

By: Nelson, Hinojosa
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S.B. No. 55

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a grant program to support community mental health programs for veterans with mental illness.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0992 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0992. GRANT PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS. (a) To the extent funds are appropriated to the commission for that purpose, the commission shall establish a grant program for the purpose of supporting community mental health programs providing services and treatment to veterans with mental illness.

(b) The commission shall contract with a private entity to support and administer the grant program. The contract between the commission and the private entity must require that:

(1) the commission and the private entity each provide one-half of the money that will be awarded under the grant program;

(2) the private entity develop eligibility criteria for grant applicants, acceptable uses of grant money by grant recipients, and reporting requirements for grant recipients; and

(3) the private entity obtain the commission's approval of the eligibility criteria, acceptable uses, and reporting requirements developed under Subdivision (2) before awarding any grants under the program.

1 (c) The executive commissioner shall adopt any rules
2 necessary to implement the grant program under this section.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.