

By: Miller

H.B. No. 3359

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3359:

By: Flynn

C.S.H.B. No. 3359

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to pro bono legal services for veterans and service  
3 members.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 434.017(c), Government Code, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 (c) Money in the fund may only be appropriated to the Texas  
8 Veterans Commission. Money appropriated under this subsection  
9 shall be used to:

10 (1) make grants to address veterans' needs;

11 (2) make grants to provide pro bono legal services to  
12 veterans, active duty members of the United States armed forces,  
13 and members of the state military forces;

14 (3) administer the fund; and

15 (4) [~~(3)~~] analyze and investigate data received from  
16 the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS)  
17 that is administered by the Administration for Children and  
18 Families of the United States Department of Health and Human  
19 Services.

20 SECTION 2. Section 434.0171, Government Code, is amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 Sec. 434.0171. STATE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND FOR  
23 VETERANS' ASSISTANCE. For purposes of Subchapter I, Chapter 659:

24 (1) the Texas Veterans Commission, for the sole

1 purpose of managing the fund for veterans' assistance, is  
2 considered an eligible charitable organization entitled to  
3 participate in the state employee charitable campaign; and

4 (2) a state employee is entitled to authorize a  
5 deduction for contributions to the Texas Veterans Commission for  
6 the purposes of managing the fund for veterans' assistance as a  
7 charitable contribution under Section 659.132, and the Texas  
8 Veterans Commission may use the contributions for the purposes  
9 listed in Section 434.017(c) [~~as redesignated and amended by~~  
10 ~~Chapter 1418 (H.B. 3107), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular~~  
11 ~~Session, 2007~~].

12 SECTION 3. Section 434.154(a), Government Code, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 (a) The council may, by majority vote, establish the  
15 following coordinating workgroups to focus on specific issues  
16 affecting veterans, servicemembers, and their families:

- 17 (1) health;
- 18 (2) mental health;
- 19 (3) employment;
- 20 (4) higher education;
- 21 (5) criminal justice;
- 22 (6) housing;
- 23 (7) transportation;
- 24 (8) women veterans;
- 25 (9) pro bono legal services for veterans, including  
26 opportunities and obstacles for providing those services; and
- 27 (10) [~~(9)~~] any other coordinating workgroup

1 considered necessary.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.