

1-1 By: Menéndez S.B. No. 1305  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2015; March 18, 2015, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and  
 1-4 Military Installations; April 8, 2015, reported favorably by the  
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 8, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the creation of a rural veterans mental health  
 1-18 initiative within the mental health intervention program for  
 1-19 veterans.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Section 1001.202, Health and Safety Code, as  
 1-22 added by Chapter 352 (H.B. 2392), Acts of the 83rd Legislature,  
 1-23 Regular Session, 2013, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 1001.202. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The  
 1-25 department shall develop a mental health intervention program for  
 1-26 veterans. The program must include:

1-27 (1) peer-to-peer counseling;

1-28 (2) access to licensed mental health professionals for  
 1-29 volunteer coordinators and peers;

1-30 (3) training approved by the department for peers;

1-31 (4) technical assistance for volunteer coordinators  
 1-32 and peers;

1-33 (5) grants to regional and local organizations  
 1-34 providing services under this subchapter;

1-35 (6) recruitment, retention, and screening of  
 1-36 community-based therapists;

1-37 (7) suicide prevention training for volunteer  
 1-38 coordinators and peers; and

1-39 (8) veteran jail diversion services, including  
 1-40 veterans courts.

1-41 (a-2) As part of the mental health intervention program for  
 1-42 veterans, the department shall develop a rural veterans mental  
 1-43 health initiative.

1-44 (b) The department shall solicit and ensure that  
 1-45 specialized training is provided to persons who are peers and who  
 1-46 want to provide peer-to-peer counseling or other peer-to-peer  
 1-47 services under the program.

1-48 (c) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement  
 1-49 this subchapter.

1-50 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
 1-51 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
 1-52 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
 1-53 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
 1-54 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

1-55 \* \* \* \* \*