

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 1054

By: Stanley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; amending 72 O.S. 2021, Section 63.2, which relates to members of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission; modifying procedure by which Commissioners are selected; requiring the Governor to publicly announce Commission openings; providing procedure for filling vacancies; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2021, Section 63.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 63.2. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be honorably discharged United States veterans; ~~provided, one of the members shall be a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict and two shall be veterans of the Persian Gulf Wars.~~ The After the effective date of this act, the members shall be selected in the following manner: The state executive board or committees of ~~the~~ veterans' organizations ~~named in this section shall~~ that have representation in this state may each submit to the Governor a list of ~~five~~ persons they determine are qualified to

1 serve as members of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission. ~~All~~ The
2 Governor shall work with the Secretary of Veteran Affairs and
3 Military to ensure appointments shall be broadly representative of
4 the veterans of this state in terms of age, gender, and race or
5 ethnicity. ~~The list shall be submitted to the Governor~~ The Governor
6 shall release an announcement of upcoming openings of the Commission
7 twelve (12) months prior to vacancy of each seat. At that time,
8 interested organizations shall be able to submit a list of qualified
9 candidates not later than three (3) months prior to the expiration
10 of the terms of office of the members of the Oklahoma Veterans
11 Commission. The Governor shall ~~name one member from each of the~~
12 ~~following Veterans' groups~~ select the most qualified candidates from
13 any of the various Veterans Service Organizations that are in good
14 standing and have representation, within this state. Organizations
15 or groups submitting names may include but are not limited to: the
16 American Legion; the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Disabled American
17 Veterans; the Paralyzed Veterans of America; the Military Order of
18 the Purple Heart; Team Red, White, and Blue; Team Rubicon; Student
19 Veterans of America; The Mission Continues; the Military Officers
20 Association of America; and the National Guard Association of
21 Oklahoma. ~~The members representing the American Legion and the~~
22 ~~Paralyzed Veterans of America shall take office no later than July~~
23 ~~1, 2015. The members representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and~~
24 ~~the Military Order of the Purple Heart shall take office no later~~

1 ~~than July 1, 2016. The members representing the Disabled American~~
2 ~~Veterans and the National Guard Association of Oklahoma shall take~~
3 ~~office no later than July 1, 2017. The Governor shall~~ may also
4 appoint up to three members at large.

5 ~~The~~ In order to be eligible to submit a list of candidates for
6 the Oklahoma Veterans Commission to the Governor for consideration,
7 the executive officer of each veterans' organization operating
8 within this state shall, on or before January 1 of the each year in
9 ~~which the organization's appointee's term expires,~~ submit to the
10 Secretary of State, the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the
11 Senate, ~~and~~ the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chair
12 of the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, and the chair
13 of the House of Representatives Veterans and Military Affairs
14 Committee, a copy of the performance audit and the financial audit
15 of ~~the~~ his or her organization for the immediately preceding fiscal
16 year of the organization. Such audits shall be conducted in
17 accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United
18 States and shall clearly show the total paid membership of the
19 organization and shall be certified to by a certified public
20 accountant. Failure to comply with this section shall render the
21 organization ineligible to submit a nominee to the Governor. The
22 members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor with
23 advice and consent of the Senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of
24 the Governor. When a vacancy on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission

1 occurs, ~~the organization~~ organizations which ~~is represented by the~~
2 ~~vacant position shall~~ are eligible as defined in this section may
3 submit a list of ~~five~~ up to three names to the Governor. The
4 Governor ~~shall~~ may choose a replacement from that list. No person
5 shall be appointed by the Governor who is related by affinity or
6 consanguinity within the third degree to any person employed by the
7 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.

8 Before any member appointed as provided herein shall enter upon
9 his or her duties as a member of the Commission, he or she shall
10 take and subscribe to the oath of office as required by the
11 Constitution of this state.

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

19 No member of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall be employed
20 by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs during the time of
21 his or her service on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission nor shall any
22 person who served as a member of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission be
23 employed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs subsequent
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1 to his or her service on the Commission for a period of two (2)
2 years.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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