

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 310  
By: Flores (Truan)  
Veteran Affairs & Military Installations  
4/27/2001  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (department) administers a construction grant program under which the department will provide 100 percent of expenses related to construction of a veterans cemetery. The state is required to provide 100 percent of the operating and maintenance expenses related to a veterans cemetery. H.B. 310 authorizes the Veterans Land Board to establish, operate, and provide the financial assistance for veterans cemeteries.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 164.001(a), Natural Resources Code, to provide that the legislatures declares that it is the policy of the state to provide financial assistance to veterans of the state in recognition of their service to this state and the United States and to honor veterans with a final resting place and with lasting memorials that commemorate their service.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 164.002(a), Natural Resources Code, to define “veterans cemetery.”

SECTION 3. Amends Section 164.003, Natural Resources Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 164.004, Natural Resources Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 5. Amends Section 164.005, Natural Resources Code, to authorize the Veterans' Land Board (board) to enter into an agreement with any person for the management or operation of all or part of a veterans home or all or part of a veterans cemetery. Authorizes the board to delegate to the manager the authority to manage the veterans home or veterans cemetery, rather than center, and to employ and discharge employees. Requires the board, the chairman of the Texas Veterans Commission (commission), and two representatives of the veterans community selected by the chairman of the commission to establish the guidelines for determining the location and size of veterans cemeteries and the eligibility for burial in a veterans cemetery, and select up to seven locations across the state to build veterans cemeteries. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 6. Amends Section 164.011(b), Natural Resources Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 7. Requires this Act to take effect on the date on which the constitutional amendment proposed by H.J.R. No. 82, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, or similar legislation takes effect. Requires the Act, if that amendment is not approved by the voters, to have no effect. Provides that H.B. 310 will not require an appropriation from the general revenue fund.