

By: Garcia, Menéndez

S.B. No. 1580

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on homeless veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 2306, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter OO to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER OO. HOMELESS VETERANS

Sec. 2306.1101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "homeless veteran" means a person who has served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or in the state military forces as defined by Section 437.001 and who:

(1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including a person who:

(A) is temporarily allowed to stay in the house of another person due to loss of housing;

(B) is temporarily living in a motel or hotel;

(C) is living in an emergency shelter; or

(D) will lose housing in less than 15 days;

(2) has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans; or

(3) is living in a car, park, other public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.

Sec. 2306.1102. STUDY ON HOMELESS VETERANS. (a) The

1 department, in conjunction with other members of the Texas  
2 Interagency Council for the Homeless established under Subchapter  
3 KK, shall conduct a study and prepare a report on homeless veterans.  
4 The report must include a summary of the information resulting from  
5 the study and recommendations for changes in law necessary to  
6 provide services to or otherwise assist homeless veterans.

7 (b) In preparing the report required under this section, the  
8 department shall:

9 (1) compile existing data on the number of homeless  
10 veterans in this state;

11 (2) summarize existing studies regarding the needs of  
12 homeless veterans and identify the degree to which current programs  
13 are meeting those needs;

14 (3) identify existing sources of funding available to  
15 members of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless to  
16 provide housing and services to homeless veterans; and

17 (4) develop recommendations for reducing veteran  
18 homelessness in the state.

19 (c) The department shall submit the report required by this  
20 section to the legislature not later than December 1, 2016.

21 (d) This section expires September 1, 2017.

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