

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 2135

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a monument dedicated to members of the armed forces from  
3 this state who died in combat.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 2165.2561, Government Code, is amended  
6 by adding Subsection (v) to read as follows:

7 (v) The State Cemetery Committee shall erect a flagpole and  
8 an appropriate monument in the military monument area of the State  
9 Cemetery dedicated to military personnel from the state who are  
10 killed while serving in a combat zone. When the committee is  
11 notified by the Texas Veterans Commission that a member of the  
12 United States armed forces from the state was killed while serving  
13 in a combat zone, the committee shall ensure that the flag at the  
14 monument is displayed at half-staff for an appropriate period as a  
15 mark of respect to the memory of the deceased member of the armed  
16 forces.

17 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is  
18 amended by adding Section 434.020 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 434.020. NOTICE TO STATE CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF  
20 SERVICEMEMBER'S DEATH. The Texas Veterans Commission shall notify  
21 the State Cemetery Committee as soon as practicable after the  
22 commission receives notice of the death of a member of the United  
23 States armed forces from the state who is killed while serving in a  
24 combat zone.

1           SECTION 3. The State Cemetery Committee shall consult with  
2 the standing committees of each house of the legislature with  
3 jurisdiction over military and veterans matters in planning the  
4 monument required under Section 2165.2561(v), Government Code, as  
5 added by this Act.

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