

By: King of Taylor, Burkett

H.B. No. 19

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 19:

By: Farias

C.S.H.B. No. 19

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a preventive services program and mental health
3 programs for veterans and military families.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 2, Human Resources Code, is
6 amended by adding Chapter 53 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 53. PREVENTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

8 Sec. 53.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

9 (1) "Department" means the Department of Family and
10 Protective Services.

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

12 (A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or
13 marine corps of the United States;

14 (B) the state military forces as defined by
15 Section 431.001, Government Code; or

16 (C) an auxiliary service of one of those branches
17 of the armed forces.

18 Sec. 53.002. VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES PREVENTIVE
19 SERVICES PROGRAM. (a) The department shall develop and implement a
20 preventive services program to serve veterans and military families
21 who have committed or experienced or who are at a high risk of:

22 (1) family violence; or

23 (2) abuse or neglect.

24 (b) The program must:

1 (1) be designed to coordinate with community-based
2 organizations to provide prevention services;

3 (2) include a prevention component and an early
4 intervention component;

5 (3) include collaboration with services for child
6 welfare, services for early childhood education, and other child
7 and family services programs; and

8 (4) coordinate with the community collaboration
9 initiative developed under Subchapter I, Chapter 434, Government
10 Code, and committees formed by local communities as part of that
11 initiative.

12 (c) The program may be established initially as a pilot
13 program, at the discretion of the department, in areas of the state
14 in which the department considers the implementation practicable.

15 (d) The department shall evaluate the program and prepare an
16 annual report on the outcomes of the program. The department shall
17 publish the report on the department's Internet website.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by
19 adding Subchapters H and I to read as follows:

20 SUBCHAPTER H. STATEWIDE COORDINATION OF MENTAL HEALTH

21 PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

22 Sec. 434.351. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

23 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Veterans Commission.

24 (2) "Peer" means a person who is a veteran or a
25 veteran's family member.

26 (3) "Veteran" means a person who has served in:

27 (A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or

1 marine corps of the United States;

2 (B) the state military forces as defined by
3 Section 431.001; or

4 (C) an auxiliary service of one of those branches
5 of the armed forces.

6 (4) "Volunteer coordinator" means a person who
7 recruits and retains veterans, peers, and volunteers to participate
8 in the mental health program for veterans and related activities.

9 Sec. 434.352. DUTIES. (a) The commission and the
10 Department of State Health Services shall coordinate to administer
11 the mental health program for veterans developed under Chapter
12 1001, Health and Safety Code.

13 (b) For the mental health program for veterans, the
14 commission shall:

15 (1) provide training to volunteer coordinators and
16 peers in accordance with Section 434.353;

17 (2) provide technical assistance to volunteer
18 coordinators and peers;

19 (3) recruit, train, and communicate with
20 community-based therapists, community-based organizations, and
21 faith-based organizations; and

22 (4) coordinate services for justice involved
23 veterans.

24 (c) The executive director of the commission shall appoint a
25 program director to administer the mental health program for
26 veterans.

27 (d) The commission shall provide appropriate facilities in

1 support of the mental health program for veterans to the extent
2 funding is available for that purpose.

3 Sec. 434.353. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION. (a) The
4 commission shall develop and implement methods for providing
5 volunteer coordinator certification training to volunteer
6 coordinators, including providing training for initial
7 certification and recertification and providing continuing
8 education.

9 (b) The commission shall manage and coordinate the peer
10 training program to include initial training, advanced training,
11 certification, and continuing education for peers associated with
12 the mental health program for veterans.

13 SUBCHAPTER I. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION INITIATIVE

14 Sec. 434.401. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION. (a) The commission
15 and the Department of State Health Services shall include as a part
16 of the mental health program for veterans described by Section
17 434.352(a) an initiative to encourage local communities to conduct
18 cross-sector collaboration to synchronize locally accessible
19 resources available for veterans and military service members.

20 (b) The initiative must be designed to encourage local
21 communities to form a committee that is tasked with developing a
22 plan to identify and support the needs of veterans and military
23 service members residing in their community. The commission may
24 designate general areas of focus for the initiative.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.