

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1463

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the provision of information regarding health care and  
3 other benefits for veterans.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 434.019 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 434.019. INFORMATION ABOUT VETERANS BENEFITS. The  
8 Texas Veterans Commission shall attend each transition assistance  
9 program conducted by the United States Department of Defense in the  
10 state. At each transition assistance program, the Texas Veterans  
11 Commission shall:

12 (1) distribute the application for health benefits  
13 from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

14 (2) answer questions regarding health care and other  
15 benefits available to veterans of the United States armed forces.

16 SECTION 2. Subchapter U, Chapter 161, Health and Safety  
17 Code, is amended by adding Section 161.553 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 161.553. VETERANS HEALTH CARE BENEFITS. (a) The  
19 department and commission shall disseminate through the Texas  
20 Information and Referral Network information regarding the health  
21 care benefits available to veterans of the United States armed  
22 forces through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.  
23 The information must include:

24 (1) the process for applying for health care benefits,

1 including copies of any forms necessary to apply for benefits; and  
2 (2) contact information for the Texas Veterans  
3 Commission, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and  
4 veterans hospitals in the state.

5 (b) The Texas Veterans Commission shall cooperate with the  
6 department and commission in preparing and maintaining the  
7 information that is made available through the Texas Information  
8 and Referral Network.

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