

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1080

By: Steagall, Menz, Talley,
West (Kevin), Fugate,
Hardin, West (Tammy),
3 Caldwell (Trey), Cornwell,
4 Baker, Kendrix, Townley,
5 Roberts, Ranson, and Roe of
the House

6 and

7 Rosino of the Senate

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10 [soldiers and sailors - Oklahoma Veterans Commission

11 - effective date -

12 emergency]

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

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

18 Section 63.2 A. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall consist
19 of nine (9) members all of whom shall be honorably discharged
20 veterans; ~~provided, one of the members shall be a veteran of the~~
21 ~~Vietnam Conflict and two shall be veterans of the Persian Gulf Wars.~~

22 The members shall be selected in the following manner:

23 1. The state executive board or committees of the veterans'
24 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. At least one of the
14 Governor's appointments shall be a veteran of the Persian Gulf Wars;

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

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

1 ~~members representing the American Legion and the Paralyzed Veterans~~
2 ~~of America shall take office no later than July 1, 2015. The~~
3 ~~members representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Military~~
4 ~~Order of the Purple Heart shall take office no later than July 1,~~
5 ~~2016. The members representing the Disabled American Veterans and~~
6 ~~the National Guard Association of Oklahoma shall take office no~~
7 ~~later than July 1, 2017. The Governor shall also appoint three~~
8 ~~members at large.~~

9 ~~The executive officer of each veterans' organization operating~~
10 ~~within this state shall, on or before January 1 of the year in which~~
11 ~~the organization's appointee's term expires, submit to the Secretary~~
12 ~~of State, the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and~~
13 ~~the Speaker of the House of Representatives a copy of the~~
14 ~~performance audit and the financial audit of the organization for~~
15 ~~the immediately preceding fiscal year of the organization. Such~~
16 ~~audits shall be conducted in accordance with auditing standards~~
17 ~~generally accepted in the United States and shall clearly show the~~
18 ~~total paid membership of the organization and shall be certified to~~
19 ~~by a certified public accountant. Failure to comply with this~~
20 ~~section shall render the organization ineligible to submit a nominee~~
21 ~~to the Governor.~~

22 B. ~~The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the~~
23 ~~Governor their appointing authority with advice and consent of the~~
24 ~~Senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor their~~

1 appointing authority and may be removed or replaced without cause.
2 When a vacancy on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission occurs, the
3 organization which is represented by the vacant position shall
4 submit a list of five names to ~~the Governor.~~ The Governor their
5 appointing authority and the appointing authority shall choose a
6 replacement from that list. No person shall be appointed ~~by the~~
7 ~~Governor~~ to the Commission who is related by affinity or
8 consanguinity within the third degree to any person employed by the
9 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. Any member of the
10 Commission shall be prohibited from voting on any issue in which the
11 member has a direct financial interest. Each member appointed to
12 the Commission shall submit a financial disclosure form and military
13 history records including discharge records to the appointing
14 authority within thirty (30) days of his or her appointment to the
15 Commission. Before any member appointed as provided herein shall
16 enter upon his or her duties as a member of the Commission, he or
17 she shall take and subscribe to the oath of office as required by
18 the Constitution of this state.

19 ~~Present~~

20 C. Terms for present members of the Commission shall continue
21 in office until the expiration of their terms and until their
22 successors are appointed and enter upon the duties of their offices
23 terminate upon the effective date of this act. The veterans'
24 organizations named in this section shall have thirty (30) days

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

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

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

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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 22nd day of March, 2023.

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3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the House
5 of Representatives

6 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2023.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate