

SUBJECT: Requiring state agencies, TVC to post occupational license information

COMMITTEE: Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Raymond, Buckley, Biedermann, Cyrier, Lambert, Lopez, E. Morales, Tinderholt

0 nays

1 absent — Gervin-Hawkins

WITNESSES: For — Lori Stinson, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and Governors Committee to Support the Military; (*Registered, but did not testify*: CJ Tredway, Independent Electrical Contractors of Texas; Rene Lara, Texas AFL-CIO; General Juan Ayala, Texas Mayors of Military Communities; Dana Harris, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised about the accessibility of information on occupational licensing for military service members, military spouses, and veterans. Some have called for the Legislature to ensure that this information is readily accessible through state agencies issuing occupational licenses and the Texas Veterans Commission.

DIGEST: HB 2740 would require a state agency that issued an occupational license to post on its internet website a list of the licenses issued by the agency with a description of the type of business or occupation covered by each license. Such a state agency would have to post the required information and provide a direct link to the information to the Texas Veterans Commission by December 1, 2021.

The information would have to be posted prominently on the home page of the agency's website or on a single page of the website with a prominent link on the home page.

By January 1, 2022, the Texas Veterans Commission would have to post the links on a single page of the Texas Veterans Portal.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.