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Health and Human  
Services

# Veterans Recovery Pilot Program

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***Lesley French, Associate Commissioner***  
**Health, Developmental, and Independence Services**

# Veterans Recovery Pilot Program

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- HB 271 directs the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to create and operate the Veterans Recovery Pilot Program, subject to available funding.
- Program would serve eligible military veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) through diagnostic services, hyperbaric oxygen treatment, and support services.



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# What is Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment?

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- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is the medical therapeutic use of oxygen at a higher atmospheric pressure.
- The treatment involves breathing pure oxygen in a pressurized room or tube.
- Use of HBOT in patients exhibiting Post Traumatic Stress Disorders and Traumatic Brain Injuries is currently being researched in various facilities.



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# Developing the Veterans Recovery Pilot Program

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Program development includes:

- Determining eligibility criteria;
- Determining continuing eligibility criteria;
- Determining requirements for eligible facilities;
- Drafting protocols for use of HBOT;
- Reviewing treatment plans from participating facilities;
- Establishing financial coverage for transportation and living expenses; and
- Establishing financial coverage for therapy.



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# Establishing the Veterans Recovery Account

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HB 271 established the Veterans Recovery Account which can receive funds via gifts, grants, and other donations, in addition to interest earned on the account.

Money in the account can be used to pay for:

- Program administration costs;
- Diagnostic testing and treatment of veterans with PTSD or TBI; and
- Any necessary travel and living expenses for a veteran receiving treatment in the pilot program.



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# Veterans Recovery Account

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In order to donate to the Veterans Recovery Program,  
make out a check to:

**Veterans Recovery Account**

**Note account # 5169 in the note section**

Mail to:

**Accounts Receivables (ARTS)**

**Texas Health & Human Services Commission**

**PO Box 149055 - MC 1470**

**Austin, TX 78714-9055**



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Next Steps in Program Development include:

- Research best practices and protocols;
- Consult with advisory committee and stakeholders;
- Develop proposal for medical protocols and program structure;
- Submit application for Institutional Review Board approval;



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Next Steps in Program Development, cont.:

- Draft, propose, and adopt administrative rules;
- Develop procurement documents and timelines;
- Develop contracts and partnerships; and
- Monitor facilities, program operations, and patient care.



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# Questions?

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