

By: Zaffirini, et al.

S.B. No. 63

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an instruction guide for family members and caregivers of veterans who have mental health disorders.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0932 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0932. INSTRUCTION GUIDE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS OF VETERANS WHO HAVE MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS. (a) The commission and the Texas Veterans Commission jointly shall produce and make publicly available an instruction guide for family members and caregivers of veterans who have mental health disorders.

(b) The instruction guide produced under this section must include:

(1) general education about different mental health disorders, including instruction intended to improve understanding about the experience of persons suffering from those mental health disorders;

(2) techniques for handling crisis situations and administering mental health first aid to persons suffering from mental health disorders;

(3) techniques for coping with the stress of living with a person with a mental health disorder; and

(4) information about related services available for family members and caregivers of veterans who have mental health

1 disorders that are provided by the commission, the Texas Veterans
2 Commission, other state agencies, community organizations, and
3 mental health services providers.

4 (c) The commission and the Texas Veterans Commission each
5 shall publish the guide produced under this section on the
6 respective agency's Internet website.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.