

By: Garcia

H.B. No. 4972

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a study on mental health services provided to veterans  
3 through the Texas Veterans Commission.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, the "commission" means the  
6 Texas Veterans Commission.

7 (b) The commission shall conduct a study to evaluate  
8 strategies to improve and expand mental health services provided  
9 through the commission's Military Veteran Peer Network. The study  
10 must include recommendations on expanding the number of certified  
11 peer service coordinators who provide mental health services to  
12 service members, veterans, and family members of service members or  
13 veterans.

14 (c) The study required by this section must focus on the  
15 provision of certified peer service coordinators in rural  
16 communities in this state.

17 (d) Not later than December 1, 2024, the commission shall  
18 prepare and submit a report to the legislature containing the  
19 findings of the study and any recommendations for legislative or  
20 other action.

21 SECTION 2. This Act expires September 1, 2025.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.