

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3060

By: Steagall

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; amending 72 O.S. 2021, Section 63.2, which relates to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission; modifying certain member requirements; clarifying member appointing authorities; changing certain audit requirements for veterans organizations; prohibiting members from voting on issues in certain circumstances; specifying records to be provided by newly appointed members; changing terms for current members; providing appointment timing provisions; and declaring an emergency.

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 A. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall consist of nine (9) members all of whom shall be honorably discharged 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 members shall be selected in the following manner:

1. The state executive board or committees of the veterans' organizations named in this section shall each submit to the

1 ~~Governor~~ its respective appointing authority a list of five persons
2 qualified to serve as members of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission.
3 All appointments shall be broadly representative ~~of~~ to reflect the
4 best interests of veterans of this state ~~in terms of age, gender,~~
5 ~~and race or ethnicity.~~ The list shall be submitted to the ~~Governor~~
6 appointing authority not later than three (3) months prior to the
7 expiration of the terms of office of the members of the Oklahoma
8 Veterans Commission-;

9 2. The Governor shall name one member from each of the
10 following Veterans' groups: ~~the American Legion; the Veterans of~~
11 ~~Foreign Wars; the Disabled American Veterans; the Paralyzed Veterans~~
12 ~~of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the~~
13 ~~National Guard Association of Oklahoma. The members representing~~
14 ~~the American Legion and the Paralyzed Veterans of America shall take~~
15 ~~office no later than July 1, 2015. The members representing the~~
16 ~~Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Military Order of the Purple Heart~~
17 ~~shall take office no later than July 1, 2016. The members~~
18 ~~representing the Disabled American Veterans and the National Guard~~
19 ~~Association of Oklahoma shall take office no later than July 1,~~
20 ~~2017. The Governor shall also appoint three members at large.~~

21 ~~The executive officer of each veterans' organization operating~~
22 ~~within this state shall, on or before January 1 of the year in which~~
23 ~~the organization's appointee's term expires, submit to the Secretary~~
24 ~~of State, the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and~~
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1 ~~the Speaker of the House of Representatives a copy of the~~
2 ~~performance audit and the financial audit of the organization for~~
3 ~~the immediately preceding fiscal year of the organization. Such~~
4 ~~audits shall be conducted in accordance with auditing standards~~
5 ~~generally accepted in the United States and shall clearly show the~~
6 ~~total paid membership of the organization and shall be certified to~~
7 ~~by a certified public accountant. Failure to comply with this~~
8 ~~section shall render the organization ineligible to submit a nominee~~
9 ~~to the Governor~~ At least one of the Governor's appointments shall be
10 a veteran of the Persian Gulf Wars;

11 3. The Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives shall
12 name one at-large member and one member from each of the following
13 Veterans' groups: the American Legion and the Force 50 Foundation.
14 At least one of the Speaker's appointments shall be a veteran of the
15 Vietnam Conflict; and

16 4. The President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate shall
17 name one at-large member, and one member from each of the following
18 Veterans' groups: the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled
19 American Veterans. At least one of the President Pro Tempore's
20 appointments shall be a veteran of the Persian Gulf Wars.

21 B. The members of the Commission shall be appointed by ~~the~~
22 ~~Governor~~ their appointing authority with advice and consent of the
23 Senate, ~~and~~ shall serve at the pleasure of ~~the Governor~~ their
24 appointing authority and may be removed or replaced without cause.

1 When a vacancy on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission occurs, the
2 organization which is represented by the vacant position shall
3 submit a list of five names to ~~the Governor.~~ ~~The Governor~~ their
4 appointing authority and the appointing authority shall choose a
5 replacement from that list. No person shall be appointed ~~by the~~
6 ~~Governor~~ to the Commission who is related by affinity or
7 consanguinity within the third degree to any person employed by the
8 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. Any member of the
9 Commission shall be prohibited from voting on any issue in which the
10 member has a direct financial interest. Each member appointed to
11 the Commission shall submit a financial disclosure form and military
12 history records including discharge records to the appointing
13 authority within thirty (30) days of his or her appointment to the
14 Commission. Before any member appointed as provided herein shall
15 enter upon his or her duties as a member of the Commission, he or
16 she shall take and subscribe to the oath of office as required by
17 the Constitution of this state.

18 ~~Present~~ C. Terms for present members of the Commission ~~shall~~
19 ~~continue in office until the expiration of their terms and until~~
20 ~~their successors are appointed and enter upon the duties of their~~
21 ~~offices~~ terminate upon the effective date of this act. The
22 veterans' organizations named in this section shall have thirty (30)
23 days after the effective date of this act to submit lists of
24 qualified persons to the respective appointing authority, and the

1 appointing authority shall have thirty (30) days after receiving the
2 list to appoint a member to the Commission. Appointing authorities
3 shall have sixty (60) days to appoint at-large members to the
4 Commission. Appointments shall be made for a three-year period.
5 Any vacancy on the Commission resulting from any cause shall be
6 filled by appointment by the ~~Governor~~ respective appointing
7 authority for the remainder of the term as provided in this section.

8 D. No member of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall be
9 employed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs during the
10 time of his or her service on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission nor
11 shall any person who served as a member of the Oklahoma Veterans
12 Commission be employed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
13 Affairs subsequent to his or her service on the Commission for a
14 period of two (2) years.

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

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20 59-2-9043 SW 01/05/24
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