

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1463

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to improving the delivery of health care services to veterans in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 401, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 401.103 to read as follows:

Sec. 401.103. VETERANS HEALTH ISSUES. (a) The governor or the governor's designee may negotiate with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and any other appropriate federal agency on matters relating to improving the delivery of health care services to veterans in this state, including:

(1) establishing a veterans hospital in the Rio Grande Valley region of the state; and

(2) ensuring the prompt payment of claims submitted by community health care providers to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services provided to veterans by those providers.

(b) The governor, in consultation with the board of regents of The University of Texas System, shall identify shared resources and collaborative opportunities that may be used by the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide quality health care services to residents of the Rio Grande Valley.

(c) The governor may request the assistance of the

1 Department of State Health Services, the Health and Human Services  
2 Commission, the Texas Veterans Commission, or any other state  
3 agency, department, or office in performing an action under this  
4 section. The agency, department, or office shall provide the  
5 requested assistance.

6 SECTION 2. Section 434.019(a), Government Code, is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) The Texas Veterans Commission and the Department of  
9 State Health Services, in collaboration with the office of the  
10 governor, shall work with the United States Department of Veterans  
11 Affairs and any other appropriate federal agency to propose that  
12 the federal government establish a veterans hospital in the Rio  
13 Grande Valley region of the state.

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