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Lucio Bill to add Veterans and Professional Educators to Home Loan Program Passes Legislature

AUSTIN - Today, Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) announces the passage of a bill to allow veterans to apply for low-interest home mortgage loans and down payment assistance.

[Senate Bill 1553](#) adds veterans to the list of individuals eligible under the "Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program," a program administered by the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC), a nonprofit corporation that serves low-income individuals in the state. Senate Bill 1553 also adds professional educators, who were previously served under the Professional Educators Home Loan Program to the Homes for Heroes Home Loan Program. The program is funded through the sale of mortgage revenue bonds issued by TSAHC.

In order to be eligible for the Homes for Heroes Home Loan Program, a veteran must be a Texas resident who has been honorably discharged from the one of the United States armed services or Texas National Guard. Spouses of deceased service members are also eligible to apply.

"Over the years, we have heard that the housing needs of Texas veterans is much greater than available resources to help them," Senator Lucio said. "This bill gives Texas veterans one more option when they're searching for affordable housing for themselves and their families."

TSAHC was created by the Texas Legislature in 1995. The Texas Legislature created the Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program in 2003. Since then several service professionals have been added to those eligible for the program, including emergency personnel and juvenile corrections officers.

In 2001, Senator Lucio [sponsored legislation](#) which created a Professional Educators Home Loans Program to help Texas classroom teachers purchase a home. In 2003, Senator Lucio [authored legislation](#) which added full-time paid teacher's aides, librarians, counselors, and school nurses to the program. Finally, in 2007, [legislation added](#) full time teaching faculty in nursing or allied health programs at Texas universities to the program. The Professional Educators Home Loan Program expired in 2012. Senate Bill 1553 this Session now ensures that these professions are again eligible for loans and down payment assistance under the Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program.

Now passed out of both chambers of the Texas Legislature, Senate Bill 1553 awaits Governor Rick Perry's signature.

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