

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 43rd Legislature (1992)

SENATE BILL NO. 650

BY: HERBERT

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO THE WAR VETERANS COMMISSION;

AMENDING 72 O.S. 1991, SECTION 63.2, WHICH RELATES TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION AND AUDITS FILED BY VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS; REQUIRING CERTAIN AUDITS TO BE FILED WITH THE STATE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR BY CERTAIN DATE; REQUIRING STATE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR TO RETAIN AUDITS FOR CERTAIN TIME PERIOD WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING PENALTIES TO ORGANIZATIONS FAILING TO FILE AUDITS; REQUIRING SUSPENDED ORGANIZATIONS TO FILE AUDITS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 1991, Section 63.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 63.2 A. The War Veterans Commission of Oklahoma shall consist of nine (9) members. Members shall be honorably discharged veterans of any war or conflict in which the United States participated as a belligerent provided three of the members shall be veterans of the Vietnam Conflict. The members shall be selected in the following manner: The state executive board or committees of the veterans' organizations in Oklahoma who have had accredited

representatives at the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Oklahoma for at least ten (10) previous consecutive years shall each submit to the Governor of Oklahoma a list of ten persons qualified to serve as members of the War Veterans Commission of Oklahoma. Said list shall be submitted to the Governor not later than one (1) month prior to the expiration of the terms of office of the members of the War Veterans Commission. The Governor shall name four members of the War Veterans Commission from lists submitted by the American Legion, three members of the War Veterans Commission from the lists submitted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and two members of the War Veterans Commission from lists submitted by the Disabled American Veterans. Provided, that only those veterans' organizations recognized to present claims before the Veterans Administration, or its successor, and maintaining a headquarters within the State of Oklahoma shall be eligible to submit a list of names to the Governor as provided above.

~~The executive officer of each veterans' organization operating within the State of Oklahoma shall on or before January 1 of each year submit to the Secretary of State a copy of the annual audit of the organization for the immediate preceding fiscal year of the organization. Such audit shall clearly show the total paid membership of the organization and shall be certified to by a certified public accountant.~~ The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. Each organization qualifying for membership on the Oklahoma State War Veterans Commission shall submit a list of ten names to the Governor to choose from when a vacancy on the War Veterans Commission occurs.

Before any member appointed as provided herein shall enter upon his duties as a member of the Commission he shall take and subscribe to the oath of office as required by the Constitution of this state. Present members of the Commission shall continue in office until the

expiration of their terms and until their successors are appointed and enter upon the duties of their offices. Appointments shall be made for a three-year period. Any vacancy on the Commission resulting from any cause shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the remainder of the term as provided in this section.

B. The executive officer of each veterans' organization having representation on the Oklahoma War Veterans Commission shall by January 1 of each year submit to the State Auditor and Inspector a copy of the annual audit of the organization for the preceding fiscal year of the organization. Such audit shall clearly show the total paid membership of the organization and shall be accompanied with an opinion by a certified public accountant. The State Auditor and Inspector will establish controls to ensure that the audits are submitted when due and upon receipt will review the audit to ensure that said audit complies with the requirements set forth in this section. Copies of the audit reports shall be retained in the State Auditor and Inspector's office for a period of ten (10) years. The State Auditor and Inspector is authorized to establish procedures for storage and copying of such audits and making such audits available for public inspection. If the audit does not meet the requirements of this section, the State Auditor and Inspector will notify the executive officer of the veterans' organization of any deficiencies. Such executive officer is required to resubmit a corrected audit within sixty (60) days. Failure to resubmit a corrected audit will be cause to suspend that veterans' organization's representation on the War Veterans Commission until such time as the corrected audit is received and accepted by the State Auditor and Inspector. If a veterans' organization fails to file an audit by January 1, said organization will lose its representation on the Commission for a period of one (1) year. If a second violation of the filing requirement occurs, the organization will lose its representation on the Commission for a period of five

(5) years. If a third violation of the filing requirement occurs, the organization will permanently lose its representation on the Commission in addition to the use of any office space provided in the War Veterans Building or any other facility owned or controlled by the State of Oklahoma. During any period of suspension from the Commission for noncompliance with this statute, the veterans organization shall be required to continue filing audits in accordance with this section.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

43-2-1674

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