

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE: Defense & Veterans' Affairs
TIME & DATE: 10:00 AM, Tuesday, August 20, 2024
PLACE: E2.010
CHAIR: Rep. Terry M. Wilson

The Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs will meet to hear invited testimony only on the following interim charges:

Monitoring: Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 88th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

HB 90, relating to benefits for certain members of the Texas military forces and survivors of members of the Texas military forces;

HB 671, relating to a veteran suicide prevention campaign;

In addition to the above legislation, the Committee will also be considering the implementation of:

HB 1457, 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;

HB 2951, relating to the establishment of a service dog pilot program for certain veterans;

SB 538, relating to the use of appropriated money by the Texas State Guard for recruiting and retention purposes;

Identification and Support of Texas Veterans: Identify barriers to identifying and verification of veteran status. Make recommendations to improve identification efforts to better engage and support the state's veteran populations.

Texas Military Department

Recruitment and Retention: Investigate current strategies for attracting new members to include JROTC/ROTC expansion and retaining existing personnel. Assess current retention rates and identify factors leading to

personnel turnover.

Benefits: Review the current benefits package offered to members of the Texas State and National Guard, focusing on aspects such as healthcare, education incentives, and family support programs.

Facilities and Armories: Evaluate the state of existing facilities and armories in terms of their capacity, safety, and suitability for current and future operational needs.

Electronic Public Comments may be submitted for:

Implementation of HB 90
Implementation of HB 671
Implementation of HB 1457
Implementation of HB 2951
Implementation of SB 538
Identification and Support of Texas Veterans
Texas Military Department

Texas residents who wish to electronically submit comments related to agenda items on this notice without testifying in person can do so until the hearing is adjourned by visiting:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c305>

For those persons who will be testifying, information for in-person witness registration, can be found here:

<https://mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov/HWRSPublic/About.aspx>

A live video broadcast of this hearing will be available here:

<https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>

Instructions related to public access to the meeting location are available here: <https://house.texas.gov/committees/public-access-house-committee-meetings/>

NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, are requested to contact Stacey Nicchio at (512) 463-0850, 72 hours prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.