

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1862

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the development of initiatives to reduce veteran
3 suicides in this state.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) The Texas Veterans Commission shall
6 collaborate with the Department of State Health Services to:

7 (1) identify proactive steps that can be taken through
8 agency rulemaking to strengthen the state's efforts to reduce
9 veteran suicides, including increasing suicide prevention training
10 requirements for mental health professionals; and

11 (2) develop for consideration by the legislature
12 initiatives and recommendations to reduce veteran suicides and
13 increase the availability of and access to mental health services,
14 including suicide prevention services, for veterans in this state.

15 (b) Not later than November 1, 2017, the Texas Veterans
16 Commission and the Department of State Health Services shall begin
17 collaborating as described by Subsection (a) of this section.

18 (c) Not later than November 1, 2018, the Texas Veterans
19 Commission and the Department of State Health Services shall submit
20 a written or electronic report to the governor and the legislature
21 on the steps identified and initiatives and recommendations
22 developed under Subsection (a) of this section.

23 SECTION 2. This Act expires September 1, 2019.

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