

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
88R10592 LRM-D

H.B. 2248  
By: Garcia et al. (Alvarado)  
Veteran Affairs  
5/4/2023  
Engrossed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Specialist Vanessa Guillén was murdered at the age of twenty after experiencing repeated sexual harassment while stationed at Fort Hood. Sadly, instances of sexual assault and harassment in the military are far too common. It is estimated that one in four servicewomen experience sexual assault during their military career. H.B. 2248 would recognize September 30 as Vanessa Guillén Day to honor her life and service, and to bring greater awareness to sexual assault and harassment in the military. September 30 was Vanessa Guillén's birthday. An identical bill passed the House last session as H.B. 2556 but ran out of time in the Senate. H.B. 2248 is a step towards doing right by our servicewomen by making a clear statement condemning sexual assault and harassment in the military.

H.B. 2248 amends current law relating to designating September 30 as Vanessa Guillén Day.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter C, Chapter 662, Government Code, by adding Section 662.082, as follows:

Sec. 662.082. VANESSA GUILLÉN DAY. (a) Provides that September 30 is Vanessa Guillén Day in memory of the life and tragic death of Vanessa Guillén and to increase awareness of and the military's response to missing persons, sexual assault, and sexual harassment cases for service members.

(b) Requires that Vanessa Guillén Day be regularly observed by appropriate programs and activities.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2023.