

By: Garcia of Bexar

H.B. No. 1389

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program for junior reserve officers' training corps programs to provide military funeral honors for veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 434.0072 to read as follows:

Sec. 434.0072. GRANT PROGRAM FOR VETERAN FUNERAL SERVICES.

(a) In this section:

(1) "JROTC program" means a junior reserve officers' training corps program for students in middle school, junior high school, or high school established under 10 U.S.C. Section 2031.

(2) "Military funeral honors" means the services described by 10 U.S.C. Sections 1491(b) and (c).

(3) "ROTC program" means a reserve officers' training corps program established under 10 U.S.C. Section 2101.

(4) "Veteran" means a person who has served in:

(A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, space force, or marine corps of the United States; or

(B) the Texas National Guard or Texas State Guard as defined by Section 437.001.

(b) The commission shall establish a grant program for JROTC programs to provide military funeral honors at veteran funeral services.

(c) A JROTC program may receive training on the requirements

1 and performance of military funeral honors at veteran funeral
2 services from a local organization with the training necessary to
3 perform military funeral honors, including:

4 (1) an ROTC program;

5 (2) a military honor guard;

6 (3) a Veterans of Foreign Wars post;

7 (4) a law enforcement agency;

8 (5) a fire department; or

9 (6) another nonprofit organization composed or in
10 service of veterans and qualified to provide training on the
11 requirements and performance of military funeral honors.

12 (d) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a JROTC
13 program must submit an application on the form the commission
14 prescribes. The commission shall post the application form on the
15 commission's publicly available Internet website. An application
16 for a grant under this section must include:

17 (1) the name of the local organization that trained
18 the JROTC program in the performance of military funeral honors at
19 veteran funeral services or, if the JROTC program was unable to
20 obtain training from a local organization, the names of the
21 organizations from which the JROTC program obtained training;

22 (2) a detailed plan for use of the grant money awarded
23 under this section, including for a JROTC program that intends to
24 purchase air rifles, details on whether the program is authorized
25 to purchase the air rifles and a plan for the safe use and storage of
26 the air rifles; and

27 (3) for a JROTC program awarded a grant in a preceding

1 school year, an explanation of the items purchased using grant
2 money from the preceding year that the JROTC program will continue
3 to use if awarded another grant.

4 (e) A JROTC program awarded a grant under this section shall
5 collaborate with community organizations to spread awareness among
6 veterans and veteran families of the program's availability to
7 perform military funeral honors in the community.

8 (f) Grant money awarded under this section may be used for:

9 (1) uniforms;

10 (2) air rifles, if:

11 (A) the school district in which the JROTC
12 program is located approves the purchase and use of air rifles; and

13 (B) the JROTC program includes in the grant
14 application a safe storage and use plan approved by the school
15 district;

16 (3) American flags in a size approved for providing
17 military funeral honors, if a flag has not been provided to a
18 veteran's family free of charge;

19 (4) bugles;

20 (5) audio recordings of and equipment to play TAPS; or

21 (6) tuition and fees for a JROTC program instructor to
22 enroll in a training course offered by an honor guard academy, if
23 the program is unable to receive training from a local
24 organization.

25 (g) A grant awarded under this section may not exceed \$3,500
26 per school year.

27 (h) The commission and the Veterans' Land Board may

1 publicize a JROTC program awarded a grant under this section as a
2 resource to perform military funeral honors at veteran funeral
3 services in the community in which the JROTC program is located and
4 the JROTC program shall make its best effort to perform military
5 funeral honors when requested.

6 (i) The commission may accept gifts, grants, and donations
7 from any source to administer the grant program established under
8 this section.

9 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
10 of this Act, the commission shall adopt rules to implement the grant
11 program established under Section 434.0072, Government Code, as
12 added by this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.