

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to veterans; revising provisions governing the membership of the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs, the Nevada Veterans Services Commission and certain Advisory Committees; revising provisions relating to the service organizations which the Director and the Deputy Director of the Department of Veterans Services are required to aid and assist; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law creates the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs and requires the Council to perform various duties relating to the needs of veterans, service members and their families. (NRS 417.0191, 417.0195) The Council consists of the heads of various state agencies and other persons appointed by the Governor. (NRS 417.0191) **Section 1** of this bill adds the Administrator of the Division of Human Resource Management of the Department of Administration as a member of the Council.

Under existing law, the Director and the Deputy Director are required to aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every nationally recognized service organization with respect to activities that benefit veterans, servicemen and servicewomen. (NRS 417.090) **Section 2** of this bill extends this duty to such service organizations recognized in Nevada.

Under existing law, the Nevada Veterans Services Commission was also created to perform various duties relating to veterans. (NRS 417.147, 417.150, 417.190, 417.400) The Commission consists of nine members, including five members who are representatives of nationally recognized veterans' organizations. (NRS 417.150) **Section 3** of this bill increases the number of members on the Commission to 11, by adding a member who is also a member of the Women Veterans Advisory Committee and a member who is a student veteran pursuing a baccalaureate or higher degree in Nevada. **Section 3** also authorizes the appointment of representatives of veterans' organizations recognized in Nevada as Commission members who are required to be representatives of veterans' organizations.

The Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Northern Nevada and the Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Southern Nevada were created under existing law to consult with the Director of the Department of Veterans Services regarding the establishment, maintenance and operation of those veterans cemeteries. (NRS 417.230) Five of the seven members of each Advisory Committee are required to be from veterans' organizations in this State and one such member of each Advisory Committee serves on the Nevada Veterans Services Commission. (NRS 417.150, 417.230) **Section 4** of this bill clarifies that the veterans' organizations from which those members of the Advisory Committees are appointed are organizations that are recognized nationally and in this State.



EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 417.0191 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.0191 1. The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs is hereby created. The Council consists of:

- (a) The Director of the Department of Business and Industry;
- (b) The Director of the Department of Corrections;
- (c) The Director of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation;
- (d) The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (e) The Director of the Department of Public Safety;
- (f) The Director of the Department of Veterans Services;
- (g) The Adjutant General;
- (h) The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education;
- (i) The Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development;

(j) The Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission;  
~~and~~

(k) ***The Administrator of the Division of Human Resource Management of the Department of Administration; and***

(l) Any other persons appointed by the Governor, including, without limitation, representatives of federal and local governmental agencies and private entities that provide services to veterans. Members appointed pursuant to this paragraph serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

2. A member of the Council may designate a person to represent him or her at any meeting of the Council. The person designated may exercise all the duties, rights and privileges of the member that he or she represents.

**Sec. 2.** NRS 417.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.090 The Director and the Deputy Director shall:

1. Assist veterans, and those presently serving in the military and naval forces of the United States who are residents of the State of Nevada, their wives, widows, widowers, husbands, children, dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives, in preparing, submitting and presenting any claim against the United States, or any state, for adjusted compensation, hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability compensation, vocational training,



education or rehabilitation and assist them in obtaining any aid or benefit to which they may, from time to time, be entitled under the laws of the United States or of any of the states.

2. Aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every ~~internationally recognized~~ service organization *recognized nationally or in this State* insofar as the activities of such organizations are for the benefit of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen.

3. Give aid, assistance and counsel to each and every problem, question and situation, individual as well as collective, affecting any veteran, serviceman or servicewoman, or their dependents, or any group of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen, when in their opinion such comes within the scope of this chapter.

4. Coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.

5. Serve as a clearinghouse and disseminate information relating to veterans' benefits.

6. Conduct any studies which will assist veterans to obtain compensation, hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability compensation, vocational training, education, rehabilitation or any other benefit to which veterans may be entitled under the laws of the United States or of any state.

7. Aid, assist and cooperate with the office of coordinator of services for veterans created in a county pursuant to NRS 244.401.

8. Pay to each county that creates the office of coordinator of services for veterans, from state money available to him or her, a portion of the cost of operating the office in an amount determined by the Director.

9. Take possession of any abandoned or unclaimed artifacts or other property that has military value for safekeeping. The Director or Deputy Director may transfer such property to a veterans' or military museum.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 417.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.150 1. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission, consisting of ~~nine~~ *11* members, is hereby created.

2. The Governor shall appoint:

(a) Three members who are representatives of ~~internationally recognized~~ veterans' organizations *recognized nationally or in this State* and who possess honorable discharges from some branch of the military and naval service of the United States.

(b) *One member who is a member of the Women Veterans Advisory Committee created by NRS 417.320.*



*(c) One member who is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education in this State in a program for a baccalaureate or higher degree and who possesses an honorable discharge from some branch of the military and naval service of the United States.*

*(d) Two members who are representatives of the general public.*

3. The Chair of the Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Northern Nevada and the Chair of the Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Southern Nevada shall each appoint one member from their respective committees to serve as a member of the Commission. Each member so appointed must be a representative of a ~~internationally recognized~~ *recognized nationally or in this State* veterans' organization and possess an honorable discharge from some branch of the military and naval service of the United States.

4. The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate to serve as a member of the Commission.

5. The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint one member of the Assembly to serve as a member of the Commission.

6. The Governor may remove a member of the Commission at any time for failure to perform his or her duties, malfeasance or other good cause.

7. The term of office of each member is 2 years.

8. If a vacancy occurs in the membership of those members appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2, the Governor shall fill the vacancy from among the names of qualified nominees provided to the Governor in writing by the Director.

**Sec. 4.** NRS 417.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.230 1. There are hereby created the Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Northern Nevada and the Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Southern Nevada, each consisting of seven members as follows:

(a) One member of the Senate, appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(b) One member of the Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(c) Five members of veterans' organizations *recognized nationally or* in this State, appointed by the Governor.

2. The members of the Committees shall serve terms of 2 years.

3. Each Committee shall annually elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among its members.

4. Each Committee shall meet at least 4 times a year.



5. Any legislative member of a Committee who is not a candidate for reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues to serve after the general election until the next regular or special session of the Legislature convenes.

6. While engaged in the work of the Committee, each member of each Committee is entitled to receive the per diem allowances and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

7. The Director shall consult with each Committee regarding the establishment, maintenance and operation of the veterans' cemetery for which the Committee was created.

**Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.







