

1-1 By: Garcia, Campbell S.B. No. 2001
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 17, 2015; March 30, 2015, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; April 20, 2015, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-6 Nays 0; April 20, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	<u>Campbell</u>	X		
1-10	<u>Burton</u>	X		
1-11	<u>Birdwell</u>	X		
1-12	<u>Garcia</u>	X		
1-13	<u>Hall</u>	X		
1-14	<u>Lucio</u>	X		
1-15	<u>Rodríguez</u>	X		

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2001 By: Garcia

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the establishment and operation of the Texas Women
1-20 Veterans Program.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by
1-23 adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

1-24 SUBCHAPTER E. TEXAS WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

1-25 Sec. 434.201. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-26 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Veterans Commission.

1-27 (2) "Executive director" means the executive director
1-28 of the commission.

1-29 (3) "Program" means the Texas Women Veterans Program.

1-30 (4) "Woman veteran" means a woman who:

1-31 (A) served on active duty in the armed forces of
1-32 the United States or in the Texas National Guard on federal active
1-33 duty under Title 10, United States Code; and

1-34 (B) was discharged or released from that service
1-35 under conditions other than dishonorable.

1-36 Sec. 434.202. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM; PROGRAM MISSION.

1-37 (a) The Texas Women Veterans Program is established in the
1-38 commission. The program is attached to the office of the executive
1-39 director for administrative purposes.

1-40 (b) The mission of the program is to ensure that the women
1-41 veterans of this state have equitable access to federal and state
1-42 veterans' benefits and services.

1-43 Sec. 434.203. COORDINATOR. The executive director shall
1-44 designate a women veterans coordinator for this state.

1-45 Sec. 434.204. GENERAL PROGRAM DUTIES. The program shall:

1-46 (1) provide assistance to the women veterans of this
1-47 state as provided by this subchapter;

1-48 (2) perform outreach functions to improve the
1-49 awareness of women veterans of their eligibility for federal and
1-50 state veterans' benefits and services;

1-51 (3) assess the needs of women veterans with respect to
1-52 benefits and services;

1-53 (4) review programs, research projects, and other
1-54 initiatives designed to address the needs of the women veterans of
1-55 this state;

1-56 (5) make recommendations to the executive director
1-57 regarding the improvement of benefits and services to women
1-58 veterans; and

1-59 (6) incorporate issues concerning women veterans in
1-60 commission planning regarding veterans' benefits and services.

2-1 Sec. 434.205. ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS. (a) The
2-2 program shall advocate for women veterans and work to increase
2-3 public awareness about the gender-specific needs of women veterans.

2-4 (b) The program shall recommend legislative initiatives and
2-5 the development of policies on the local, state, and national
2-6 levels to address the issues affecting women veterans.

2-7 Sec. 434.206. COLLABORATION. The program shall collaborate
2-8 with federal, state, county, municipal, and private agencies that
2-9 provide services to women veterans.

2-10 Sec. 434.207. RESEARCH; DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.
2-11 (a) The program shall monitor and research issues relating to
2-12 women veterans.

2-13 (b) The program shall disseminate information regarding
2-14 opportunities for women veterans throughout the network of entities
2-15 with which the program collaborates.

2-16 Sec. 434.208. EDUCATION. Through conferences, seminars,
2-17 and training workshops with federal, state, county, municipal, and
2-18 private agencies, the program shall provide guidance and direction
2-19 to a woman veteran who is applying for grants, benefits, or
2-20 services.

2-21 Sec. 434.209. HONOR AND RECOGNITION. The program shall
2-22 promote events and activities that recognize and honor the women
2-23 veterans of this state and women who serve in the military.

2-24 Sec. 434.210. FACILITIES. To the extent funding is
2-25 available for that purpose, the program shall provide facilities as
2-26 appropriate in support of the program.

2-27 Sec. 434.211. FUNDING; GRANTS. On behalf of the program,
2-28 the commission may:

2-29 (1) accept and spend funds:

2-30 (A) appropriated to the commission for the
2-31 operation of the program; and

2-32 (B) received from other sources, including
2-33 donations and grants; and

2-34 (2) provide matching grants to assist in the
2-35 implementation of the program's goals and objectives.

2-36 SECTION 2. Section 434.017(e), Government Code, is amended
2-37 to read as follows:

2-38 (e) To carry out any purpose of this chapter, the commission
2-39 may solicit, accept, or refuse a gift, grant, devise, bequest of
2-40 money, security, service, or property, including money raised or a
2-41 service provided by a volunteer or volunteer group, to promote the
2-42 work of the commission for any purpose related to the fund for
2-43 veterans' assistance. The commission may participate in the
2-44 establishment and operation of an affiliated nonprofit
2-45 organization that is established for the purpose of raising money
2-46 for or providing services or other benefits to the commission or a
2-47 program established in the commission, including the Texas Women
2-48 Veterans Program. A gift, grant, devise, or bequest to the fund may
2-49 be appropriated in the same manner as other money in the fund,
2-50 subject to the purposes provided by Subsection (c) and any
2-51 limitation or requirement placed on the gift, grant, devise, or
2-52 bequest by the donor or granting entity.

2-53 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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