



E870220

21 Apr-19 AM 09:49  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY: Neave

1 Amend C.S.S.B. No. 1 (house committee printing), in Article  
2 II of the bill, following the appropriations to the Health and Human  
3 Services Commission (page II-36), by adding the following  
4 appropriately numbered rider:

5 \_\_\_\_\_. Study on Veteran Suicides. (a) Out of funds  
6 appropriated above to the Health and Human Services Commission for  
7 Strategy L.1.1, HHS System Supports (page II-35), the Health and  
8 Human Services Commission, in collaboration with the Texas Veterans  
9 Commission, the Department of State Health Services, the Texas  
10 Coordinating Council for Veterans Services, the Statewide  
11 Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, local mental health  
12 authorities, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
13 shall conduct a study on veteran suicides in this state.

14 (b) The study conducted under this rider must:

15 (1) use data available from the United States  
16 Department of Veterans Affairs and other governmental entities to  
17 collect information from the preceding five years regarding:

18 (A) the veteran status of a deceased individual;

19 (B) the cause of death of a veteran;

20 (C) whether a deceased veteran received services  
21 from a local mental health authority or a state or federal agency  
22 that provides mental health services or support to veterans;

23 (D) a deceased veteran's demographic data,  
24 including the veteran's race, gender, and age; and

25 (E) any other known information that may  
26 correlate with an increased risk of suicide; and

27 (2) evaluate current methods of collecting, storing,  
28 and reporting veteran suicide data and recommend improvements to  
29 current systems.

1           (c) Information about the suicide of a veteran obtained by  
2 the Health and Human Services Commission for the purposes of the  
3 study conducted under this rider is confidential and is not subject  
4 to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, is not subject to  
5 subpoena, and may not otherwise be released or made public.

6           (d) Not later than September 1, 2022, the Health and Human  
7 Services Commission shall submit to the legislature a report that  
8 summarizes the findings of the study conducted under this rider,  
9 and includes:

10                 (1) the number of veteran suicides that were  
11 identified by the commission during the preceding five years;

12                 (2) the number of veterans described by Subdivision  
13 (1) who received services from local mental health authorities or  
14 state or federal agencies that provide mental health services or  
15 support to veterans;

16                 (3) information regarding whether the rate of veteran  
17 suicides in this state is decreasing or increasing; and

18                 (4) demographic information and other known  
19 information that may be correlated with increased risk of suicide,  
20 as available.