

**SUBJECT:** Assessing the use of government property to house homeless veterans

**COMMITTEE:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 6 ayes — Wilson, R. Lopez, Bumgarner, Garcia, Morales Shaw, Muñoz,  
2 nays — Dorazio, Slaton  
1 absent — Frank

**WITNESSES:** For — Charlie Malouff, Texas C.U.R.E., Inc; Virginia Simonson, Texas Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America; Steven Price, The VOICE of Our Veterans; Mitch Fuller, Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*: TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Alexa Aragonez, City of Houston, Mayor's Office; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; Denise Gordon, Texas Democratic Veterans Caucus; Grace Pankl; Susan Stewart)  
Against — None  
On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steve Rodriguez, Texas General Land Office; James Crabtree, Texas Veterans Commission)

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that conducting a study on the feasibility of using surplus government property to provide housing and wraparound services to homeless veterans could help to address housing shortages for these veterans.

**DIGEST:** HB 3220 would require the Texas Coordinating Council for Veterans Services to establish and oversee a work group to assess the feasibility of using "surplus government property" to provide housing to homeless veterans.  
The bill would specify that “surplus government property” would refer to unused or underused federal, state, or local property, including real

property, historic buildings, residential buildings, and commercial buildings.

The workgroup would be composed of the executive heads, or their designees, of the:

- Texas Veterans Commission;
- General Land Office;
- Veterans' Land Board; and
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

The council could include the executive head, or the head's designee, of any other state agency that was not listed by a majority vote.

In conducting the assessment, the workgroup would:

- evaluate the availability of surplus government property in the state, and the feasibility of developing housing units on that property to provide housing to homeless veterans;
- identify potential funding sources to develop housing units on surplus government property; and
- identify veteran subpopulations that would benefit most from a program that facilitated the use or development of surplus government property to provide housing to homeless veterans.

The workgroup would be permitted to consult with local housing authorities, affordable housing developers, and organizations and persons with appropriate and relevant expertise on the housing needs of veterans.

The workgroup would be required to prepare a written report summarizing the results of the assessment and submit the report to the Legislature no later than November 1, 2024.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would expire on September 1, 2025.