

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 31, 2013**

**TO:** Honorable José Menéndez, Chair, House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE:** **HB3545** by Menéndez (Relating to employment, higher education, and state purchasing programs for veterans.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

This bill would amend the Government, Human Resources, and Labor Codes, regarding employment, state purchasing, and higher education programs for veterans and disabled veterans.

The bill would require that an individual who qualifies for a veteran's employment preference is entitled to preference in interviewing or employment with a state agency over other applicants for the same position. The bill would allow a state agency to designate an open position as a veteran's position. The bill would amend provisions regarding the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities, to specify that a service-disabled veteran-owned business is eligible for the Community Rehabilitation Program. The bill would make the College Credit for Heroes program permanent at the Texas Workforce Commission and require the agency to annually report on program results.

Multiple state agencies including the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC), the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA), the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) indicate that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed within each agency's existing resources. For higher education, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Texas A&M University System (TAMU) indicate that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed within each agency's existing resources. The University of Texas System (UT) estimates that there would be a cost associated with implementing provisions of the bill. It is anticipated that the costs could be absorbed within current agency resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 320 Texas Workforce Commission, 403 Veterans Commission, 529 Health and Human Services Commission, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board

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