



**RYAN GUILLEN**  
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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## **Guillen Passes Bill Improving Veteran-to-Civilian Adjustment Services**

**AUSTIN** - State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) was pleased to see that S.B. 544, which he sponsored and passed, was signed by Governor Abbot earlier this month. The bill seeks to enhance the Texas Veterans Commission's flexibility in providing veteran services at the local level.

**"This bill enhances the services provided by our county officers and will further ensure our veterans' welfare continues to be a top priority," said Guillen. "The Texas Veterans Commission must continue to effectively motivate our veterans to be roundly and supported after they serve."**

The Texas Veterans Commission is currently responsible for providing the training for Texas veterans country service officers who act as veteran liaisons in Texas. Reports suggest that many states allow outside groups to produce the training materials for officers acting as veterans liaisons who provide information about benefits to veterans to help veterans adjust to civilian life.

The bill gives an officer the option to complete training that is provided by a public or private entity and approved by the commission as an alternative to completing training provided by the commission. S.B. 544 amends the Government Code to replace the requirement for the Texas Veterans Commission to provide, at commission expense, the initial and continuing training for veterans county service officers at least once each year and to require the commission to approve training provided by public or private entities.

**"We have a sacred obligated to take care of the veterans who risked life and limb in service to this country," Guillen remarked. "This bill contributes to that obligation by giving our county service officers the best amount of resources to ensure our veterans' transition into civil society is as easy as possible."**

The bill becomes effective on **September 1, 2017**.

Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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