

By: Hopper

H.B. No. 2327

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for loans from the Veterans' Land Board.

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

SECTION 1. Section 161.001(a)(7), Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(7) "Veteran" means a person who:

(A)(i) served not less than 90 days, unless sooner discharged by reason of a service-connected disability, on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service (as constituted under 42 U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.), or Marine Corps of the United States after September 16, 1940, and who on the date of filing an application under the program has not been dishonorably discharged from the branch of the service in which the person served;

(ii) has at least 20 years of active or reserve military service as computed when determining the person's eligibility to receive retired pay under applicable federal law;

(iii) has enlisted or received an appointment in the Texas National Guard, who has completed all initial active duty training required as a condition of the enlistment or appointment, and who on the date of filing the person's application has not been dishonorably discharged from the Texas National Guard; ~~[or]~~

(iv) served in the armed forces of the

1 Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, if
2 the board adopts a rule regarding these veterans under Subsection
3 (b); or

4 (v) served as a member of a military force
5 organized under state law and who, on the date of filing an
6 application under this chapter:

7 (a) has served for 184 days or more as
8 part of a mission to secure the Texas-Mexico border on behalf of
9 this state;

10 (b) has not been dishonorably
11 discharged from the military force in which the person served; and

12 (c) is not a member of the
13 legislature;

14 (B) at the time of the person's enlistment,
15 induction, commissioning, appointment, or drafting was a bona fide
16 resident of this state or has resided in this state at least one
17 year immediately before the date of filing an application under
18 this chapter; and

19 (C) at the time of the person's application under
20 this chapter is a bona fide resident of this state. The term
21 includes the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran who died or who
22 is identified as missing in action if the deceased or missing
23 veteran meets the requirements of this section, with the exception
24 that the deceased or missing veteran need not have served 90 days
25 under Paragraph (A)(i) of this subdivision, and if the deceased or
26 missing veteran was a bona fide resident of this state at the time
27 of enlistment, induction, commissioning, appointment, or drafting.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.