

1-1 By: Nelson S.B. No. 1325
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 4, 2009; March 17, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; April 6, 2009, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4,
1-6 Nays 0; April 6, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1325 By: Huffman

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

1-10 relating to the creation of a mental health intervention program
1-11 for military veterans.

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

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 1001, Health and Safety
1-14 Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.076 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 1001.076. MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR VETERANS. (a) In
1-16 this section, "veteran" means a person who:

1-17 (1) has served in:

1-18 (A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or
1-19 marine corps of the United States;

1-20 (B) the state military forces as defined by
1-21 Section 431.001, Government Code; or

1-22 (C) an auxiliary service of one of those branches
1-23 of the armed forces; and

1-24 (2) has been honorably discharged from the branch of
1-25 the service in which the person served.

1-26 (b) The department shall develop a mental health
1-27 intervention program for veterans. The program must provide for
1-28 peer-to-peer counseling.

1-29 (c) The department shall solicit and train volunteers to
1-30 provide the peer-to-peer counseling.

1-31 SECTION 2. The Department of State Health Services shall
1-32 develop the mental health intervention program for veterans as
1-33 required by Section 1001.076, Health and Safety Code, as added by
1-34 this Act, not later than January 1, 2010.

1-35 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-36 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-37 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-38 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-39 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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