

1-1 By: Zaffirini, Van de Putte S.B. No. 2256
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2009; March 31, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; April 28, 2009, reported favorably, as
1-5 amended, by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 28, 2009,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1 By: Van de Putte

1-8 Amend S.B. No. 2256 (Introduced version) by adding the following
1-9 appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering
1-10 subsequent SECTIONs of the bill accordingly:

1-11 SECTION _____. This Act does not make an appropriation. A
1-12 provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program,
1-13 creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental
1-14 entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the
1-15 legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the
1-16 provision.

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the establishment and operation of the Texas Women
1-20 Veterans Program.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by
1-23 adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

1-24 SUBCHAPTER D. TEXAS WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

1-25 Sec. 434.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-26 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Veterans Commission.

1-27 (2) "Executive director" means the executive director
1-28 of the commission.

1-29 (3) "Program" means the Texas Women Veterans Program.

1-30 (4) "Woman veteran" means a woman who:

1-31 (A) served on active duty in the armed forces of
1-32 the United States or in the Texas National Guard on federal active
1-33 duty under Title 10, United States Code; and

1-34 (B) was discharged or released from that service
1-35 under conditions other than dishonorable.

1-36 Sec. 434.152. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM; PROGRAM MISSION.

1-37 (a) The Texas Women Veterans Program is established in the
1-38 commission. The program is attached to the office of the executive
1-39 director for administrative purposes.

1-40 (b) The mission of the program is to ensure that the women
1-41 veterans of this state have equitable access to federal and state
1-42 veterans' benefits and services.

1-43 Sec. 434.153. COORDINATOR. The executive director shall
1-44 designate a women veterans coordinator for this state.

1-45 Sec. 434.154. GENERAL PROGRAM DUTIES. The program shall:

1-46 (1) provide assistance to the women veterans of this
1-47 state as provided by this subchapter;

1-48 (2) perform outreach functions to improve the
1-49 awareness of women veterans of their eligibility for federal and
1-50 state veterans' benefits and services;

1-51 (3) assess the needs of women veterans with respect to
1-52 benefits and services;

1-53 (4) review programs, research projects, and other
1-54 initiatives designed to address the needs of the women veterans of
1-55 this state;

1-56 (5) make recommendations to the executive director
1-57 regarding the improvement of benefits and services to women
1-58 veterans; and

1-59 (6) incorporate issues concerning women veterans in
1-60 commission planning regarding veterans benefits and services.

1-61 Sec. 434.155. ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS. (a) The
1-62 program shall advocate for women veterans and work to increase

2-1 public awareness about the gender-specific needs of women veterans.
2-2 (b) The program shall recommend legislative initiatives and
2-3 the development of policies on the local, state, and national
2-4 levels to address the issues affecting women veterans.

2-5 Sec. 434.156. COLLABORATION. The program shall collaborate
2-6 with federal, state, and private agencies that provide services to
2-7 women veterans.

2-8 Sec. 434.157. RESEARCH; DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.
2-9 (a) The program shall monitor and research issues relating to
2-10 women veterans.

2-11 (b) The program shall disseminate information regarding
2-12 opportunities for women veterans throughout the network of entities
2-13 with which the program collaborates.

2-14 Sec. 434.158. EDUCATION. Through conferences, seminars,
2-15 and training workshops with federal, state, and private agencies,
2-16 the program shall provide guidance and direction to a woman veteran
2-17 who is applying for grants, benefits, or services.

2-18 Sec. 434.159. HONOR AND RECOGNITION. The program shall
2-19 promote events and activities that recognize and honor the women
2-20 veterans of this state and women who serve in the military.

2-21 Sec. 434.160. FACILITIES. To the extent funding is
2-22 available for that purpose, the program shall provide facilities as
2-23 appropriate in support of the program.

2-24 Sec. 434.161. FUNDING. On behalf of the program, the
2-25 executive director may accept and spend funds:

2-26 (1) appropriated to the commission for the operation
2-27 of the program; and

2-28 (2) received from other sources, including donations
2-29 and grants.

2-30 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-31 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-32 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-33 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-34 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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