Mr. Aubrey L. Bullard  
Executive Director  
Texas Veterans Commission  
P. O. Box 12277  
Austin, Texas  78711

Opinion No. JM-587  
Re: Compliance with article 5787,  
section 1(f), V.T.C.S., requiring a  
county to maintain and operate a  
Veteran's County Service Office

Dear Mr. Bullard:

You ask about article 5787, section 1(f), V.T.C.S., which  
requires counties with a population of 200,000 or more to maintain and  
operate a Veterans County Service Office.

Since 1963 all counties have been authorized to maintain and  
operate a Veterans County Service Office if the commissioners court  
finds that such an office is a public necessity. V.T.C.S. art. 5787,  
§1(a); Acts 1963, 58th Leg., ch. 112, at 226. In 1985, however, the  
legislature amended article 5787 by adding section 1(f) to make such  
an office mandatory rather than optional for counties with a  
population of 200,000 or more. Section 1(f) provides:

(f) Mandatory operation. In a county with a  
population of two hundred thousand (200,000) or  
more, according to the most recent Federal Census,  
the Commissioners Court shall maintain and operate  
a Veterans County Service Office in accordance  
with this section. The office must be separate  
and distinct from other county offices, and must  
be staffed by at least one full-time employee.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 889, §1, at 3014. You ask when a county  
must be in compliance with section 1(f).

The act that added section 1(f) to article 5787 took effect on  
September 1, 1985. Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 889, at 3014. The  
legislature is free to fix the time that an act takes effect.  
1925), rev'd on other grounds, 282 S.W. 793 (Tex. 1926); see also Tex.  
Const. art. III, §39. Therefore, counties with a population of 200,000 or  
more became subject to the requirements of article 5787,  
section 1(f) on September 1, 1985, and should now be in compliance.
SUMMARY

Counties with a population of 200,000 or more became subject to the requirements of article 5787, section 1(2), V.T.C.S., on September 1, 1985, and should now be in compliance.

Very truly yours,

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