

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1698

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to outreach and awareness for women veterans in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 434.212 and 434.213 to read as follows:

Sec. 434.212. WOMEN VETERANS REPORT. (a) Not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislature a report on women veterans in this state. The report must:

(1) estimate the:

(A) number of women veterans in this state;

(B) number of women veterans that contact the commission for assistance; and

(C) number of women veterans who receive assistance from the commission, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Department of State Health Services, and other state agencies;

(2) identify the unique problems faced by women veterans; and

(3) recommend policy proposals, initiatives, and funding levels to address the problems identified in Subdivision (2).

Sec. 434.213. WOMEN VETERANS COMMUNITY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN. The women veterans coordinator designated under Section 434.203, in

1 consultation with the Governor's Commission for Women, the United  
2 States Department of Veterans Affairs, and any other appropriate  
3 agency, shall conduct a community outreach campaign to:

4 (1) provide information relating to and increase  
5 awareness of benefits and services available to women veterans;

6 (2) improve access to benefits and services for women  
7 veterans;

8 (3) increase participation of women veterans in  
9 programs that provide benefits and services; and

10 (4) provide information on the significant  
11 contributions of women veterans in this state.

12 SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2018, the women  
13 veterans coordinator shall establish the women veterans community  
14 outreach campaign as required under Section 434.213, Government  
15 Code, as added by this Act, and the Texas Veterans Commission shall  
16 adopt any rules necessary to implement the campaign.

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