

- SUBJECT:** Establishing the Texas Women Veterans Program
- COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Pickett, Sheffield, Berman, Farias, Flynn, Perry, Scott, V. Taylor
0 nays
1 absent — Landtroop
- WITNESSES:** For — Stephanie Moles, Grace After Fire; (*Registered, but did not testify*: James Cunningham, Texas Council of Chapters-Military Officers Association of America and Alliance for Veterans and Families; Ray Lindner, National Guard of Texas

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Thomas Palladino, Texas Veterans Commission)
- DIGEST:** HB 3237 would create the Texas Women Veterans Program to ensure female veterans had access to veterans benefits and services. The program would help educate female veterans regarding their eligibility. It would assess the needs of female veterans and make recommendations on improving the access and delivery. The program also could publicly advocate for, promote events that recognize, and make legislative recommendations on behalf of female veterans.

The Veterans Commission would fund the program through appropriated money and money received from donations and grants.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2011.
- NOTES:** The Legislative Budget Board determined that the bill would cost just over \$90,000 in general revenue annually over the next five fiscal years and require one additional FTE for the women veterans coordinator.

HB 3237
House Research Organization
page 2

The companion bill, SB 34 by Zaffirini, passed the Senate by 31-0 on May 5 and was referred to the House Higher Education Committee on May 9.