

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1677

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to information about services for women veterans provided through certain state agency and hospital applications.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 434.212 to read as follows:

Sec. 434.212. APPLICATION FOR STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ASSISTANCE OR HOSPITAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES. (a) This section applies to:

(1) a state agency in the executive branch of state government, including a health and human services agency, that provides to adult women in this state a program, a service, or assistance, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the women's health program, Medicaid, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, and a housing program or service or housing assistance; and

(2) a hospital licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, that provides health care services to adult women in this state.

(b) A state agency or hospital described by Subsection (a) shall include in each application for a program, a service, or assistance provided by the agency or hospital to adult women:

(1) a space to indicate whether the applicant is a

1 veteran;

2 (2) notice that on indication under Subdivision (1)
3 that the applicant is a veteran, the agency or hospital will forward
4 the applicant's information to the commission; and

5 (3) model language informing the applicant that she
6 may be entitled to additional services because of her veteran
7 status.

8 (c) On receipt of information provided under Subsection
9 (b), the commission shall enter the information into a database
10 established by the commission and contact the applicant to inform
11 her of any additional services for which the applicant may qualify
12 under state or federal law.

13 (d) The commission shall develop the model language
14 required on an application under Subsection (b)(3). The language
15 must include a link to the veterans website established under
16 Section 434.102 or, for an online application, a hyperlink to that
17 website.

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 241, Health and Safety
19 Code, is amended by adding Section 241.0075 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 241.0075. COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN APPLICATION
21 REQUIREMENTS. A hospital shall comply with Section 434.212,
22 Government Code.

23 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than December 1, 2018, the Texas
24 Veterans Commission shall develop the model application language
25 required by Section 434.212, Government Code, as added by this Act,
26 and post that information on the commission's Internet website.

27 (b) Not later than January 1, 2018, each state agency and

1 hospital subject to Section 434.212, Government Code, as added by
2 this Act, shall modify the agency's or hospital's application for
3 programs, services, or assistance as necessary to implement that
4 section.

5 (c) Notwithstanding Section 434.212, Government Code, as
6 added by this Act, a state agency or hospital is not required to
7 include information on the application as required by that section
8 before January 1, 2018.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.