

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 591

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a community outreach campaign to increase awareness of veterans benefits and services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 434.024 to read as follows:

Sec. 434.024. VETERANS COMMUNITY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN. (a)

The Texas Veterans Commission shall conduct a community outreach campaign to provide information relating to and increase awareness of benefits and services available to veterans, including:

(1) claims assistance services;

(2) technology services, including the veterans website under Section 434.102;

(3) health, financial, rehabilitation, and housing services;

(4) employment and reemployment services; and

(5) legal services, including the veterans treatment court program under Chapter 124.

(b) The community outreach campaign must include outreach efforts at:

(1) community centers;

(2) places of worship; and

(3) any other place in a community where veterans routinely gather, as determined by the commission.

1        (c) The commission shall collaborate with, and may contract  
2 with, community-based or nonprofit organizations to implement the  
3 community outreach campaign under this section.

4        (d) The commission may solicit and accept gifts and grants  
5 to fund the community outreach campaign under this section.

6        SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2018, the Texas  
7 Veterans Commission shall establish the veterans community  
8 outreach campaign as required under Section 434.024, Government  
9 Code, as added by this Act, and the Texas Veterans Commission shall  
10 adopt any rules necessary to implement the campaign.

11        SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.