
SENATE BILL 5958

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2015 Regular Session

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Llias, Benton, McCoy, Angel, and Chase; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs

Read first time 02/13/15. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for representation of the state
2 veterans' homes on the governor's veterans affairs advisory
3 committee; and amending RCW 43.60A.080.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.60A.080 and 1995 c 25 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) There is hereby created a veterans affairs advisory committee
8 which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the
9 director of the department of veterans affairs. The committee shall
10 appoint members to serve as liaisons to each of the state veterans'
11 homes, unless the home has a representative appointed to the
12 committee. This liaison must share information on committee meetings
13 and business with the resident council of the states veterans' homes,
14 as well as bring information back for the committee's consideration
15 to ensure veterans' home resident issues are included at regular
16 committee meetings. The committee shall be composed of seventeen
17 members to be appointed by the governor, and shall consist of the
18 following:

19 (a) One representative of the Washington soldiers' home and
20 colony at Orting and one representative of the Washington veterans'
21 home at Retsil. Each home's resident council may nominate up to three

1 individuals whose names are to be forwarded by the director to the
2 governor. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider
3 these recommendations or request additional nominations. If the
4 resident council does not provide any nomination, the governor may
5 appoint a member at large in place of the home's representative.

6 (b) One representative each from the three congressionally
7 chartered or nationally recognized veterans service organizations as
8 listed in the current "Directory of Veterans Service Organizations"
9 published by the United States department of veterans affairs with
10 the largest number of active members in the state of Washington as
11 determined by the director. The organizations' state commanders may
12 each submit a list of three names to be forwarded to the governor by
13 the director. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider
14 these recommendations or request additional nominations.

15 (c) Ten members shall be chosen to represent those
16 congressionally chartered or nationally recognized veterans service
17 organizations listed in the directory under (b) of this subsection
18 and having at least one active chapter within the state of
19 Washington. Up to three nominations may be forwarded from each
20 organization to the governor by the director. In making the
21 appointments, the governor shall consider these recommendations or
22 request additional nominations.

23 (d) Two members shall be veterans at large, as well as any other
24 at large member appointed pursuant to (a) of this subsection. Any
25 individual or organization may nominate a veteran for an at-large
26 position. Organizational affiliation shall not be a prerequisite for
27 nomination or appointment. All nominations for the at-large positions
28 shall be forwarded by the director to the governor.

29 (e) No organization shall have more than one official
30 representative on the committee at any one time.

31 (f) In making appointments to the committee, care shall be taken
32 to ensure that members represent all geographical portions of the
33 state and minority viewpoints, and that the issues and views of
34 concern to women veterans are represented.

35 (2) All members shall have terms of four years. In the case of a
36 vacancy, appointment shall be only for the remainder of the unexpired
37 term for which the vacancy occurs. No member may serve more than two
38 consecutive terms, with vacancy appointments to an unexpired term not
39 considered as a term. Members appointed before June 11, 1992, shall
40 continue to serve until the expiration of their current terms; and

1 then, subject to the conditions contained in this section, are
2 eligible for reappointment.

3 (3) The committee shall adopt an order of business for conducting
4 its meetings.

5 (4) The committee shall have the following powers and duties:

6 (a) To serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the
7 director on matters pertaining to the department of veterans affairs;

8 (b) To acquaint themselves fully with the operations of the
9 department and recommend such changes to the governor and the
10 director as they deem advisable.

11 (5) Members of the committee shall receive no compensation for
12 the performance of their duties but shall receive a per diem
13 allowance and mileage expense according to the provisions of chapter
14 43.03 RCW.

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