

By: Guillen, Garcia of Bexar, Lozano

H.B. No. 2193

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Veterans Commission regarding the provision of veterans benefits in this state.

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

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

(b) The commission shall conduct a study to determine:

(1) the number of veterans in this state who are entitled under state or federal law to receive veterans benefits managed, provided, or facilitated by the commission;

(2) the location of the veterans described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection disaggregated by county;

(3) the number of claims benefit advisors employed by the commission;

(4) the number of claims benefit advisors necessary for the commission to employ and the geographic locations at which the advisors should perform their duties in order to provide services to veterans in the most efficient manner considering:

(A) the geographic areas currently served by veterans county service officers; and

(B) the option of allowing multiple counties to be served at the same location in a way that minimizes drive times and distances traveled by veterans to receive services; and

(5) the costs to implement the service delivery system

1 described by Subdivision (4) of this subsection, including the
2 estimated costs of hiring, training, and equipping claims benefit
3 advisors and of offices and office operations and support staff.

4 (c) In determining the costs under Subsection (b)(5) of this
5 section, the commission may consider collocating claims benefit
6 advisors with facilities, institutions, and organizations that are
7 currently providing services to veterans.

8 (d) Not later than June 1, 2026, the commission shall submit
9 to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house
10 of representatives, and each member of the legislature a report on
11 the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or
12 other action.

13 SECTION 2. This Act expires January 1, 2027.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.