

2021 Legislative Session Bill Summaries

Texas Bills That Impact Veterans

SB 1524

Tax refund pilot program for certain people who employ apprentices.

Qualified apprenticeships (certified by the executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission) allow a tax refund if they employ at least one apprentice for at least seven months during the calendar year.

The maximum number of apprentices with whom a person may receive a refund is one person; or six if at least half of the apprentices are: (A) foster children who have transitioned or are transitioning to independent living, **(B) military veterans, (C) military spouses**, or (D) women.

HB 1802

The Health and Human Services Commission and Baylor College of Medicine, in partnership with a military veteran's hospital or a medical center that provides care to veterans, will conduct a **study on using alternative therapies to treat veterans with suffering from PTSD**. This includes studying the use of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). Psilocybin and Ketamine.

HB 2040/ SB 675

Amends Parks and Wildlife Code to allow the commission to provide **special open seasons** during which the taking and possession of ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhen and gallinules are **restricted to veterans and members of the armed forces of the United States on active duty, including members of the national guard and reserves on active duty other than for training**.

SB 792

Amends Transportation Code to create specialty license plates and parking placards for vehicles of disabled veterans. It also allows organizations that regularly transport disabled veterans to register their vehicles with the plates.

HB 139

Amends the Education Code to allow the commissioner to adopt rules to make it easier for **military service members, military spouses and military veterans** to obtain a certificates and licenses in the State. It also allows a state agency that issues a license to adopt rules to establish alternate methods for a military service member, military spouse, or military veteran to demonstrate competency to meet requirements for obtaining the license in the State of Texas.

HCR 51

House Concurrent Resolution on the murder of Vanessa Guillen at Fort Hood. The 87th Legislature of the State of Texas urges U.S. Congress to pass the I am Vanessa Guillen Act to ensure changes are made to eliminate the issues present in the system that led to the tragedy of Vanessa Guillen.

SB 611/SJR 35

- No property taxes for the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

The exemption from ad valorem (total appraised value) taxation for the residence homestead of the **surviving spouse of a member of the armed services who is killed or fatally injured (addition to current code) in the line of duty** if the spouse has not remarried since the death of the member of the armed services.

Furthermore, the chief appraiser can accept and approve or deny an application for a residence homestead no later than two years after the filing deadline.

The bill also amends the Tax Code to allow the Chief Appraiser to accept and approve, or deny, **late applications for disabled veterans** (not the surviving spouse of the disabled veteran) after the filing deadline if the application is filed **no later than five years after the delinquency date** for the taxes on the property.

HB 626

Amendment to the Education Code to expand the Texas Innovative Adult Career Education Grant Program to include grants to nonprofit organizations providing job training to veterans.

HB 1936

Amendment to the Transportation Code that creates a specialty license plate for those who have served or have served in the U.S. armed services and have earned Special Forces qualifications. The plate includes the words "Army Special Forces" and a depiction of the U.S. Army Special Forces shoulder sleeve insignia with the Special Forces Tab.

SB 1093

Amends Government Code related to the veteran's treatment court to add "county adjacent to the county where the defendant works or resides".

SB 1179

Amends government code to allocate reimbursement to jurors involved in veteran's treatment court.

SB 337

A bill that directs the Texas Workforce Commission to develop and administer a grant program that awards grants to nonprofits that facilitate the participation in apprenticeship training programs of **veterans and active-duty military service members who are transitioning to into civilian employment.**

SCR 50

Concurrent Resolution commending the service of Marcelino Serna and William Flores and directs the governor of the State of Texas to posthumously award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to the two heroes.

HB 3821

Amends the Government Code to add the employment and training of mental health professionals to assist the Health and Human Services Commission in the administration of the mental health program for veterans.