

**SUBJECT:** Allowing the Texas State Guard to use state funds for recruiting purposes

**COMMITTEE:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Wilson, R. Lopez, Bumgarner, Dorazio, Frank, Garcia, Morales Shaw, Muñoz, Slaton

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — Larry Todd, State Guard Assoc.; Mitch Fuller, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Texas; Jon Gimble; Dale Laine (*Registered, but did not testify*; Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; Kym Olson)

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Under Government Code sec. 2113.011, a state agency may not use appropriated funds for the purposes of public relations or publicity.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 837 would specify that Government Code sec. 2113.011 did not prohibit the Texas State Guard (TXSG) from using appropriated funds for the purposes of recruiting or retaining service members, employees, or other personnel.

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, 2023.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** CSHB 837 would increase retention of service members by allowing the Texas State Guard (TXSG) to use appropriated money for recruitment efforts. TXSG has experienced an increased need for service members to maintain mission-ready forces. The bill would allow them to advertise to recruit and retain members with state funds.

CRITICS  
SAY:

No concerns identified.