

AN ACT

relating to required military informed care or military cultural competency training for certain personnel of entities that provide mental health services to veterans or veterans' families before award of a state agency grant.

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

SECTION 1. Section 434.352, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

(e) A state agency may not award a grant to an entity for the provision of mental health services to veterans or veterans' families unless the entity demonstrates the entity:

(1) has previously received and successfully executed a grant from the state agency; or

(2) provides training on military informed care or military cultural competency to entity personnel who provide mental health services to veterans or veterans' families or requires those personnel to complete military competency training provided by any of the following:

(A) the commission;

(B) the Health and Human Services Commission;

(C) the Military Veteran Peer Network;

(D) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the United States Department of Health and Human Services;

1 (E) the United States Department of Defense;

2 (F) the United States Department of Veterans
3 Affairs; or

4 (G) a nonprofit organization that is exempt from
5 federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code
6 of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3)
7 of that code, with experience in providing training or technical
8 assistance to entities that provide mental health services to
9 veterans or veterans' families.

10 (f) The commission and the Department of State Health
11 Services shall jointly verify that each state agency authorized to
12 award a grant subject to the requirements of Subsection (e) has
13 adopted policies to ensure compliance with Subsection (e).

14 SECTION 2. The heading to Subchapter I, Chapter 1001,
15 Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 SUBCHAPTER I. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES [~~PROGRAM~~] FOR VETERANS

17 SECTION 3. Subchapter I, Chapter 1001, Health and Safety
18 Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.225 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 1001.225. LIMITATION ON GRANTS. The department may
20 not award a grant to an entity for the provision of mental health
21 services to veterans or veterans' families unless the entity
22 demonstrates the entity:

23 (1) has previously received and successfully executed
24 a grant from the department; or

25 (2) provides training on military informed care or
26 military cultural competency to entity personnel who provide
27 mental health services to veterans or veterans' families or

1 requires those personnel to complete military competency training
2 provided by any of the following:

3 (A) the Texas Veterans Commission;

4 (B) the commission;

5 (C) the Military Veteran Peer Network;

6 (D) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
7 Services Administration within the United States Department of
8 Health and Human Services;

9 (E) the United States Department of Defense;

10 (F) the United States Department of Veterans
11 Affairs; or

12 (G) a nonprofit organization that is exempt from
13 federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code
14 of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3)
15 of that code, with experience in providing training or technical
16 assistance to entities that provide mental health services to
17 veterans or veterans' families.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1457 was passed by the House on May 8, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 124, Nays 18, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1457 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor