

- SUBJECT:** Establishing a study on homeless veterans
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Raymond, Rose, S. King, Klick, Naishtat, Peña, Price, Spitzer
1 nay — Keough
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 13 — 30-1 (Nichols)
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, ch. 2306 governs the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.
- Some have called for the state to examine the issue of homeless veterans more closely in order to determine potential solutions, due to the relatively high rate of homelessness among military veterans in Texas.
- DIGEST:** SB 1580 would require the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, in conjunction with other members of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless, to conduct a study and prepare a report on homeless veterans.
- The bill would define “homeless veteran” as a person who had served on active duty of the U.S. military and who lacked a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, or lived or slept in a place not ordinarily used as a residence or for sleeping accommodations.
- In preparing the report, the department would be required to:
- compile existing data on the number of homeless veterans in Texas;
 - summarize existing studies regarding the needs of homeless veterans and identify the degree to which current programs were meeting those needs;

- identify existing sources of funding for homeless veterans; and
- develop recommendations for reducing veteran homelessness in the state.

The report would be due to the Legislature by December 1, 2016, and would summarize the information resulting from the study and issue recommendations for changes in law necessary to provide services to or otherwise assist homeless veterans.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2015.