



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator José Menéndez

District 26

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Senator José Menéndez Joins Governor Abbott to Sign Legislation that Puts Our Veterans and their Families Back to Work

San Antonio, Texas - State Senator José Menéndez coauthored Senate Bill 807, which waives certain fees associated with occupational licenses for Veterans, military spouses, or active duty service members. Today, he joins Governor Abbott for the signing of this important legislation at the VFW Post 76 in San Antonio.

“This legislation will serve as a catalyst to help our military families gain meaningful employment,” Menéndez remarked. “I am proud to have worked on this bi-partisan legislation aimed at reducing red tape and unnecessary fees for our nation’s heroes.”

Veterans and military spouses benefit significantly from occupational licenses because of their unique life circumstances. Many Veterans are trained in specialized skill sets like electrical engineering or medical training that can be applied towards occupational licenses in a civilian career. Often, military spouses find careers which are easily transferable because their living situation is mobile and dependent on their significant others deployment schedule. This makes occupational licensing careers like teaching, cosmetology, or nursing desirable because those licenses are transferable from state to state. Senate Bill 807 recognizes this and was passed to reduce the fees for licenses and put our military families back to work.

“The unemployment rate for Veterans in Texas is at 8.7%. This is unacceptable,” Menéndez said. “Our goal as legislators, should always be serving those who sacrificed for our freedoms and that starts with helping our Veterans find a job.”

In addition to Senate Bill 807, Senator Menéndez passed four bills that serve our Veterans. He looks forward to the Governor’s signature on all of them.

- Senate Bill 1304 creates a female specific Veterans mental health program.
- Senate Bill 1305 creates a rural Veterans mental health program.
- Senate Bill 1307 requires state agencies to expedite and transfer occupational licenses for Veterans, military spouses and active duty troops so our nation's heroes can get a job faster and easier.
- Senate Bill 1308 develops an informational flyer to distribute to Veterans when they get a driver’s license or ID card. The flyer will contain information on employment, education and healthcare benefits for Veterans.

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