

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1701

By: Morrissette

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the militia; creating the Oklahoma
8 Veterans Advisory Council Act; providing short title;
9 creating the Oklahoma Veterans Advisory Council;
10 stating purpose; stating membership; providing for
11 travel reimbursement; stating terms; providing for
12 vacancies; providing for meeting schedule; providing
13 for assistance from other state entity; providing for
14 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 238 of Title 44, unless there is
17 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
19 Veterans Advisory Council Act".

20 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 239 of Title 44, unless there is
22 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Veterans Advisory
2 Council. The purpose of the Council is to monitor services and
3 programs provided to Oklahoma veterans, to include:

4 1. The availability and quality of health care;

5 2. The availability and quality of mental health care;

6 3. Educational programs, including vocational skill training;

7 4. Jobs programs designed to help veterans secure employment
8 upon their departure from the military;

9 5. Any other state or federal services and programs
10 specifically designed to benefit veterans;

11 6. Provide a forum for complaints of Oklahoma veterans
12 concerning such programs and services; and

13 7. Advise the Governor and State Legislature of its findings.

14 B. The Council shall be composed of nine (9) members as
15 follows:

16 1. Six military veterans of armed conflict ranging from World
17 War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom to be appointed by the Adjutant
18 General. The Adjutant General shall appoint veterans who represent
19 the interests of all Oklahoma veterans;

20 2. The Adjutant General;

21 3. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veteran Affairs;
22 and

23 4. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and
24 Substance Abuse Services.

1 C. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for
2 their service but shall be eligible for necessary and actual travel
3 reimbursement in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.
4 Initial appointments to the Council pursuant to paragraph 1 of
5 subsection B of this section shall be made by February 1, 2010.
6 Appointments to the Council pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection B
7 of this section shall be for two-year terms and appointees shall be
8 eligible to serve for no more than two consecutive terms. The
9 Adjutant General shall fill vacancies on the Council within thirty
10 (30) days following a vacancy. The Adjutant General shall call the
11 first meeting of the Council and determine a meeting schedule.

12 D. The Council may receive assistance and cooperation from any
13 other state entity as deemed necessary and appropriate.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

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