

By: Fletcher

H.B. No. 1172

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to resources available to the Texas Veterans Commission.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 434.017, Government Code, as amended by  
5 Chapters 840 (S.B. 1940) and 1385 (S.B. 1655), Acts of the 81st  
6 Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, is reenacted and amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 434.017. FUND FOR VETERANS' ASSISTANCE. (a) The fund  
9 for veterans' assistance is a special fund in the state treasury  
10 outside the general revenue fund. The fund is divided into two  
11 accounts, the federal money account and the state money account.

12 (a-1) The federal money account is composed of:

13 (1) federal money transferred to the fund at the  
14 direction of the legislature; and

15 (2) the earnings of the account.

16 (a-2) The state money account is composed of:

17 (1) state money transferred to the fund at the  
18 direction of the legislature;

19 (2) gifts and grants contributed to the fund;

20 (3) the earnings of the account ~~[fund]~~; ~~[and]~~

21 (4) money transferred to the fund from proceeds of the  
22 lottery game operated under Section 466.027 or transferred to the  
23 fund under Section 466.408(b); and

24 (5) [~~2~~] money deposited to the credit of the fund

1 under Section 502.1746, Transportation Code.

2 (b) Except as provided by Subsections (c), (c-1), and (e),  
3 money in the fund may not be appropriated for any purpose.

4 (c) Money in the federal money account of the fund may be  
5 appropriated to the Texas Veterans Commission only for purposes  
6 authorized by federal law.

7 (c-1) Money in the state money account of the fund may be  
8 appropriated to the Texas Veterans Commission only to:

9 (1) enhance or improve veterans' assistance programs,  
10 including veterans' representation and counseling;

11 (2) make grants to address veterans' needs, including  
12 expenses for entertainment, housing, travel, and food; and

13 (3) administer the fund.

14 (d) The Texas Veterans Commission may adopt rules governing  
15 the award of grants by the commission under this section.

16 (e) The commission may solicit, accept, or refuse a gift or  
17 grant of money, services, or property for any purpose related to the  
18 state money account of the fund for veterans' assistance. A gift or  
19 grant to the fund may be appropriated in the same manner as other  
20 money in the fund, subject to the purposes provided by Subsection  
21 (c-1) and any limitation or requirement placed on the gift or grant  
22 by the donor or granting entity.

23 (f) Sections 403.095 and 404.071 do not apply to the fund.

24 SECTION 2. The Texas Veterans Commission shall perform an  
25 accounting of the unobligated and unexpended balance in the fund  
26 for veterans' assistance at the end of the state fiscal year ending  
27 August 31, 2011, to determine the portion of the balance that is

1 federal money and the portion of the balance that is state money.  
2 The commission shall deposit the unobligated and unexpended balance  
3 of the fund that is federal money into the federal money account of  
4 the fund established under Section 434.017(a), Government Code, as  
5 amended by this Act, and deposit the unobligated and unexpended  
6 balance of the fund that is state money into the state money account  
7 of the fund established under Section 434.017(a), Government Code,  
8 as amended by this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.