

By: Lopez

H.B. No. 474

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Veterans County Service Officer Task Force.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 434.040 to read as follows:

Sec. 434.040. TEXAS VETERANS COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER TASK FORCE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Rural county" means a county with a population of less than 200,000.

(2) "Task force" means the Texas Veterans County Service Officer Task Force.

(3) "Urban county" means a county with a population of 200,000 or more.

(b) The Texas Veterans County Service Officer Task Force is established to study the impact and efficacy of officers in this state.

(c) The task force is composed of the following nine members:

(1) the chair of the House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs;

(2) the chair of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security;

(3) a representative of the commission;

1 (4) the chair of the Veterans County Service Officer
2 Advisory Committee;

3 (5) a representative of the Texas Coalition of
4 Veterans Organizations;

5 (6) an officer representing a rural county selected by
6 the chair of the House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs;

7 (7) an officer representing an urban county selected
8 by the chair of the House Committee on Defense and Veterans'
9 Affairs;

10 (8) an officer representing a rural county selected by
11 the chair of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border
12 Security; and

13 (9) an officer representing an urban county selected
14 by the chair of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border
15 Security.

16 (d) The chairs of the House Committee on Defense and
17 Veterans' Affairs and Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and
18 Border Security serve as co-chairs of the task force.

19 (e) A recommendation of the task force must be approved by a
20 majority vote of the members of the task force.

21 (f) Each member of the task force has one vote.

22 (g) The task force shall:

23 (1) examine the role and duties of officers in each
24 county;

25 (2) identify the regions of this state that are in need
26 of officers; and

27 (3) determine types and levels of support needed from

1 this state in order for officers to appropriately advocate for the
2 veterans served by the officers.

3 (h) Not later than December 1, 2022, the commission shall
4 prepare and submit a report based on recommendations of the task
5 force regarding the issues described in Subsection (g) to the
6 Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security and House
7 Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs. The report must be
8 approved by a majority vote of the members of the task force.

9 (i) This section expires January 1, 2023.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.