

1
2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 HOUSE BILL 1080

By: Steagall

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; amending 72
9 O.S. 2021, Section 63.2, which relates to the
10 Oklahoma Veterans Commission; modifying appointment
11 process for Commission members; deleting outdated
12 appointment dates; removing requirement to submit
13 performance and financial audits; specifying members
14 serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority;
15 providing for removal or replacement without cause;
16 prohibiting members from voting on certain issues;
17 providing for retention of current members; directing
18 vacancies to be appointed by their appointing
19 authority; and providing an effective date.

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

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

25 Section 63.2 A. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall consist
26 of nine (9) members all of whom shall be honorably discharged
27 veterans; provided, one of the members shall be a veteran of the
28 Vietnam Conflict and two shall be veterans of the Persian Gulf Wars.
29 The members shall be selected in the following manner:

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

11 2. The Governor shall name one member from ~~each of the~~
12 ~~following Veterans' groups: the American Legion; the Veterans of~~
13 ~~Foreign Wars; the Disabled American Veterans; the National Guard~~
14 Association of Oklahoma and one at-large member;

15 3. The Lieutenant Governor shall name one member from the
16 Paralyzed Veterans of America;

17 4. The Attorney General shall name one member from the Veterans
18 of Foreign Wars;

19 5. The Labor Commissioner shall name one member from the
20 Disabled American Veterans;

21 6. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall name one
22 member from the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and one at-large
23 member; and

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

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

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

19 C. Present members of the Commission ~~shall~~ may continue in
20 office, subject to the appointing authority, until the expiration of
21 their terms and until their successors are appointed and enter upon
22 the duties of their offices. Appointments shall be made for a
23 three-year period. Any vacancy on the Commission resulting from any
24 cause shall be filled by appointment by the ~~Governor~~ respective

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appointing authority for the remainder of the term as provided in this section.

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

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

59-1-5092 EK 01/09/23