

1-1 By: Van de Putte, Rodriguez S.B. No. 1796
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2011; March 23, 2011, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; April 19, 2011, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 3, Nays
1-6 0; April 19, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1796 By: Van de Putte

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

1-10 relating to the creation of the Texas Coordinating Council for
1-11 Veterans Services.

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

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

1-15 SUBCHAPTER D. TEXAS COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR VETERANS SERVICES

1-16 Sec. 434.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-17 (1) "Council" means the Texas Coordinating Council for
1-18 Veterans Services.

1-19 (2) "Servicemember" has the meaning assigned by
1-20 Section 161.551, Health and Safety Code.

1-21 Sec. 434.152. TEXAS COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR VETERANS
1-22 SERVICES. The Texas Coordinating Council for Veterans Services is
1-23 established to:

1-24 (1) coordinate the activities of state agencies that
1-25 assist veterans, servicemembers, and their families;

1-26 (2) coordinate outreach efforts that ensure that
1-27 veterans, servicemembers, and their families are made aware of
1-28 services; and

1-29 (3) facilitate collaborative relationships among
1-30 state, federal, and local agencies and private organizations to
1-31 identify and address issues affecting veterans, servicemembers,
1-32 and their families.

1-33 Sec. 434.153. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL. The council is
1-34 composed of the executive head of the following agencies, or that
1-35 person's designated representative:

1-36 (1) the Texas Veterans Commission;

1-37 (2) the Veterans' Land Board;

1-38 (3) the adjutant general's department; and

1-39 (4) the Health and Human Services Commission.

1-40 Sec. 434.154. COORDINATING WORKGROUPS; ADDITIONAL COUNCIL
1-41 MEMBERS. (a) The council may, by majority vote, establish the
1-42 following coordinating workgroups to focus on specific issues
1-43 affecting veterans, servicemembers, and their families:

1-44 (1) health or mental health;

1-45 (2) employment;

1-46 (3) higher education;

1-47 (4) criminal justice;

1-48 (5) housing; and

1-49 (6) any other coordinating workgroup considered
1-50 necessary.

1-51 (b) If the council votes to establish a health or mental
1-52 health coordinating workgroup, the membership of the council also
1-53 includes the executive head of the following agencies, or that
1-54 person's designated representative:

1-55 (1) the Department of State Health Services;

1-56 (2) the Department of Aging and Disability Services;

1-57 and

1-58 (3) the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative
1-59 Services.

1-60 (c) If the council votes to establish an employment
1-61 coordinating workgroup, the membership of the council also includes
1-62 the executive head of the following agencies, or that person's
1-63 designated representative:

2-1 (1) the Texas Workforce Commission; and
2-2 (2) the Texas Workforce Investment Council.

2-3 (d) If the council votes to establish a higher education
2-4 coordinating workgroup, the membership of the council also includes
2-5 the commissioner of higher education, or the commissioner's
2-6 designated representative.

2-7 (e) If the council votes to establish a criminal justice
2-8 coordinating workgroup, the membership of the council also includes
2-9 the executive head of the following entities, or that person's
2-10 designated representative:

2-11 (1) the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with
2-12 Medical or Mental Impairments; and

2-13 (2) the Commission on Jail Standards.

2-14 (f) If the council votes to establish a housing coordinating
2-15 workgroup, the membership of the council also includes the
2-16 executive head of the following agencies, or that person's
2-17 designated representative:

2-18 (1) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
2-19 Affairs; and

2-20 (2) the Texas Department of Rural Affairs.

2-21 (g) Each member of the council may invite one organization
2-22 or agency that provides services to veterans, servicemembers, and
2-23 their families, but that is not otherwise a member of the council,
2-24 to designate a representative to participate in a coordinating
2-25 workgroup through procedures established by the council.

2-26 Sec. 434.155. PRESIDING OFFICER. The executive director of
2-27 the Texas Veterans Commission shall serve as the presiding officer.

2-28 Sec. 434.156. MEETINGS. The council shall meet at least
2-29 annually and at the call of the presiding officer.

2-30 Sec. 434.157. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. (a) The council is
2-31 administratively attached to the Texas Veterans Commission. The
2-32 Texas Veterans Commission may provide administrative support and
2-33 resources to the council as necessary to enable the council to
2-34 perform its duties.

2-35 (b) A state agency represented on the council shall support
2-36 the agency's involvement with the council and provide staff support
2-37 as needed to the council.

2-38 (c) The designated representative of any organization or
2-39 agency that accepts an invitation to serve on a coordinating
2-40 workgroup of the council under Section 434.154(g) is not entitled
2-41 to compensation, but is entitled to reimbursement of the
2-42 representative's travel expenses as provided by Chapter 660 and the
2-43 General Appropriations Act.

2-44 Sec. 434.158. REPORT BY COUNCIL. Not later than October 1
2-45 of each even-numbered year, the council shall submit a report to the
2-46 governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
2-47 representatives, and chairs of the appropriate committees of the
2-48 legislature detailing the work of the council and any
2-49 recommendations.

2-50 SECTION 2. The presiding officer of the Texas Coordinating
2-51 Council for Veterans Services shall call the initial meeting of the
2-52 council not later than November 1, 2011.

2-53 SECTION 3. This Act does not make an appropriation or
2-54 require a specific appropriation. Any new duty imposed on a state
2-55 agency as a result of the Act can be performed through the
2-56 appropriations provided by the legislature as part of the existing
2-57 responsibilities of the state agency.

2-58 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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