

1-1 By: Blanco, Guillen H.B. No. 696
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Powell)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2019;
 1-4 April 29, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-5 Veteran Affairs & Border Security; May 17, 2019, reported
 1-6 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 17, 2019, sent
 1-7 to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9				
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to employment and referral services for veterans and
 1-20 military service members.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is
 1-23 amended by adding Sections 302.0033 and 302.00335 to read as
 1-24 follows:

1-25 Sec. 302.0033. OPERATION WELCOME HOME PROGRAM. (a) The
 1-26 commission shall establish and administer the Operation Welcome
 1-27 Home program to expedite the entry of veterans and military service
 1-28 members into the workforce through the use of enhanced employment
 1-29 services. In establishing the program, the commission shall build
 1-30 partnerships between military transition centers and local
 1-31 workforce development boards to ensure the availability of
 1-32 employment services, including services related to:

- 1-33 (1) education;
- 1-34 (2) career technical training; and
- 1-35 (3) entrepreneurship.

1-36 (b) The commission may award grants to state, local, or
 1-37 private entities that perform activities related to the purposes of
 1-38 this section.

1-39 (c) The commission shall administer the program using money
 1-40 previously appropriated to the commission or received from federal
 1-41 or other sources.

1-42 (d) The commission may adopt rules as necessary for the
 1-43 administration of this section.

1-44 Sec. 302.00335. TEXAS VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM. (a)
 1-45 The commission, in consultation with the Texas Veterans Commission,
 1-46 shall establish a Texas Veterans Leadership Program.

1-47 (b) The mission of the program is to serve as a resource and
 1-48 referral network connecting veterans with the resources and tools
 1-49 they need to lead productive lives and enjoy the full benefits of
 1-50 the society they have willingly served.

1-51 (c) The program shall collaborate with local workforce
 1-52 development boards to provide services to veterans under this
 1-53 section. The program may collaborate with other federal, state,
 1-54 county, municipal, and private agencies to provide services to
 1-55 veterans under this section.

1-56 (d) The program shall employ veterans to serve as veteran
 1-57 resource and referral specialists. A veteran resource and referral
 1-58 specialist shall:

- 1-59 (1) seek out veterans in need of services;
- 1-60 (2) serve as a resource and referral agent, directing
 1-61 veterans to resources tailored to veterans' needs;

