

1-1 By: King of Taylor, Burkett H.B. No. 19
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Campbell)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 12, 2015;
 1-4 May 14, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran
 1-5 Affairs and Military Installations; May 21, 2015, reported
 1-6 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 21, 2015, sent
 1-7 to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9 Campbell	X			
1-10 Burton	X			
1-11 Birdwell	X			
1-12 Garcia	X			
1-13 Hall			X	
1-14 Lucio	X			
1-15 Rodríguez			X	
1-16				

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to a preventive services program and mental health
 1-20 programs for veterans and military families.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 2, Human Resources Code, is
 1-23 amended by adding Chapter 53 to read as follows:

1-24 CHAPTER 53. PREVENTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

1-25 Sec. 53.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-26 (1) "Department" means the Department of Family and
 1-27 Protective Services.

1-28 (2) "Veteran" means a person who has served in:

1-29 (A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or
 1-30 marine corps of the United States;

1-31 (B) the state military forces as defined by
 1-32 Section 431.001, Government Code; or

1-33 (C) an auxiliary service of one of those branches
 1-34 of the armed forces.

1-35 Sec. 53.002. VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES PREVENTIVE
 1-36 SERVICES PROGRAM. (a) The department shall develop and implement a
 1-37 preventive services program to serve veterans and military families
 1-38 who have committed or experienced or who are at a high risk of:

1-39 (1) family violence; or

1-40 (2) abuse or neglect.

1-41 (b) The program must:

1-42 (1) be designed to coordinate with community-based
 1-43 organizations to provide prevention services;

1-44 (2) include a prevention component and an early
 1-45 intervention component;

1-46 (3) include collaboration with services for child
 1-47 welfare, services for early childhood education, and other child
 1-48 and family services programs; and

1-49 (4) coordinate with the community collaboration
 1-50 initiative developed under Subchapter I, Chapter 434, Government
 1-51 Code, and committees formed by local communities as part of that
 1-52 initiative.

1-53 (c) The program must be established initially as a pilot
 1-54 program in areas of the state in which the department considers the
 1-55 implementation practicable. The department shall evaluate the
 1-56 outcomes of the pilot program and ensure that the program is
 1-57 producing positive results before implementing the program
 1-58 throughout the state.

1-59 (d) The department shall evaluate the program and prepare an
 1-60 annual report on the outcomes of the program. The department shall
 1-61 publish the report on the department's Internet website.

2-1 SECTION 2. Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by
2-2 adding Subchapters H and I to read as follows:

2-3 SUBCHAPTER H. STATEWIDE COORDINATION OF MENTAL HEALTH
2-4 PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

2-5 Sec. 434.351. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

2-6 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Veterans Commission.

2-7 (2) "Peer" means a person who is a veteran or a
2-8 veteran's family member.

2-9 (3) "Veteran" means a person who has served in:

2-10 (A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or
2-11 marine corps of the United States;

2-12 (B) the state military forces as defined by
2-13 Section 431.001; or

2-14 (C) an auxiliary service of one of those branches
2-15 of the armed forces.

2-16 (4) "Volunteer coordinator" means a person who
2-17 recruits and retains veterans, peers, and volunteers to participate
2-18 in the mental health program for veterans and related activities.

2-19 Sec. 434.352. DUTIES. (a) The commission and the
2-20 Department of State Health Services shall coordinate to administer
2-21 the mental health program for veterans developed under Chapter
2-22 1001, Health and Safety Code.

2-23 (b) For the mental health program for veterans, the
2-24 commission shall:

2-25 (1) provide training to volunteer coordinators and
2-26 peers in accordance with Section 434.353;

2-27 (2) provide technical assistance to volunteer
2-28 coordinators and peers;

2-29 (3) recruit, train, and communicate with
2-30 community-based therapists, community-based organizations, and
2-31 faith-based organizations; and

2-32 (4) coordinate services for justice involved
2-33 veterans.

2-34 (c) The executive director of the commission shall appoint a
2-35 program director to administer the mental health program for
2-36 veterans.

2-37 (d) The commission shall provide appropriate facilities in
2-38 support of the mental health program for veterans to the extent
2-39 funding is available for that purpose.

2-40 Sec. 434.353. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION. (a) The
2-41 commission shall develop and implement methods for providing
2-42 volunteer coordinator certification training to volunteer
2-43 coordinators, including providing training for initial
2-44 certification and recertification and providing continuing
2-45 education.

2-46 (b) The commission shall manage and coordinate the peer
2-47 training program to include initial training, advanced training,
2-48 certification, and continuing education for peers associated with
2-49 the mental health program for veterans.

2-50 SUBCHAPTER I. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION INITIATIVE

2-51 Sec. 434.401. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION. (a) The commission
2-52 and the Department of State Health Services shall include as a part
2-53 of the mental health program for veterans described by Section
2-54 434.352(a) an initiative to encourage local communities to conduct
2-55 cross-sector collaboration to synchronize locally accessible
2-56 resources available for veterans and military service members.

2-57 (b) The initiative must be designed to encourage local
2-58 communities to form a committee that is tasked with developing a
2-59 plan to identify and support the needs of veterans and military
2-60 service members residing in their community. The commission may
2-61 designate general areas of focus for the initiative.

2-62 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-63 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-64 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-65 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-66 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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