

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 2385

By: Kannady

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6 AS INTRODUCED

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10 process for Commission members; deleting outdated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

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

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

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

23 1. The state executive board or committees of the veterans'
24 organizations named in this section shall each submit to ~~the~~

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

8 2. The Governor shall name one member from each of the
9 following Veterans' groups: the American Legion; the Veterans of
10 Foreign Wars; the Disabled American Veterans; the Paralyzed Veterans
11 of America; and one at-large member;

12 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall name one
13 member from the Military Order of the Purple Heart, ~~and~~ one at-large
14 member; and

15 4. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall name one
16 member of the National Guard Association of Oklahoma and one at-
17 large member. ~~The members representing the American Legion and the~~
18 ~~Paralyzed Veterans of America shall take office no later than July~~
19 ~~1, 2015. The members representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and~~
20 ~~the Military Order of the Purple Heart shall take office no later~~
21 ~~than July 1, 2016. The members representing the Disabled American~~
22 ~~Veterans and the National Guard Association of Oklahoma shall take~~
23 ~~office no later than July 1, 2017. The Governor shall also appoint~~
24 ~~three members at large.~~

1 B. The executive officer of each veterans' organization
2 operating within this state shall, on or before January 1 of the
3 year in which the organization's appointee's term expires, submit to
4 the Secretary of State, the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of
5 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a copy
6 of the performance audit and the financial audit of the organization
7 for the immediately preceding fiscal year of the organization. Such
8 audits shall be conducted in accordance with auditing standards
9 generally accepted in the United States and shall clearly show the
10 total paid membership of the organization and shall be certified to
11 by a certified public accountant. Failure to comply with this
12 section shall render the organization ineligible to submit a nominee
13 to the ~~Governor~~ appointing authority.

14 C. The members of the Commission ~~shall be appointed by the~~
15 ~~Governor with advice and consent of the Senate, and shall serve at~~
16 the pleasure of ~~the Governor~~ their appointing authority and may be
17 removed or replaced without cause. When a vacancy on the Oklahoma
18 Veterans Commission occurs, the organization which is represented by
19 the vacant position shall submit a list of five names to ~~the~~
20 ~~Governor.~~ ~~The Governor~~ their appointing authority and the
21 appointing authority shall choose a replacement from that list. No
22 person shall be appointed ~~by the Governor~~ to the Commission who is
23 related by affinity or consanguinity within the third degree to any
24 person employed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. Any

1 member of the Commission shall be prohibited from voting on any
2 issue in which the member has a direct financial interest. Before
3 any member appointed as provided herein shall enter upon his or her
4 duties as a member of the Commission, he or she shall take and
5 subscribe to the oath of office as required by the Constitution of
6 this state.

7 D. Present members of the Commission ~~shall~~ may continue in
8 office, subject to the appointing authority, until the expiration of
9 their terms and until their successors are appointed and enter upon
10 the duties of their offices. Appointments shall be made for a
11 three-year period. Any vacancy on the Commission resulting from any
12 cause shall be filled by appointment by the ~~Governor~~ respective
13 appointing authority for the remainder of the term as provided in
14 this section.

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

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.
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24 59-1-6651 EK 12/15/22