

AN ACT

relating to Texas women veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Section 434.203, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 434.203. COORDINATOR. (a) The executive director shall designate a women veterans coordinator for this state.

(b) The coordinator or the coordinator's designee shall serve as a liaison between state and federal agencies and organizations that provide benefits and services to women veterans.

SECTION 2. Section 434.204, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 434.204. GENERAL PROGRAM DUTIES. The program shall:

(1) provide assistance to the women veterans of this state as provided by this subchapter;

(2) perform outreach functions to improve the awareness of women veterans of their eligibility for federal and state veterans' benefits and services;

(3) assess the needs of women veterans with respect to benefits and services;

(4) review programs, research projects, and other initiatives designed to address the needs of the women veterans of this state;

(5) make recommendations to the executive director

1 regarding the improvement of benefits and services to women
2 veterans; ~~and~~

3 (6) incorporate issues concerning women veterans in
4 commission planning regarding veterans' benefits and services; and

5 (7) in collaboration with appropriate state agencies,
6 provide information to women veterans on services and resources
7 provided by state or federal agencies and organizations to women
8 veterans.

9 SECTION 3. Subchapter E, Chapter 434, Government Code, is
10 amended by adding Sections 434.212, 434.213, and 434.214 to read as
11 follows:

12 Sec. 434.212. WOMEN VETERANS REPORT. Not later than
13 November 1 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit
14 to the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislature a report on
15 women veterans in this state. The report may be delivered
16 electronically and must:

17 (1) estimate the:

18 (A) number of women veterans in this state;

19 (B) number of women veterans who contact the
20 commission for assistance; and

21 (C) number of women veterans who receive
22 assistance from the commission, the Texas Workforce Commission, the
23 Department of State Health Services, and other state agencies;

24 (2) identify the unique problems faced by women
25 veterans; and

26 (3) recommend policy proposals, initiatives, and
27 funding levels to address the problems identified in Subdivision

1 (2).

2 Sec. 434.213. WOMEN VETERANS COMMUNITY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN.

3 The women veterans coordinator designated under Section 434.203, in
4 consultation with the Governor's Commission for Women, the United
5 States Department of Veterans Affairs, and any other appropriate
6 agency, shall conduct a community outreach campaign to:

7 (1) provide information relating to and increase
8 awareness of benefits and services available to women veterans;

9 (2) improve access to benefits and services for women
10 veterans;

11 (3) increase participation of women veterans in
12 programs that provide benefits and services;

13 (4) provide information on the significant
14 contributions of women veterans in this state; and

15 (5) provide information relating to and increase
16 awareness of support groups and other organizations relating to
17 family services, including services for women veterans who are
18 single parents.

19 Sec. 434.214. APPLICATION FOR STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS,

20 SERVICES, OR ASSISTANCE. (a) This section applies to a state

21 agency in the executive branch of state government, including a

22 health and human services agency, that provides to adult women in

23 this state a program, a service, or assistance, including the

24 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the supplemental

25 nutrition assistance program, the women's health program,

26 Medicaid, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,

27 Infants, and Children, and a housing program or service or housing

1 assistance.

2 (b) A state agency shall include in each application for a
3 program, a service, or assistance provided by the agency to adult
4 women:

5 (1) a space to indicate whether the applicant is a
6 veteran; and

7 (2) model language informing the applicant that she
8 may be entitled to additional services because of her veteran
9 status.

10 (c) The commission shall develop the model language
11 required on an application under Subsection (b)(2). The language
12 must include a link to the veterans website established under
13 Section [434.102](#) or, for an online application, a hyperlink to that
14 website.

15 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter [662](#), Government Code, is
16 amended by adding Section 662.065 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 662.065. WOMEN VETERANS DAY. (a) June 12 is Women
18 Veterans Day to recognize the role of women in the military forces
19 and to commemorate the sacrifices of and valor displayed by Texas
20 women veterans.

21 (b) Women Veterans Day shall be regularly observed by
22 appropriate programs and activities.

23 SECTION 5. Not later than November 1, 2018, the women
24 veterans coordinator shall establish the women veterans community
25 outreach campaign as required under Section [434.213](#), Government
26 Code, as added by this Act, and the Texas Veterans Commission shall
27 adopt any rules necessary to implement the campaign.

1 SECTION 6. (a) Not later than December 1, 2017, the Texas
2 Veterans Commission shall develop the model application language
3 required by Section 434.214, Government Code, as added by this Act,
4 and post that information on the commission's Internet website.

5 (b) Not later than March 1, 2018, each state agency subject
6 to Section 434.214, Government Code, as added by this Act, shall
7 modify the agency's application for programs, services, or
8 assistance as necessary to implement that section.

9 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 805 passed the Senate on May 2, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 27, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 805 passed the House, with amendments, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor