



Committees:

Nominations – Vice Chair
Education
Jurisprudence
Transportation
Veterans Affairs &
Military Installations

DONNA CAMPBELL, MD
DISTRICT 25

District 25 Counties:

Bexar (part)
Comal
Guadalupe
Hays
Kendall
Travis (part)

For Immediate Release:
Friday, February 27, 2015

Contact: Jon Oliver
512-463-0125

Senator Donna Campbell Files 5 Bills to Assist Texas Veterans

AUSTIN-- State Senator Donna Campbell, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, introduced five bills to address the needs of Texas veterans. The bills will help veterans receive higher education credits, remove barriers to the workforce, qualify for expedited mental health care, and improve employment opportunities at state agencies. A fifth bill will ensure veterans called to serve outside the State of Texas qualify for homestead property tax exemptions.

"I am excited at the opportunity to serve and assist our veterans as the new Chair of the VAMI Committee. Texas will continue to put veterans first," Senator Campbell stated. "Those who have worn the uniform and stood shoulder-to-shoulder to defend this country deserve no less, and this legislative package reflects our commitment to them."

The five bills Senator Campbell filed include:

SB 805 improves employment opportunities for veterans at state agencies by increasing access to job interviews, allowing agencies to directly hire disabled veterans, and requiring every state agency with more than 500 employees to create a Veteran Liaison within the agency.

SB 806 restores the successful College Credit for Heroes program. Previously operated by the Texas Workforce Commission as a pilot program, College Credit for Heroes gives every veteran the chance to receive college credit hours based on their military training and experience. Those credit hours can be used toward a degree or professional accreditation and licensing program.

SB 807, which Governor Abbott mentioned in his State of the State address, removes unnecessary barriers to the workforce by providing a waiver from examination and license fees paid by veterans for occupational licenses.

SB 832 adds a mental health workgroup to the current Texas Coordinating Council for Veterans Services led by the Texas Veterans Commission. This action will improve agency coordination and cooperation around the important issues of mental health services for veterans.

SB 833 extends the current homestead property tax exemption allowed for military serving overseas to those serving inside the United States but outside of Texas. It ensures military service members are treated equally whether they are called to serve inside or outside of the US.

"I am confident that these bills will make a lasting impact on our veterans and their families. I look forward to working on them with my colleagues and will continue to reach out to our veterans to ensure their needs are addressed," Senator Campbell said.

SUMMARY:

SB805 - Veteran Employment at State Agencies

SB806 - College Credit for Heroes

SB807 - License and Exam Fee Waiver (Abbott)

SB 832 - Veteran Mental Health Coordinating Council

SB 833 - Military Homestead Exemption Cleanup

###

Senator Donna Campbell is a practicing emergency room physician who represents Senate District 25 and sits on the Education, Health and Human Services, and Intergovernmental Relations Committees. She is the Chairwoman of Veteran Affairs and Military Installations.