseling programs available to servicemembers and
3-15 their immediate family.

3-16 (b) The directory must include:

3-17 (1) information regarding counseling services that:

3-18 (A) facilitate the reintegration of the
3-19 servicemember into civilian and family life;

3-20 (B) identify and treat stress disorders, trauma,
3-21 and traumatic brain injury;

3-22 (C) address parenting and family well-being,
3-23 employment, and substance abuse issues; and

3-24 (D) provide crisis intervention services;

3-25 (2) to the greatest degree possible in the judgment of
3-26 the department, all private and public community, state, and
3-27 national resources that protect and promote the health and
3-28 well-being of servicemembers and their immediate family and that
3-29 are accessible in the state directly or through electronic media,
3-30 print media, or the Internet; and

3-31 (3) other resources that support the health of
3-32 servicemembers and their families.

3-33 (c) The department and commission shall organize the
3-34 directory in a manner that allows a person to locate services in a
3-35 specific community in the state.

3-36 (d) The department and commission shall develop and
3-37 maintain the directory in collaboration with local, state, and
3-38 national private and government organizations, including:

3-39 (1) the United States Veterans Health Administration;

3-40 (2) the United States Department of Defense;

3-41 (3) the adjutant general's department;

3-42 (4) the Texas Veterans Commission; and

3-43 (5) other public and private national and
3-44 community-based organizations that provide support to
3-45 servicemembers and their families.

3-46 (e) The department shall provide the directory to the Texas
3-47 Information and Referral Network of the commission in the time
3-48 periods and in the manner and format specified by the Texas
3-49 Information and Referral Network.

3-50 (f) The department shall provide the directory on the
3-51 department's website or through links appearing on the department's
3-52 website.

3-53 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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