

By: Nelson, Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1325

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a mental health intervention program for military veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.076 to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.076. MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR VETERANS. (a) In this section, "veteran" means a person who:

(1) has served in:

(A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States;

(B) the state military forces as defined by Section 431.001, Government Code; or

(C) an auxiliary service of one of those branches of the armed forces; and

(2) has been honorably discharged from the branch of the service in which the person served.

(b) The department shall develop a mental health intervention program for veterans. The program must provide for peer-to-peer counseling.

(c) The department shall solicit and train volunteers to provide the peer-to-peer counseling.

SECTION 2. The Department of State Health Services shall develop the mental health intervention program for veterans as

1 required by Section 1001.076, Health and Safety Code, as added by
2 this Act, not later than January 1, 2010.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.