

1-1 By: Watson, et al. S.B. No. 607
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 8, 2019; February 21, 2019,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs &
1-4 Border Security; March 18, 2019, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-6 Nays 0; March 18, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	Campbell	X		
1-10	Hall	X		
1-11	Johnson	X		
1-12	Lucio	X		
1-13	Menéndez	X		
1-14	Schwertner	X		
1-15	Seliger	X		

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 607 By: Campbell

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

1-19 relating to the operations and functions of the Veterans' Land
1-20 Board and the sunset review date for and programs administered by
1-21 the board.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 161.0111, Natural Resources Code, is
1-24 amended to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 161.0111. SUNSET PROVISION. The Veterans' Land Board
1-26 is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas
1-27 Sunset Act), but is not abolished under that chapter. The board
1-28 shall be reviewed during the period in which state agencies
1-29 abolished in 2031 are reviewed [~~2019~~] and every 12th year after that
1-30 [~~2019 are reviewed~~].

1-31 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 161, Natural Resources
1-32 Code, is amended by adding Section 161.0141 to read as follows:

1-33 Sec. 161.0141. SEPARATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES. The board
1-34 shall develop and implement policies that clearly separate the
1-35 policy-making responsibilities of the board and the management
1-36 responsibilities of the executive secretary, assistant executive
1-37 secretary, and staff of the board.

1-38 SECTION 3. Section 161.023, Natural Resources Code, is
1-39 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to
1-40 read as follows:

1-41 (b) The training program must provide the person with
1-42 information regarding:

1-43 (1) the law governing board operations [~~the~~
1-44 ~~legislation that created the board~~];

1-45 (2) the programs, functions, rules, and budget of the
1-46 board;

1-47 (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking
1-48 authority of the board;

1-49 (4) the results of the most recent formal audit of the
1-50 board;

1-51 (5) [~~(4)~~] the requirements of:

1-52 (A) laws relating to open meetings, public
1-53 information, administrative procedure, and disclosure of conflicts
1-54 of interest; and

1-55 (B) other laws applicable to members of a state
1-56 policy-making body in performing their duties; and

1-57 (6) [~~(5)~~] any applicable ethics policies adopted by
1-58 the board or the Texas Ethics Commission.

1-59 (d) The commissioner shall create a training manual that
1-60 includes the information required by Subsection (b). The

2-1 commissioner shall distribute a copy of the training manual
2-2 annually to each member of the board. Each member of the board
2-3 shall sign and submit to the commissioner a statement acknowledging
2-4 that the member has received and reviewed the training manual.

2-5 SECTION 4. Section 161.031(a), Natural Resources Code, is
2-6 amended to read as follows:

2-7 (a) The executive secretary or his or her designee shall
2-8 prepare and maintain a written plan to assure implementation of a
2-9 program of equal employment opportunity whereby all personnel
2-10 transactions are made without regard to race, color, disability
2-11 [~~handicap~~], sex, religion, age, or national origin. The plan shall
2-12 include:

2-13 (1) a comprehensive analysis which meets federal and
2-14 state guidelines of all the agency's work force by race, sex, ethnic
2-15 origin, class of position, and salary or wages;

2-16 (2) plans for recruitment, evaluation, selection,
2-17 appointment, training, promotion, and other personnel policies;

2-18 (3) procedures by which a determination can be made of
2-19 significant underutilization in the agency work force of all
2-20 persons for whom federal and state guidelines encourage a more
2-21 equitable balance and steps reasonably designed to overcome any
2-22 identified underutilization; and

2-23 (4) objectives and goals, with appropriate timetables
2-24 for the achievement of the objectives and goals, assignments of
2-25 responsibility for their achievement, and an appropriate program
2-26 for reviewing and maintaining these goals and objectives once
2-27 achieved.

2-28 SECTION 5. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of
2-29 this section, Section 161.023, Natural Resources Code, as amended
2-30 by this Act, applies to a member of the Veterans' Land Board
2-31 appointed before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

2-32 (b) A member of the Veterans' Land Board who, before the
2-33 effective date of this Act, completed the training program required
2-34 by Section 161.023, Natural Resources Code, as that law existed
2-35 before the effective date of this Act, is required to complete
2-36 additional training only on subjects added by this Act to the
2-37 training program as required by Section 161.023, Natural Resources
2-38 Code, as amended by this Act. A board member described by this
2-39 subsection may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a member in
2-40 attendance at a meeting of the board held on or after December 1,
2-41 2019, until the member completes the additional training.

2-42 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

2-43

* * * * *