

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 13, 2020

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1134

By: Simpson of the Senate

and

Hardin (Tommy) and McDugle  
of the House

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

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.2, as  
17 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 262, O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp.  
18 2019, Section 63.2), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 63.2. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall consist of  
20 nine (9) members. At least eight ~~(8)~~ members shall be honorably  
21 discharged veterans; provided, ~~three~~ one of the members shall be  
22 ~~veterans~~ a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict and ~~one~~ two shall be a  
23 ~~veteran~~ veterans of the Persian Gulf Wars. The members shall be  
24 selected in the following manner: The state executive board or  
committees of the veterans' organizations named in this section

1 shall each submit to the Governor ~~of Oklahoma~~ a list of five ~~(5)~~  
2 persons qualified to serve as members of the Oklahoma Veterans  
3 Commission. The list shall be submitted to the Governor not later  
4 than three (3) months prior to the expiration of the terms of office  
5 of the members of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission. The Governor  
6 shall name one member from each of the following Veterans' groups:  
7 the American Legion; the Veterans of Foreign ~~wars~~ Wars; the Disabled  
8 American Veterans; the Paralyzed Veterans of America; the Military  
9 Order of the Purple Heart; and the National Guard Association of  
10 Oklahoma. The members representing the American Legion and the  
11 Paralyzed Veterans of America shall take office no later than July  
12 1, 2015. The members representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and  
13 the Military Order of the Purple Heart shall take office no later  
14 than July 1, 2016. The members representing the Disabled American  
15 Veterans and the ~~Oklahoma~~ National Guard Association of Oklahoma  
16 shall take office no later than July 1, 2017. The Governor shall  
17 also appoint three members at large, one of whom may be a nonveteran  
18 and shall have a family member residing in a state veteran center,  
19 one to be appointed 2015, one to be appointed in 2016, and one to be  
20 appointed in 2017.

21 The executive officer of each veterans' organization operating  
22 within ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this state shall, on or before January  
23 1 of the year in which the organization's appointee's term expires,  
24 submit to the Secretary of State, the Governor, the President Pro

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

23 Before any member appointed as provided herein shall enter upon  
24 his or her duties as a member of the Commission, he or she shall

1 take and subscribe to the oath of office as required by the  
2 Constitution of this state.

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

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

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
19 February 13, 2020 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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