

As Introduced

**132nd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

S. B. No. 213

Senator Brenner

A BILL

To amend sections 5901.02, 5901.03, and 5901.05 and 1
to enact section 5901.10 of the Revised Code to 2
modify Veterans Service Commission Law and to 3
mandate each county veterans service commission 4
to establish a veterans service committee. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 5901.02, 5901.03, and 5901.05 be 6
amended and section 5901.10 of the Revised Code be enacted to 7
read as follows: 8

Sec. 5901.02. (A) In each county there shall be a 9
commission known as "the veterans service commission." Except as 10
provided in section 5901.021 of the Revised Code, the commission 11
shall be composed of ~~five-nine~~ residents of the county appointed 12
to ~~five-year-three-year~~ terms by a judge of the court of common 13
pleas. The board of county commissioners shall oversee the 14
administration and operation of the veterans service commission. 15

At the time of appointment or reappointment to the 16
veterans service commission, no commission member appointed 17
under this section shall be an employee of the commission or 18
hold an elective or other appointive office of the county served 19

by the commission. 20

Each member of the commission appointed under this section 21
shall be an honorably discharged or honorably separated veteran. 22
Within sixty days after the date of appointment, each such 23
member shall file the member's form DD214 with the department of 24
veterans services in accordance with guidelines established by 25
the director of that department. Such appointments shall be made 26
~~from lists of recommended persons,~~ in the ~~manner~~ manners 27
specified in the following paragraph divisions (B) and (C) of 28
this section. 29

(B) (1) A judge of the court of common pleas shall appoint 30
five persons to serve on the commission. One person shall be a 31
representative recommended by the American Legion; one person 32
shall be a representative recommended by the Veterans of Foreign 33
Wars; one person shall be a representative recommended by the 34
Disabled American Veterans; one person shall be a representative 35
recommended by the AMVETS; and one person shall be a 36
representative recommended by the Military Order of the Purple 37
Heart of the U.S.A., the Vietnam Veterans of America, or the 38
Korean War Veterans Association. If any such organization has no 39
post or chapter located in the county, the appointment shall be 40
made from lists of recommended persons submitted by posts or 41
chapters of any other congressionally chartered veterans 42
organizations located in the county. If no such other 43
organizations have posts or chapters located in the county, the 44
appointing judge ~~responsible for making appointments under this~~ 45
~~section~~ may appoint any qualified veteran to represent the 46
veteran community. 47

(2) On or before the fifteenth day of October of each 48
year, the appointing judge shall notify each post or chapter of 49

each organization within the county from which the member may or 50
must be appointed that it may submit a list containing three 51
recommendations of persons who are eligible for appointment. If 52
the judge does not receive any recommendations within sixty days 53
after providing the required notification, the judge may appoint 54
any qualified veteran to represent the veteran community. 55

~~The~~ (C) In addition to the persons appointed under 56
division (B) of this section, a judge of the court of common 57
pleas shall appoint four persons to serve on the commission. The 58
judge may appoint any qualified veteran to represent the veteran 59
community, provided that at least one of the appointments is 60
female if a qualified female is available, and is willing and 61
able to serve. Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, not 62
later than sixty days after the effective date of this 63
amendment, the appointing judge initially shall appoint two 64
persons to one-year terms, one person to a two-year term, and 65
one person to a three-year term. Thereafter all appointments 66
shall be for three-year terms. 67

(D) Except for initial appointments, the appointing judge 68
shall make the appointment appointments required under divisions 69
(B) and (C) of this section on or before the fifteenth day of 70
January of each year. Any vacancy in a membership appointed 71
under this section shall be filled in the same manner as the 72
original appointments. 73

~~Beginning in the year 2000, appointment of members to the~~ 74
~~commission under this section shall be made as follows:~~ 75

~~(A) Appointments for members to represent the American~~ 76
~~Legion shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in~~ 77
~~zero and five.~~ 78

