

By: Johnson

H.B. No. 1097

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the release of veteran autopsy reports to the United
3 States Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 671, Health and Safety
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 671.014 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 671.014. VETERAN AUTOPSY REPORTS. (a) In this section,
8 "veteran" has the meaning assigned by Section 2308.251, Government
9 Code.

10 (b) The office designated by an autopsy order shall maintain
11 an autopsy report filed with the office for each deceased person for
12 whom there is a reasonable likelihood the person was a veteran until
13 a copy of the autopsy report is released to the United States
14 Department of Veterans Affairs.

15 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a representative
16 of the office designated by the autopsy order shall release on
17 request a deceased veteran's autopsy report that includes the time,
18 place, and cause of death, if known, to the United States Department
19 of Veterans Affairs not later than the 15th business day after the
20 date the office receives the request from the department.

21 (d) If an autopsy report has not been filed as required by
22 Section 671.012, a representative of the office designated by the
23 autopsy order shall, not later than the 10th business day after the
24 date of a request received under Subsection (c), notify the United

1 States Department of Veterans Affairs that the autopsy report has
2 not been filed and the date, to the best of the knowledge of the
3 representative, that the department may anticipate receiving the
4 report.

5 (e) A representative of the office designated by the autopsy
6 order may notify the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
7 of the availability of the autopsy report if there is a reasonable
8 likelihood that the deceased person was a veteran and a request for
9 the autopsy report has not been submitted to the office by the
10 department.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.