Chapter 512

S.B. No. 27

AN ACT
relating to the mental health program for veterans and to the
authority to establish a trauma affected veterans clinical care and
research center at The University of Texas Health Science Center at
San Antonio.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 74, Education Code, is
amended by adding Section 74.155 to read as follows:

Sec. 74.155. NATIONAL CENTER FOR WARRIOR RESILIENCY.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Board" means the board of regents of The
University of Texas System.

(2) "Center" means the National Center for Warrior
Resiliency.

(b) The board may establish the National Center for Warrior
Resiliency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San
Antonio for purposes of:

(1) researching issues relating to the detection,
prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of combat-related
post-traumatic stress disorder and comorbid conditions; and

(2) providing clinical care to enhance the
psychological resiliency of military personnel and veterans.

(c) The board may solicit, accept, and administer gifts and
grants from any public or private source for the use and benefit of
the center.

SECTION 2. Section 434.351, Government Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (2-a) to read as follows:

(2-a) "Peer service coordinator" means a person who recruits and retains veterans, peers, and volunteers to participate in the mental health program for veterans and related activities.

SECTION 3. Section 434.352(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) For the mental health program for veterans, the commission shall:

(1) provide training to peer service [volunteer] coordinators and peers in accordance with Section 434.353;

(2) provide technical assistance to peer service [volunteer] coordinators and peers;

(3) identify [recruit], train, and communicate with community-based licensed mental health professionals [therapists], community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations; and

(4) coordinate services for justice involved veterans.

SECTION 4. Section 434.353(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commission shall develop and implement methods for providing peer service [volunteer] coordinator certification training to peer service [volunteer] coordinators, including providing training for initial certification and recertification and providing continuing education.

SECTION 5. Section 1001.221, Health and Safety Code, is
amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1-a) "Peer service coordinator" means a person who recruits and retains veterans, peers, and volunteers to participate in the mental health program for veterans and related activities.

SECTION 6. Section 1001.222(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The department shall develop a mental health intervention program for veterans. The program must include:

(1) peer-to-peer counseling;

(2) access to licensed mental health professionals for peer service [volunteer] coordinators and peers;

(3) training approved by the department for peer service coordinators, licensed mental health professionals, and peers;

(4) technical assistance for peer service [volunteer] coordinators, licensed mental health professionals, and peers;

(5) identification [grants to regional and local organizations providing services under this subchapter;]

(6) [47+] suicide prevention training for peer service [volunteer] coordinators and peers; and

(7) [48+] veteran jail diversion services, including veterans treatment courts.

SECTION 7. Section 1001.224, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.224. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of
each year, the department shall submit a report to the governor and
the legislature that includes:

(1) the number of veterans who received services
through the mental health program for veterans;

(2) the number of peers and peer service [volunteer]
coordinators trained;

(3) [a summary of the grants awarded and services
provided through those grants]

[44+] an evaluation of the services provided under
this subchapter; and

(4) [45+] recommendations for program improvements.

SECTION 8. The following laws are repealed:

(1) Section 434.351(4), Government Code;

(2) Section 1001.221(3), Health and Safety Code; and

(3) Section 1001.223, Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.
I hereby certify that S.B. No. 27 passed the Senate on March 28, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; May 25, 2017, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 26, 2017, House granted request of the Senate; May 28, 2017, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 27 passed the House, with amendments, on May 18, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 8, two present not voting; May 26, 2017, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 28, 2017, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved: June 9, 2017

Date

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
7:00 PM O'CLOCK

Secretary of State
TO: Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor, Senate  
Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB27 by Campbell (Relating to the mental health program for veterans and to the authority to establish a trauma affected veterans clinical care and research center at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.), Conference Committee Report

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Education Code to authorize The University of Texas (UT) System Board of Regents to establish the National Center for Warrior Resiliency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The Center would be established to provide clinical care and research of issues relating to combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder and comorbid conditions. The bill would allow the UT System Board of Regents to solicit, accept, and administer gifts and grants from any public or private source for the Center.

The bill would also amend the Health and Safety Code Chapter 1001 to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to include training and technical assistance for peer service coordinators and licensed mental health professionals in the mental health program for veterans.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 403 Veterans Commission, 529 Health and Human Services Commission, 720 The University of Texas System Administration

LBB Staff: UP, SD, KCA, EP, MDI, LBO, GGo
TO: Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor, Senate

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB27 by Campbell (Relating to the mental health program for veterans.), As Passed 2nd House

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend the Education Code to require The University of Texas (UT) System Board of Regents to establish the National Center for Warrior Resiliency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The Center would be established to provide clinical care and research of issues relating to combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder and comorbid conditions. The bill would require the UT Board of Regents to provide for the employment of staff and an operating budget for the Center. The bill would allow the UT System Board of Regents to solicit, accept, and administer gifts and grants from any public or private source for the Center and would allow the Center to enter into agreements or collaborations with public or private entities to perform the research functions of the Center.

The bill would also amend the Health and Safety Code Chapter 1001 to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to include training and technical assistance for peer service coordinators and licensed mental health professionals in the mental health program for veterans. The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

According to UT System, the Center's programmatic services would be supported through grant funding. UT System indicated the Center would require $1.25 million per year to support the administrative costs of the Center. This would include funding to support 75 full-time equivalent positions, rent, and other operational costs. Based on information provided by UT System, this analysis assumes any costs related to the Center would be paid for with institutional funds. HHSC indicates that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed within existing agency resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 403 Veterans Commission, 529 Health and Human Services Commission, 720 The University of Texas System Administration

**LBB Staff:** UP, KCA, EP, MDI, LBO, GGo
TO: Honorable Four Price, Chair, House Committee on Public Health

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB27 by Campbell (Relating to the mental health program for veterans.), As Engrossed

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Health and Safety Code Chapter 1001 to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to include training and technical assistance for peer service coordinators and licensed mental health professionals in the mental health program for veterans. The bill would take effect September 1, 2017. HHSC indicates that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed within existing agency resources.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 403 Veterans Commission, 529 Health and Human Services Commission

LBB Staff: UP, KCA, EP, MDI, LBO, GGo
TO: Honorable Donna Campbell, Chair, Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border Security

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB27 by Campbell (Relating to the mental health program for veterans.), As Introduced

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend Health and Safety Code Chapter 1001 to require the Health and Human Services Commission to include training and technical assistance for peer service coordinators and licensed mental health professionals in the mental health program for veterans. The Texas Veterans Commission and the Health and Human Services Commission indicate that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed within existing agency resources. The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 403 Veterans Commission, 529 Health and Human Services Commission

**LBB Staff:** UP, LBO, EP, MDI, GGo