

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 1463
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 6, 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. 1463 By: Shapleigh

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

1-10 relating to the provision of information regarding health care and
1-11 other benefits for veterans and their family members.

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

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 434.019 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 434.019. INFORMATION ABOUT VETERANS BENEFITS. The
1-16 Texas Veterans Commission shall, to the extent possible:

1-17 (1) attend each transition assistance program
1-18 conducted by the United States Department of Defense in the state;
1-19 and

1-20 (2) at each transition assistance program:

1-21 (A) distribute the application for health
1-22 benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

1-23 (B) answer questions regarding health care and
1-24 other benefits available to veterans of the United States armed
1-25 forces.

1-26 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 531.093, Government Code,
1-27 is amended to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 531.093. SERVICES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND FAMILY OF
1-29 SERVICEMEMBERS [~~MILITARY PERSONNEL~~].

1-30 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 531.093, Government
1-31 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-32 (b) The executive commissioner shall ensure that each
1-33 health and human services agency adopts policies and procedures
1-34 that require the agency to:

1-35 (1) identify the following individuals
1-36 [~~servicemembers~~] who are seeking services from the agency during
1-37 the agency's intake and eligibility determination process:

1-38 (A) servicemembers;

1-39 (B) spouses of servicemembers;

1-40 (C) spouses of deceased servicemembers; and

1-41 (D) dependents of deceased servicemembers; and

1-42 (2) direct the individuals identified under
1-43 Subdivision (1) [~~servicemembers seeking services~~] to appropriate
1-44 service providers, including the United States Veterans Health
1-45 Administration, National Guard Bureau facilities, and other
1-46 federal, state, and local service providers.

1-47 SECTION 4. Subchapter U, Chapter 161, Health and Safety
1-48 Code, is amended by adding Section 161.553 to read as follows:

1-49 Sec. 161.553. VETERANS HEALTH CARE BENEFITS. (a) The
1-50 department and commission shall ensure that each individual who
1-51 calls the Texas Information and Referral Network is informed that
1-52 individuals who are servicemembers, spouses of servicemembers,
1-53 spouses of deceased servicemembers, or dependents of deceased
1-54 servicemembers may be entitled to medical and other benefits from
1-55 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the National
1-56 Guard Bureau, and other federal, state, and local service
1-57 providers.

1-58 (b) The Texas Information and Referral Network shall
1-59 provide the name and contact information of each entity that
1-60 provides benefits to which an individual described by Subsection
1-61 (a) may be entitled.

1-62 (c) The Texas Veterans Commission shall cooperate with the
1-63 department and commission in preparing and maintaining the

2-1 information relating to referrals that is provided through the
2-2 Texas Information and Referral Network, as provided by this
2-3 section.

2-4 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-8 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

2-9

* * * * *