

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 1199
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 6, 2013; March 12, 2013, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; April 15, 2013, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 15, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Van de Putte	X		
1-9	Birdwell	X		
1-10	Campbell	X		
1-11	Davis	X		
1-12	Rodriguez	X		

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

1-15 relating to development of a pilot program of the Texas Veterans
1-16 Commission to designate municipalities as Veteran and Military
1-17 Friendly Cities.

1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-19 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is
1-20 amended by adding Section 434.022 to read as follows:

1-21 Sec. 434.022. PILOT PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE VETERAN AND
1-22 MILITARY FRIENDLY CITIES. (a) The commission may develop a pilot
1-23 program to designate qualifying municipalities as Veteran and
1-24 Military Friendly Cities. The commission may establish the
1-25 criteria to qualify for a designation under the pilot program
1-26 developed under this section.

1-27 (b) The criteria established under Subsection (a) must
1-28 include an evaluation of a municipality's ability to provide
1-29 services for veterans and members of the military, taking into
1-30 consideration the availability in the municipality of:

1-31 (1) a local or county veterans service office;

1-32 (2) suitable housing for veterans and members of the
1-33 military;

1-34 (3) financial support for veterans and members of the
1-35 military;

1-36 (4) employment resources for veterans and members of
1-37 the military;

1-38 (5) education and training programs for veterans and
1-39 members of the military;

1-40 (6) a veterans court; and

1-41 (7) access to health care for veterans, including
1-42 mental health services and mental health services peer-to-peer
1-43 networks.

1-44 (c) The commission may accept and review applications for
1-45 the designation and issue tiered designations, as appropriate.

1-46 (d) The commission may by rule establish a procedure for
1-47 discouraging and preventing the misappropriation of the phrase
1-48 "Veteran and Military Friendly City."

1-49 (e) The commission shall report the results of the pilot
1-50 program under this section to the governor, the lieutenant
1-51 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
1-52 committees in both houses of the legislature having jurisdiction
1-53 over veterans and military issues not later than December 31, 2014.

1-54 (f) This section expires September 1, 2015.

1-55 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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