

- SUBJECT:** Veterans hospital in the Rio Grande Valley region
- COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Corte, Vaught, Chavez, Edwards, Farias, Maldonado, Ortiz, Pickett
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — C. Turner
- WITNESSES:** For — Paul C. Herrera, American G.I. Forum of Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*); Gilbert Rodriguez, American G.I. Forum of Texas, Inc.)
- Against — None
- DIGEST:** HJR 7 would amend the Texas Constitution by adding Art. 16, sec. 73 to require that the Texas Veterans Commission and the Department of State Health Services work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and any other appropriate federal agency to propose the establishment of a veterans hospital in the Rio Grande Valley Region.
- The federal government would establish the hospital, but the state would be able to contribute money, property, or other resources to the hospital's establishment, maintenance, or operation.
- The proposal would be presented to the voters at an election on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The ballot proposal would read: "The constitutional amendment to require partnership with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies to establish a veterans hospital in the Rio Grande Valley region of the state."
- NOTES:** HB 2217, by Flores, which would require the Texas Veterans Commission and the Department of State Health Services to work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and any other appropriate federal agency to propose the establishment of a veterans hospital in the Rio Grande Valley Region, passed the House by 149-0 on the Local, Consent, and

Resolutions Calendar on April 22 and was reported favorably, without amendment. by the Senate Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee on May 8.