

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5338

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As of January 23, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to the veterans affairs advisory committee.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the veterans affairs advisory committee.

**Sponsors:** Senators Nobles, Boehnke, Conway, Dhingra, Lovick, Salomon, Shewmake, Slatter, Trudeau, Wagoner, Warnick and Wilson, C.; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections: 1/28/25.

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Reconfiguring the membership of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee.

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

**Staff:** William Bridges (786-7312)

**Background:** The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee. The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) provides advice and makes recommendations to the Governor and the Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). The VAAC has 17 members appointed by the Governor to serve four-year terms. The VAAC consists of the following:

- one member from the Washington Soldier's Home in Orting;
- one member from the Washington Veterans' Home in Retsil;
- one member from each of the three congressionally chartered and recognized veterans service organizations with the largest memberships in the state;
- ten members to represent the congressionally chartered and recognized veterans service organizations that have at least one active chapter in the state; and

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- two members who are veterans at large.

The Governor must ensure that appointments represent all regions of the state and must include minority and women veterans' viewpoints. No organization can have more than one official representative on the committee at any one time.

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Liaisons to Veterans' Homes. The WDVA serves four veterans' homes. The VAAC must appoint members to serve as liaisons to each of these homes, and the liaisons must share information about VAAC business with the resident council of each home. The liaisons must also ensure that the issues of the veterans' homes residents are included in regular VAAC meetings.

**Summary of Bill:** Reconfiguring the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Membership.

The two VAAC positions representing the state veterans' homes in Orting and Retsil are replaced by two at-large positions. Of the ten members representing congressionally chartered and recognized veterans service organizations, one may be a veteran who is a member of a Native American tribe recognized in Washington State, and one may be a current or former member of the Washington National Guard. The four liaison positions to veteran's homes are not changed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.