

1-1 By: Lucio, Hall S.B. No. 578
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 23, 2017; February 8, 2017,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs &
1-4 Border Security; March 22, 2017, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-6 Nays 0; March 22, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

| | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-8 | | | | |
| 1-9 | | | X | |
| 1-10 | X | | | |
| 1-11 | X | | | |
| 1-12 | X | | | |
| 1-13 | X | | | |
| 1-14 | X | | | |
| 1-15 | X | | | |

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 578 By: Lucio

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

1-19 relating to the creation by the Health and Human Services
1-20 Commission of a veteran suicide prevention action plan.

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

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
1-23 amended by adding Section 531.0999 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 531.0999. VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN.

1-25 (a) The commission, in collaboration with the Texas Coordinating
1-26 Council for Veterans Services, the United States Department of
1-27 Veterans Affairs, the Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families
1-28 Technical Assistance Center Implementation Academy of the
1-29 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the
1-30 United States Department of Health and Human Services, veteran
1-31 advocacy groups, medical providers, and any other organization or
1-32 interested party the commission considers appropriate, shall
1-33 develop a comprehensive action plan to increase access to and
1-34 availability of professional veteran health services to prevent
1-35 veteran suicides.

1-36 (b) The action plan must:

1-37 (1) identify opportunities for raising awareness of
1-38 and providing resources for veteran suicide prevention;

1-39 (2) identify opportunities to increase access to
1-40 veteran mental health services;

1-41 (3) identify funding resources to provide accessible,
1-42 affordable veteran mental health services;

1-43 (4) provide measures to expand public-private
1-44 partnerships to ensure access to quality, timely mental health
1-45 services;

1-46 (5) provide for proactive outreach measures to reach
1-47 veterans needing care;

1-48 (6) provide for peer-to-peer service coordination,
1-49 including training, certification, recertification, and continuing
1-50 education for peer coordinators; and

1-51 (7) address suicide prevention awareness, measures,
1-52 and training regarding veterans involved in the justice system.

1-53 (c) The commission shall make specific short-term and
1-54 long-term statutory, administrative, and budget-related
1-55 recommendations to the legislature and the governor regarding the
1-56 policy initiatives and reforms necessary to implement the action
1-57 plan developed under this section. The short-term recommendations
1-58 must include a plan for state implementation beginning not later
1-59 than September 1, 2019. The initiatives and reforms in the
1-60 short-term plan must be fully implemented by September 1, 2021. The

2-1 long-term recommendations must include a plan for state
2-2 implementation beginning not later than September 1, 2021. The
2-3 initiatives and reforms in the long-term plan must be fully
2-4 implemented by September 1, 2027.

2-5 (d) The commission shall include in its strategic plan under
2-6 Chapter 2056 the plans for implementation of the short-term and
2-7 long-term recommendations under Subsection (c).

2-8 (e) This section expires September 1, 2027.

2-9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-13 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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