

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 846
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 26, 2013; March 5, 2013,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; March 28, 2013, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; March 28, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9			X	
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			

1-13 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to training, certification, and accreditation provided or
1-16 regulated by the Texas Veterans Commission.

1-17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-18 SECTION 1. Subsections (d) and (e), Section 434.038,
1-19 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-20 (d) The commission shall develop standard course materials,
1-21 training curriculum, and examinations to be used for county service
1-22 officer certification and United States Department of Veterans
1-23 Affairs accreditation. [~~The members of the commission must approve
1-24 the course materials, training curriculum, and examinations before
1-25 the commission may distribute the materials and administer
1-26 examinations.~~]

1-27 (e) The commission shall:

1-28 (1) maintain course materials and examinations in a
1-29 central location and provide county service offices and commission
1-30 field staff with access to the course materials on the commission's
1-31 Internet website;

1-32 (2) regularly update course materials, training
1-33 curriculum, and examinations after consulting with:

1-34 (A) the United States Department of Veterans
1-35 Affairs to ensure the course materials, training curriculum, and
1-36 examinations are accurate and meet applicable United States
1-37 Department of Veterans Affairs requirements; and

1-38 (B) accredited county service officers to ensure
1-39 the materials, training curriculum, and examinations include
1-40 issues developing at the county level; [~~and~~]

1-41 (3) develop a training handbook containing
1-42 instruction and case studies addressing:

1-43 (A) general assistance techniques, including how
1-44 to provide general information regarding state and federal benefits
1-45 and referrals for other services and to other agencies, and general
1-46 information regarding state and federal benefits;

1-47 (B) basic counseling approaches for assisting
1-48 veterans, their family members, and other eligible dependents
1-49 filing benefit claims;

1-50 (C) basic information on United States
1-51 Department of Veterans Affairs processes and procedures, including
1-52 how to accurately complete claims and appeals forms and how to
1-53 support claims;

1-54 (D) methods of collecting required documentation
1-55 and developing claims and appeals;

1-56 (E) methods of documenting progress and updating
1-57 a veteran's, a veteran's family member's, or another eligible
1-58 dependent's case information;

1-59 (F) methods of assisting veterans, their family
1-60 members, or other eligible dependents in pursuing appeals,
1-61 including offering case knowledge in appeals hearings; and

2-1 (G) methods of representing veterans, their
2-2 family members, or other eligible dependents during appeals
2-3 hearings; and

2-4 (4) coordinate with the Department of State Health
2-5 Services to incorporate a suicide prevention component as part of
2-6 the accreditation training and examination.

2-7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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