

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Austin, Texas

MAY 27, 2017

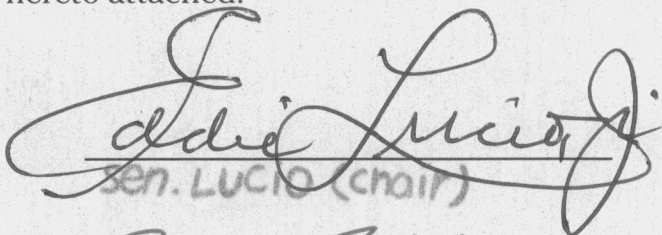
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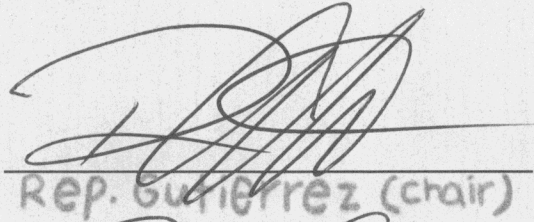
Honorable Dan Patrick  
President of the Senate

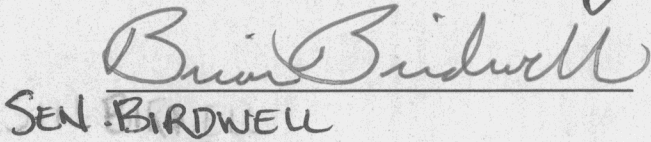
Honorable Joe Straus  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

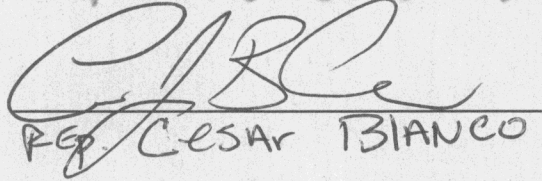
Sirs:

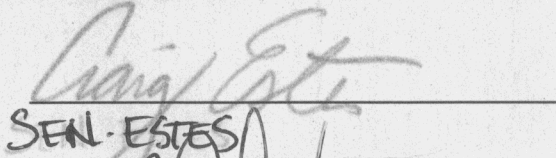
We, Your Conference Committee, appointed to adjust the differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives on SB 578 have had the same under consideration, and beg to report it back with the recommendation that it do pass in the form and text hereto attached.

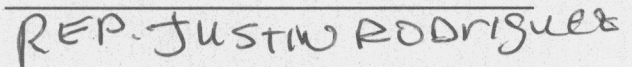
  
SEN. LUCIO (chair)

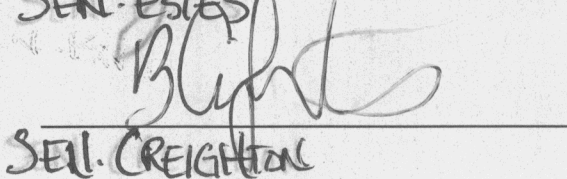
  
REP. GUTIERREZ (chair)

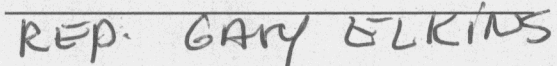
  
SEN. BIRDWELL

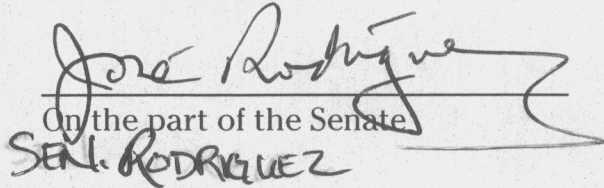
  
REP. CESAR BIANCO

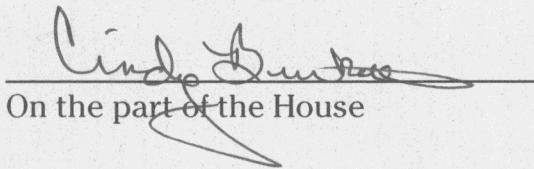
  
SEN. ESTES

  
REP. JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ

  
SEN. CREIGHTON

  
REP. GARY ELKINS

  
On the part of the Senate  
SEN. RODRIGUEZ

  
On the part of the House

Note to Conference Committee Clerk:

Please type the names of the members of the Conference Committee under the lines provided for signature. Those members desiring to sign the report should sign each of the six copies. Attach a copy of the Conference Committee Report and a Section by Section side by side comparison to each of the six reporting forms. The original and two copies are filed in house of origin of the bill, and three copies in the other house.



# CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

3<sup>rd</sup> Printing

S.B. No. 578

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation by the Health and Human Services  
3 Commission of a veteran suicide prevention action plan.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 531.0999 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 531.0999. VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN.

8 (a) The commission, in collaboration with the Texas Coordinating  
9 Council for Veterans Services, the United States Department of  
10 Veterans Affairs, the Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families  
11 Technical Assistance Center Implementation Academy of the  
12 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the  
13 United States Department of Health and Human Services, veteran  
14 advocacy groups, medical providers, and any other organization or  
15 interested party the commission considers appropriate, shall  
16 develop a comprehensive action plan to increase access to and  
17 availability of professional veteran health services to prevent  
18 veteran suicides.

19 (b) The action plan must:

20 (1) identify opportunities for raising awareness of  
21 and providing resources for veteran suicide prevention;

22 (2) identify opportunities to increase access to  
23 veteran mental health services;

24 (3) identify funding resources to provide accessible,

1 affordable veteran mental health services;

2 (4) provide measures to expand public-private  
3 partnerships to ensure access to quality, timely mental health  
4 services;

5 (5) provide for proactive outreach measures to reach  
6 veterans needing care;

7 (6) provide for peer-to-peer service coordination,  
8 including training, certification, recertification, and continuing  
9 education for peer coordinators; and

10 (7) address suicide prevention awareness, measures,  
11 and training regarding veterans involved in the justice system.

12 (c) The commission shall make specific short-term and  
13 long-term statutory, administrative, and budget-related  
14 recommendations to the legislature and the governor regarding the  
15 policy initiatives and reforms necessary to implement the action  
16 plan developed under this section. The short-term recommendations  
17 must include a plan for state implementation beginning not later  
18 than September 1, 2019. The initiatives and reforms in the  
19 short-term plan must be fully implemented by September 1, 2021. The  
20 long-term recommendations must include a plan for state  
21 implementation beginning not later than September 1, 2021. The  
22 initiatives and reforms in the long-term plan must be fully  
23 implemented by September 1, 2027.

24 (d) The commission shall include in its strategic plan under  
25 Chapter 2056 the plans for implementation of the short-term and  
26 long-term recommendations under Subsection (c).

27 (e) This section expires September 1, 2027.

1           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

**Senate Bill 578**  
Conference Committee Report  
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (CS)

CONFERENCE

*No equivalent provision.*

Same as Senate version.

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 shall 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 organization, control, and management of the center are vested in the board.

(d) The board shall:

(1) provide for the employment of staff and an operating budget for the center; and

(2) select a site for the center at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

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

(f) The center may enter into agreements or otherwise collaborate with public or private entities, including other public institutions of higher education, private or independent institutions of higher education, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, and the Texas Veterans

**Senate Bill 578**  
Conference Committee Report  
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (CS)

CONFERENCE

Commission, to perform the research functions of the center.  
(g) An employee of the center is an employee of The  
University of Texas System.

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code,  
is amended by adding Section 531.0999.

SECTION 2. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 1. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 2. Effective date.

SECTION 3. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 2. Same as Senate version.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD  
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 28, 2017

**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:** SB578 by Lucio (Relating to the creation by the Health and Human Services Commission of a veteran suicide prevention action plan.), **Conference Committee Report**

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

The bill would amend the Government Code relating to the creation by the Health and Human Commission of a veteran suicide prevention action plan. Based on information provided by the commission, this analysis assumes that any costs associated with implementing the bill could be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill would take effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds majority vote in each house. Otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

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

**LBB Staff:** UP, SD, SLE, NV, GGo, LBO