

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MAY 10, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION: COREY.TICKNOR@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

GUILLEN IMPROVES TEXAS MILITARY EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

H.B. 3066 Aligns State Code with Federal Code for Employment Benefits

AUSTIN – State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) is the author of HB 3066, which seeks to update and extend protections for active duty service members in the Texas military. On **Tuesday, May 9,** HB 3066 was engrossed in the Texas House and currently awaits action in the Senate.

"The current employment protections for active duty service members are outdated and should be re-aligned with the current federal guidelines," said Guillen. "Our service members deserve the highest order of protections for the services they've provided our country, our state and our communities."

Since 2003, there have been a number of benefits added to the Federal Service member's Civil Relief Act and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, many of which have not yet been extended to Texas' active duty service members. Notable benefits include protections regarding storage lien enforcement and residency for military personnel and spouses of military personnel for voting.

Representative Guillen seeks to amend the Texas Government Code to qualify Texas' active duty services members for the federal benefits added to the Federal Service member's Civil Relief Act and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

"These updates to the state code are necessary to provide Texas' active duty members the opportunities they deserve," Guillen concluded.

Representative 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.

###