

**ESHB 1541 - H AMD 1464**

By Representative Ryu

**ADOPTED 01/22/2026**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 43.60A.080 and 2015 c 219 s 1 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) There is hereby created a veterans affairs advisory committee  
6 which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the  
7 director of the department of veterans affairs. The committee shall  
8 appoint members to serve as liaisons to each of the state veterans'  
9 homes, unless the home has a representative appointed to the  
10 committee. This liaison must share information on committee meetings  
11 and business with the resident council of the state's veterans'  
12 homes, as well as bring information back for the committee's  
13 consideration to ensure veterans' home resident issues are included  
14 at regular committee meetings. The committee shall be composed of  
15 seventeen members to be appointed by the governor, and shall consist  
16 of the following:

17 (a) ~~((One))~~ Two representatives of the ~~((Washington soldiers'~~  
18 ~~home and colony at Orting and one representative of the Washington~~  
19 ~~veterans' home at Retsil))~~ state veterans' homes identified in RCW  
20 43.60A.075. Each home's resident council may nominate up to three  
21 individuals whose names are to be forwarded by the director to the  
22 governor. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider  
23 these recommendations or request additional nominations. If ~~((the~~  
24 ~~resident council does not provide any nomination))~~ there are no homes  
25 nominations, the governor may appoint a member at large in place of  
26 ~~((the))~~ a home's representative.

27 (b) One representative each from the three congressionally  
28 chartered or nationally recognized veterans service organizations as  
29 listed in the current "Directory of Veterans Service Organizations"  
30 published by the United States department of veterans affairs with  
31 the largest number of active members in the state of Washington as  
32 determined by the director. The organizations' state commanders may

1 each submit a list of three names to be forwarded to the governor by  
2 the director. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider  
3 these recommendations or request additional nominations.

4 (c) (~~Ten~~) Six members shall be chosen to represent those  
5 congressionally chartered or nationally recognized veterans service  
6 organizations listed in the directory under (b) of this subsection  
7 and having at least one active chapter within the state of  
8 Washington. Up to three nominations may be forwarded from each  
9 organization to the governor by the director. In making the  
10 appointments, the governor shall consider these recommendations or  
11 request additional nominations.

12 (d) (~~Two~~) Six members shall be veterans at large, as well as  
13 any other at large member appointed pursuant to (a) of this  
14 subsection. Any individual or organization may nominate a veteran for  
15 an at large position. Organizational affiliation shall not be a  
16 prerequisite for nomination or appointment. All nominations for the  
17 at large positions shall be forwarded by the director to the  
18 governor.

19 (e) No organization shall have more than one official  
20 representative on the committee at any one time.

21 (f) In making appointments to the committee, care shall be taken  
22 to ensure that members represent all geographical portions of the  
23 state (~~and~~), minority viewpoints, military experiences, and  
24 personal attributes, and that the issues and views of concern to  
25 women veterans are represented.

26 (2) All members shall have terms of four years. In the case of a  
27 vacancy, appointment shall be only for the remainder of the unexpired  
28 term for which the vacancy occurs. No member may serve more than two  
29 consecutive terms, with vacancy appointments to an unexpired term not  
30 considered as a term. (~~Members appointed before June 11, 1992, shall~~  
31 ~~continue to serve until the expiration of their current terms; and~~  
32 ~~then, subject to the conditions contained in this section, are~~  
33 ~~eligible for reappointment.))~~

34 (3) The committee shall adopt an order of business for conducting  
35 its meetings.

36 (4) The committee shall have the following powers and duties:

37 (a) To serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the  
38 director on matters pertaining to the department of veterans affairs;

1 (b) To acquaint themselves fully with the operations of the  
2 department and recommend such changes to the governor and the  
3 director as they deem advisable.

4 (5) Members of the committee shall receive no compensation for  
5 the performance of their duties but shall receive a per diem  
6 allowance and mileage expense according to the provisions of chapter  
7 43.03 RCW."

8 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Modifies the 17 members of the Veterans Affairs Advisory  
Committee by:

(1) Reducing the number of members from Veterans Service  
Organizations from 10 to six, and removing the requirement that the  
nominations include a veteran who is an enrolled member of a  
federally recognized Indian tribe, a current or former member of the  
Washington National Guard, and a veteran with lived experience such  
as housing barriers, posttraumatic stress recovery, and substance use  
disorder;

(2) Increasing the number of at large members from two to six;  
and

(3) Requiring member appointments to consider military experience  
and personal attributes.

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