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**HOUSE BILL 1541**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Abell and Donaghy; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs

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  
12 meetings and business with the resident council of the state's  
13 veterans' homes, as well as bring information back for the  
14 committee's consideration to ensure veterans' home resident issues  
15 are included at regular committee meetings. The committee shall be  
16 composed of seventeen members to be appointed by the governor, and  
17 shall consist of the following:

18 (a) (~~One representative of the Washington soldiers' home and~~  
19 ~~colony at Orting and one representative of the Washington veterans'~~  
20 ~~home at Retsil. Each home's resident council may nominate up to three~~  
21 ~~individuals whose names are to be forwarded by the director to the~~

1 governor. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider  
2 these recommendations or request additional nominations. If the  
3 resident council does not provide any nomination, the governor may  
4 appoint a member at large in place of the home's representative.

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

14 ~~((c))~~ (b) Ten members shall be chosen ~~((to represent those~~  
15 ~~congressionally chartered or nationally recognized veterans service~~  
16 ~~organizations listed in the directory under (b) of this subsection~~  
17 ~~and having at least one active chapter within the state of~~  
18 ~~Washington. Up to three nominations may be forwarded from each~~  
19 ~~organization to the governor by the director. In making the~~  
20 ~~appointments, the governor shall consider these recommendations or~~  
21 ~~request additional nominations.~~

22 ~~(d) Two))~~ as follows:

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

30 (ii) One member may be a veteran who is a member of a native  
31 American tribe recognized in Washington state.

32 (iii) One member may be a current or former member of the  
33 Washington national guard.

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

1       ~~((e))~~ (d) No organization shall have more than one official  
2 representative on the committee at any one time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23       (5) Members of the committee shall receive no compensation for  
24 the performance of their duties but shall receive a per diem  
25 allowance and mileage expense according to the provisions of chapter  
26 43.03 RCW.

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