

1-1 By: Campbell S.B. No. 27
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 2, 2017; March 6, 2017, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border
 1-4 Security; March 21, 2017, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; March 21, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Campbell			X	
1-8 Huffines	X			
1-9 Buckingham	X			
1-10 Hall	X			
1-11 Lucio	X			
1-12 Rodríguez	X			
1-13 Uresti	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the mental health program for veterans.
 1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-19 SECTION 1. Section 434.351, Government Code, is amended by
 1-20 adding Subdivision (2-a) to read as follows:
 1-21 (2-a) "Peer service coordinator" means a person who
 1-22 recruits and retains veterans, peers, and volunteers to participate
 1-23 in the mental health program for veterans and related activities.
 1-24 SECTION 2. Section 434.352(b), Government Code, is amended
 1-25 to read as follows:
 1-26 (b) For the mental health program for veterans, the
 1-27 commission shall:
 1-28 (1) provide training to peer service [~~volunteer~~]
 1-29 coordinators and peers in accordance with Section 434.353;
 1-30 (2) provide technical assistance to peer service
 1-31 [~~volunteer~~] coordinators and peers;
 1-32 (3) identify [~~recruit~~], train, and communicate with
 1-33 community-based licensed mental health professionals [~~therapists~~],
 1-34 community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations; and
 1-35 (4) coordinate services for justice involved
 1-36 veterans.
 1-37 SECTION 3. Section 434.353(a), Government Code, is amended
 1-38 to read as follows:
 1-39 (a) The commission shall develop and implement methods for
 1-40 providing peer service [~~volunteer~~] coordinator certification
 1-41 training to peer service [~~volunteer~~] coordinators, including
 1-42 providing training for initial certification and recertification
 1-43 and providing continuing education.
 1-44 SECTION 4. Section 1001.221, Health and Safety Code, is
 1-45 amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:
 1-46 (1-a) "Peer service coordinator" means a person who
 1-47 recruits and retains veterans, peers, and volunteers to participate
 1-48 in the mental health program for veterans and related activities.
 1-49 SECTION 5. Section 1001.222(a), Health and Safety Code, is
 1-50 amended to read as follows:
 1-51 (a) The department shall develop a mental health
 1-52 intervention program for veterans. The program must include:
 1-53 (1) peer-to-peer counseling;
 1-54 (2) access to licensed mental health professionals for
 1-55 peer service [~~volunteer~~] coordinators and peers;
 1-56 (3) training approved by the department for peer
 1-57 service coordinators, licensed mental health professionals, and
 1-58 peers;
 1-59 (4) technical assistance for peer service [~~volunteer~~]
 1-60 coordinators, licensed mental health professionals, and peers;
 1-61 (5) identification [~~grants to regional and local~~]

2-1 ~~organizations providing services under this subchapter,~~
2-2 [~~6~~] recruitment], retention, and screening of
2-3 community-based licensed mental health professionals [~~therapists~~];
2-4 (6) [~~7~~] suicide prevention training for peer
2-5 service [~~volunteer~~] coordinators and peers; and
2-6 (7) [~~8~~] veteran jail diversion services, including
2-7 veterans treatment courts.

2-8 SECTION 6. Section 1001.224, Health and Safety Code, is
2-9 amended to read as follows:

2-10 Sec. 1001.224. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of
2-11 each year, the department shall submit a report to the governor and
2-12 the legislature that includes:

2-13 (1) the number of veterans who received services
2-14 through the mental health program for veterans;

2-15 (2) the number of peers and peer service [~~volunteer~~]
2-16 coordinators trained;

2-17 (3) [~~a summary of the grants awarded and services~~
2-18 ~~provided through those grants,~~

2-19 [~~4~~] an evaluation of the services provided under
2-20 this subchapter; and

2-21 (4) [~~5~~] recommendations for program improvements.

2-22 SECTION 7. The following laws are repealed:

2-23 (1) Section 434.351(4), Government Code;

2-24 (2) Section 1001.221(3), Health and Safety Code; and

2-25 (3) Section 1001.223, Health and Safety Code.

2-26 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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