

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 1134

By: Simpson of the Senate

3 and

4 Hardin (Tommy) and McDugle  
5 of the House

6 An Act relating to veterans; amending 72 O.S. 2011,  
7 Section 63.2, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter  
8 262, O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 63.2),  
9 which relates to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission;  
10 modifying membership criteria of Commission; and  
11 providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.2, as  
14 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 262, O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp.  
15 2019, Section 63.2), is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 63.2. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall consist of  
17 nine (9) members. At least eight ~~(8)~~ members shall be honorably  
18 discharged veterans; provided, ~~three~~ one of the members shall be  
19 ~~veterans~~ a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict and ~~one~~ two shall be a  
20 ~~veteran~~ veterans of the Persian Gulf Wars. The members shall be  
21 selected in the following manner: The state executive board or  
22 committees of the veterans' organizations named in this section  
23 shall each submit to the Governor ~~of Oklahoma~~ a list of five ~~(5)~~  
24 persons qualified to serve as members of the Oklahoma Veterans  
Commission. The list shall be submitted to the Governor not later

1 than three (3) months prior to the expiration of the terms of office  
2 of the members of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission. The Governor  
3 shall name one member from each of the following Veterans' groups:  
4 the American Legion; the Veterans of Foreign ~~wars~~ Wars; the Disabled  
5 American Veterans; the Paralyzed Veterans of America; the Military  
6 Order of the Purple Heart; and the National Guard Association of  
7 Oklahoma. The members representing the American Legion and the  
8 Paralyzed Veterans of America shall take office no later than July  
9 1, 2015. The members representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and  
10 the Military Order of the Purple Heart shall take office no later  
11 than July 1, 2016. The members representing the Disabled American  
12 Veterans and the ~~Oklahoma~~ National Guard Association of Oklahoma  
13 shall take office no later than July 1, 2017. The Governor shall  
14 also appoint three members at large, one of whom may be a nonveteran  
15 and shall have a family member residing in a state veteran center,  
16 one to be appointed 2015, one to be appointed in 2016, and one to be  
17 appointed in 2017.

18 The executive officer of each veterans' organization operating  
19 within ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this state shall, on or before January  
20 1 of the year in which the organization's appointee's term expires,  
21 submit to the Secretary of State, the Governor, the President Pro  
22 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
23 Representatives a copy of the performance audit and the financial  
24 audit of the organization for the immediately preceding fiscal year

1 of the organization. Such audits shall be conducted in accordance  
2 with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and  
3 shall clearly show the total paid membership of the organization and  
4 shall be certified to by a certified public accountant. Failure to  
5 comply with this section shall render the organization ineligible to  
6 submit a nominee to the Governor. The members of the Commission  
7 shall be appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the  
8 Senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. When a  
9 vacancy on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission occurs, the organization  
10 which is represented by the vacant position shall submit a list of  
11 five ~~(5)~~ names to the Governor. The Governor shall choose a  
12 replacement from that list. Except for persons presently serving on  
13 the Oklahoma Veterans Commission on the effective date of this act  
14 or persons presently serving on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission on  
15 the effective date of this act who are subsequently reappointed to  
16 succeed themselves for additional terms of office, no person shall  
17 be appointed by the Governor who is related by affinity or  
18 consanguinity within the third degree to any person employed by the  
19 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

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

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

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.  
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1 Passed the Senate the 25th day of February, 2020.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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5 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
6 2020.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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