~~(B) Appointments for members to represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in one and six.~~ 79
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~~(C) Appointments for members to represent the Disabled American Veterans shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in two and seven.~~ 82
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~~(D) Appointments for members to represent the AMVETS shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in three and eight.~~ 85
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~~(E) Appointments for members to represent the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., the Vietnam Veterans of America, or the Korean War Veterans Association shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in four and nine.~~ 88
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~~The terms immediately preceding the initial appointments made under divisions (A) to (E) of this section may be for periods of less than five years.~~ 92
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The appointing authority judge shall remove a member who fails to maintain certification in accordance with section 5902.02 of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder or whose certification is revoked by the director of veterans services. 95
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(F) Meetings of a veterans service commission shall comply with section 121.22 of the Revised Code, and shall follow a recognized manual of parliamentary procedure, such as Robert's Rules of Order. 100
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Sec. 5901.03. The veterans service commission shall select one of its members as president, one as vice-president, and one as secretary. The commission shall meet at least once each month. A judge of the court of common pleas may remove, for 104
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cause, any member of the commission appointed under section 108
5901.02 of the Revised Code, and shall fill vacancies occurring 109
among memberships appointed under that section for the unexpired 110
terms in the manner provided for the original appointments. 111

The commission's duties shall include but are not limited 112
to the following: 113

(A) Employing such staff as are necessary to carry out the 114
commission's duties, and fixing their compensation; 115

(B) Establishing policies and procedures for the 116
administration of the commission and the veterans service 117
office; 118

(C) Establishing policies and procedures for the 119
administration of assistance as provided under this chapter; 120

(D) Causing the budgets of the veterans service commission 121
and veterans service office to be presented to the board of 122
county commissioners for approval; 123

(E) Establishing programs of outreach and coordination 124
with other agencies to enhance available services to veterans 125
within the county; 126

(F) Promoting, monitoring, and providing funding for 127
ongoing education and training for veterans service 128
commissioners and staff; 129

(G) Making reports to the organizations represented on the 130
commission, as provided in section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, 131
and to others, upon request; 132

(H) Establishing regularly scheduled transportation for 133
veterans to and from veterans administration medical centers 134
whose districts the county is within, through contractual 135

agreements or through other arrangements determined by the 136
commission to be most cost-effective~~r~~. The regularly scheduled 137
transportation shall be available not less than five days each 138
calendar week and shall provide transportation to a veterans 139
administration medical center of the veteran's choosing, 140
provided that the district of the center is within the county. 141

(I) Participating in appropriate memorial and 142
commemorative activities to help promote patriotism and veterans 143
services; 144

(J) Taking any other actions required by this chapter. 145

Sec. 5901.05. ~~On the first Monday of January in each year,~~ 146
~~the~~ A veterans service commission may appoint shall create for 147
the county a veterans service committee, consisting of ~~at least~~ 148
~~three~~ six persons who are residents of the county, whose duties 149
shall be set forth by the commission. The veterans service 150
commission shall appoint three persons to the committee and the 151
board of county commissioners shall appoint three persons to the 152
committee. Such persons shall be veterans, one of whom shall be 153
designated, by the veterans service commission, as chairperson 154
of the county veterans service committee. Appointments to the 155
committee shall be made on or before the fifteenth day of 156
January of each year for terms that expire at the end of the 157
thirty-first day of December of that calendar year. Persons may 158
be reappointed to the committee. The commission or board shall 159
fill all vacancies that occur in any such committee, and may 160
remove any member of a committee, who was appointed by the 161
commission or board, for cause. 162

Meetings of a veterans service committee shall comply with 163
section 121.22 of the Revised Code, and shall follow a 164
recognized manual of parliamentary procedure, such as Robert's 165

<u>Rules of Order.</u>	166
<u>Sec. 5901.10. The office in each county, which is used by</u>	167
<u>county veterans service officers, shall be open to the public</u>	168
<u>every Monday through Saturday, except for legal holidays as</u>	169
<u>defined in section 1.14 of the Revised Code, and shall not close</u>	170
<u>before five p.m. on those days.</u>	171
Section 2. That existing sections 5901.02, 5901.03, and	172
5901.05 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	173
Section 3. A person who is serving as a member of a county	174
veterans service commission upon the effective date of this act,	175
appointed under section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, shall	176
complete the five-year term to which the individual was	177
appointed. Subsequent appointments shall be made for three-year	178
terms in accordance with section 5901.02 of the Revised Code as	179
amended in this act.	180
Section 4. Not later than sixty days after the effective	181
date of this act, a board of county commissioners shall make	182
initial appointments to a veterans service committee under	183
section 5901.05 of the Revised Code that is in existence on that	184
day. Or, if a committee is not in existence on that day, a	185
veterans service commission and a board of county commissioners	186
shall make initial appointments to a committee. Such	187
appointments shall be for a term that expires at the end of the	188
thirty-first day of December of the calendar year in which the	189
appointment was made. Persons may be reappointed to the	190
committee.	191