

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 898
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 27, 2013; March 5, 2013,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
 1-4 Military Installations; April 8, 2013, reported adversely, with
 1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote:
 1-6 Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 8, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			

1-14 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 898 By: Van de Putte

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the mental health program for veterans.
 1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-19 SECTION 1. Section 1001.071, Health and Safety Code, is
 1-20 amended to read as follows:
 1-21 Sec. 1001.071. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT
 1-22 RELATED TO HEALTH CARE. The department is responsible for
 1-23 administering human services programs regarding the public health,
 1-24 including:
 1-25 (1) implementing the state's public health care
 1-26 delivery programs under the authority of the department;
 1-27 (2) administering state health facilities, hospitals,
 1-28 and health care systems;
 1-29 (3) developing and providing health care services, as
 1-30 directed by law;
 1-31 (4) providing for the prevention and control of
 1-32 communicable diseases;
 1-33 (5) providing public education on health-related
 1-34 matters, as directed by law;
 1-35 (6) compiling and reporting health-related
 1-36 information, as directed by law;
 1-37 (7) acting as the lead agency for implementation of
 1-38 state policies regarding the human immunodeficiency virus and
 1-39 acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and administering programs
 1-40 related to the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired
 1-41 immunodeficiency syndrome;
 1-42 (8) investigating the causes of injuries and methods
 1-43 of prevention;
 1-44 (9) administering a grant program to provide
 1-45 appropriated money to counties, municipalities, public health
 1-46 districts, and other political subdivisions for their use to
 1-47 provide or pay for essential public health services;
 1-48 (10) administering the registration of vital
 1-49 statistics;
 1-50 (11) licensing, inspecting, and enforcing regulations
 1-51 regarding health facilities, other than long-term care facilities
 1-52 regulated by the Department of Aging and Disability Services;
 1-53 (12) implementing established standards and
 1-54 procedures for the management and control of sanitation and for
 1-55 health protection measures;
 1-56 (13) enforcing regulations regarding radioactive
 1-57 materials;
 1-58 (14) enforcing regulations regarding food, bottled
 1-59 and vended drinking water, drugs, cosmetics, and health devices;
 1-60 (15) enforcing regulations regarding food service

2-1 establishments, retail food stores, mobile food units, and roadside
2-2 food vendors; ~~and~~

2-3 (16) enforcing regulations controlling hazardous
2-4 substances in households and workplaces; and

2-5 (17) implementing a mental health program for
2-6 veterans.

2-7 SECTION 2. Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, is amended
2-8 by adding Subchapter H to read as follows:

2-9 SUBCHAPTER H. MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

2-10 Sec. 1001.201. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

2-11 (1) "Peer" means a person who is a veteran or a
2-12 veteran's family member.

2-13 (2) "Veteran" means a person who has served in:

2-14 (A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or
2-15 marine corps of the United States;

2-16 (B) the state military forces as defined by
2-17 Section 431.001, Government Code; or

2-18 (C) an auxiliary service of one of those branches
2-19 of the armed forces.

2-20 (3) "Volunteer coordinator" means a person who
2-21 recruits and retains veterans, peers, and volunteers to participate
2-22 in the mental health program for veterans and related activities.

2-23 Sec. 1001.202. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The
2-24 department shall develop a mental health intervention program for
2-25 veterans. The program must include:

2-26 (1) peer-to-peer counseling;

2-27 (2) access to licensed mental health professionals for
2-28 volunteer coordinators and peers;

2-29 (3) training approved by the department for peers;

2-30 (4) technical assistance for volunteer coordinators
2-31 and peers;

2-32 (5) grants to regional and local organizations
2-33 providing services under this subchapter;

2-34 (6) recruitment, retention, and screening of
2-35 community-based therapists;

2-36 (7) suicide prevention training for volunteer
2-37 coordinators and peers; and

2-38 (8) veteran jail diversion services, including
2-39 veterans courts.

2-40 (b) The department shall solicit and ensure that
2-41 specialized training is provided to persons who are peers and who
2-42 want to provide peer-to-peer counseling or other peer-to-peer
2-43 services under the program.

2-44 (c) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement
2-45 this subchapter.

2-46 Sec. 1001.203. GRANTS. (a) The department shall establish
2-47 a grant program through which the department may award grants to
2-48 regional and local organizations for the delivery of programs or
2-49 services described by this subchapter.

2-50 (b) A grant awarded under this section must:

2-51 (1) emphasize direct services to veterans provided by
2-52 peers;

2-53 (2) leverage additional local resources to provide
2-54 funding for programs or services for veterans; and

2-55 (3) increase the capacity of the mental health program
2-56 for veterans.

2-57 (c) A grant awarded under this section may not be used to
2-58 supplant existing expenditures associated with programs or
2-59 services within the department.

2-60 Sec. 1001.204. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of
2-61 each year, the department shall submit a report to the governor and
2-62 the legislature that includes:

2-63 (1) the number of veterans who received services
2-64 through the mental health program for veterans;

2-65 (2) the number of peers and volunteer coordinators
2-66 trained;

2-67 (3) a summary of the grants awarded and services
2-68 provided through those grants;

2-69 (4) an evaluation of the services provided under this

3-1 subchapter; and

3-2 (5) recommendations for program improvements.

3-3 SECTION 3. Section 1001.076, Health and Safety Code, is
3-4 repealed.

3-5 SECTION 4. Not later than January 1, 2014, the Department of
3-6 State Health Services shall modify the mental health intervention
3-7 program for veterans as required by Subchapter H, Chapter 1001,
3-8 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

3-9 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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