CHAPTER 483

S.B. No. 1476

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the veteran entrepreneur program by the Texas Veterans Commission.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 434.022 to read as follows:

Sec. 434.022. VETERAN ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM. (a) In this section, “veteran” means a person who has served in:

(1) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States; or

(2) the Texas National Guard as defined by Section 431.001.

(b) The Texas Veterans Commission by rule shall establish and implement the veteran entrepreneur program to foster and promote veteran entrepreneurship and business ownership.

(c) The program shall provide assistance to veteran entrepreneurs and business owners by:

(1) performing outreach functions to improve veteran entrepreneurs' and business owners' awareness of federal and state benefits and services available to those veterans;

(2) assessing the need for benefits and services among veteran entrepreneurs and business owners;

(3) reviewing and researching programs, projects, and initiatives designed to address the needs of veteran entrepreneurs and business owners;

(4) periodically evaluating the effectiveness of the commission's efforts to assist veteran entrepreneurs and business owners and making appropriate recommendations to the executive director of the commission to improve services and assistance provided to those veterans;

(5) incorporating issues concerning veteran entrepreneur and business owners into the commission's plans for assisting veterans in securing benefits and services;

(6) advocating for veteran entrepreneurs and working to increase public awareness about the needs of veteran entrepreneurs and business owners;

(7) recommending legislative initiatives and policies at the local, state, and national levels to address the issues affecting veteran entrepreneurship and business ownership;

(8) collaborating with federal, state, and private agencies that provide services to veteran entrepreneurs and business owners to allow the veterans to make use of those services;

(9) monitoring and researching issues affecting the interests of veteran entrepreneurs and business owners;

(10) providing information about opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs and business owners in the commission's collaborative network of businesses and organizations;

(11) providing guidance to veteran entrepreneurs and business owners through conferences, seminars, and training workshops with federal, state, and private agencies; and

(12) promoting events and activities that recognize or honor veteran entrepreneurs and business owners.

(d) The executive director of the commission shall appoint a program coordinator to administer the program.

(e) The commission shall provide facilities as appropriate in support of the program to the extent funding is available for that purpose.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, but not later than January 1, 2014, the Texas Veterans Commission shall adopt rules establishing the veteran entrepreneur program required by Section 434.022, Government Code, as added by this Act.
SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on April 18, 2013: Yeas 29, Nays 1; passed the House on May 15, 2013: Yeas 125, Nays 19, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 484

S.B. No. 1481

AN ACT

relating to the provision of emergency services in the Bella Vista Municipal Utility District.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Chapter 8437 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8437. BELLA VISTA MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Sec. 8437.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, “district” means the Bella Vista Municipal Utility District.

Sec. 8437.002. REMOVAL OF AREA FROM EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT.

(a) This section applies only to:

(1) a municipality with a population of less than 100,000; and

(2) an emergency services district operating under Chapter 775, Health and Safety Code, in which the district is wholly or partly located.

(b) If the district enters into a strategic partnership agreement with a municipality under Section 43.0751, Local Government Code, that includes the provision of fire-fighting services as defined by Section 49.351(k), Water Code, and the district has completed all other procedures necessary for a limited-purpose annexation by that municipality, an emergency services district shall disannex the territory of the district to be served by the municipality under the agreement in accordance with Subsection (c).

(c) The territory remains part of the emergency services district until the secretary of the emergency services district board receives from the district notice that the requirements of Subsection (b) have been met. On receipt of the notice, the board shall immediately change its records to show that the district territory has been disannexed from the emergency services district and shall cease to provide further services to the residents of that territory.

(d) Sections 775.022(b), (c), (d), (e), and (f), Health and Safety Code, apply to a disannexation under this section, as if the disannexation occurred under the provisions of Section 775.022(a), Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 2. (a) The legal notice of the intention to introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies, officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313, Government Code.

(b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives within the required time.