
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1541

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans (originally sponsored by Representatives Abell, Donaghy, Morgan, Kloba, Shavers, Zahn, Hill, and Simmons; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the veterans affairs advisory committee; and
2 amending RCW 43.60A.080.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

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

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

18 (a) ((One)) Two representatives of the ((Washington soldiers'
19 home and colony at Orting and one representative of the Washington
20 veterans' home at Retsil)) state veterans' homes identified in RCW
21 43.60A.075. Each home's resident council may nominate up to three

1 individuals whose names are to be forwarded by the director to the
2 governor. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider
3 these recommendations or request additional nominations. If (~~the~~
4 ~~resident council does not provide any nomination~~) there are no homes
5 nominations, the governor may appoint a member at large in place of
6 (~~the~~) a home's representative.

7 (b) One representative each from the three congressionally
8 chartered or nationally recognized veterans service organizations as
9 listed in the current "Directory of Veterans Service Organizations"
10 published by the United States department of veterans affairs with
11 the largest number of active members in the state of Washington as
12 determined by the director. The organizations' state commanders may
13 each submit a list of three names to be forwarded to the governor by
14 the director. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider
15 these recommendations or request additional nominations.

16 (c) Ten members shall be chosen (~~to represent those~~) as
17 follows. Nominations shall be forwarded to the governor by the
18 director:

19 (i) Representatives from congressionally chartered or nationally
20 recognized veterans service organizations listed in the directory
21 under (b) of this subsection and having at least one active chapter
22 within the state of Washington(~~. Up to three nominations may be~~
23 ~~forwarded from each organization to the governor by the director. In~~
24 ~~making the appointments, the governor shall consider these~~
25 ~~recommendations or request additional nominations));~~

26 (ii) A veteran who is an enrolled member of a federally
27 recognized Indian tribe;

28 (iii) A current or former member of the Washington national
29 guard;

30 (iv) A justice involved or formerly incarcerated veteran; and

31 (v) Veterans with lived experience such as faced barriers to
32 housing, posttraumatic stress recovery, and substance use disorder.

33 (d) Two members shall be veterans at large, as well as any other
34 at large member appointed pursuant to (a) of this subsection. Any
35 individual or organization may nominate a veteran for an at large
36 position. Organizational affiliation shall not be a prerequisite for
37 nomination or appointment. All nominations for the at large positions
38 shall be forwarded by the director to the governor.

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

1 (f) In making appointments to the committee, care shall be taken
2 to ensure that members represent all geographical portions of the
3 state and minority viewpoints, and that the issues and views of
4 concern to women veterans are represented.

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

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

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

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

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

21 (5) Members of the committee shall receive no compensation for
22 the performance of their duties but shall receive a per diem
23 allowance and mileage expense according to the provisions of chapter
24 43.03 RCW.

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