

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 1463  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2015; March 19, 2015, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and  
1-4 Military Installations; April 30, 2015, reported adversely, with  
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7,  
1-6 Nays 0; April 30, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	<u>X</u>			
1-10	<u>X</u>			
1-11	<u>X</u>			
1-12	<u>X</u>			
1-13	<u>X</u>			
1-14	<u>X</u>			
1-15	<u>X</u>			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1463 By: Lucio

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

1-19 relating to improving the delivery of health care services to  
1-20 veterans in this state.

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

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 401, Government Code, is  
1-23 amended by adding Section 401.103 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 401.103. VETERANS HEALTH ISSUES. (a) The governor or  
1-25 the governor's designee may negotiate with the United States  
1-26 Department of Veterans Affairs and any other appropriate federal  
1-27 agency on matters relating to improving the delivery of health care  
1-28 services to veterans in this state, including:

1-29 (1) establishing a veterans hospital in the Rio Grande  
1-30 Valley region of the state; and

1-31 (2) ensuring the prompt payment of claims submitted by  
1-32 community health care providers to the United States Department of  
1-33 Veterans Affairs for health care services provided to veterans by  
1-34 those providers.

1-35 (b) The governor, in consultation with the board of regents  
1-36 of The University of Texas System, may identify shared resources  
1-37 and collaborative opportunities that may be used by the School of  
1-38 Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and the United  
1-39 States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide quality health  
1-40 care services to residents of the Rio Grande Valley.

1-41 (c) The governor may request the assistance of the  
1-42 Department of State Health Services, the Health and Human Services  
1-43 Commission, the Texas Veterans Commission, or any other state  
1-44 agency, department, or office in performing an action under this  
1-45 section. The agency, department, or office shall provide the  
1-46 requested assistance.

1-47 SECTION 2. Section 434.019(a), Government Code, is amended  
1-48 to read as follows:

1-49 (a) The Texas Veterans Commission and the Department of  
1-50 State Health Services, in collaboration with the office of the  
1-51 governor, shall work with the United States Department of Veterans  
1-52 Affairs and any other appropriate federal agency to propose that  
1-53 the federal government establish a veterans hospital in the Rio  
1-54 Grande Valley region of the state.

1-55 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-56 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-57 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-58 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-59 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

1-60 \* \* \* \* \*