



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Dan DeSantis

H.B. 192

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Miller and Anielski, Kent, Fedor, Seitz, Lepore-Hagan, Stein, Ashford, West, Craig, Lipps, Antonio, Thompson, Perales

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits county veterans service commissions to elect to add two members to the commission, one who is a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or subsequently in those theaters of operation, and one who is a military spouse.
 - Authorizes the judge to appoint, for the two additional memberships, otherwise qualified veterans, or dependents of veterans in certain circumstances, to serve on an interim basis until a veteran or spouse who meets the requirements becomes available and is appointed.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

County veterans service commissions

The bill authorizes a county veterans service commission, by a majority vote of its members, to create two additional memberships on the commission. The two new members must meet specific qualifications set forth in the bill, as well as the qualifications of existing law for veterans service commission members. One of the two additional members must be a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or who served subsequently in those theaters of operation, who may be a current member of the reserve or National Guard. And, one of the two additional members must be the military spouse of an active service member or of a veteran, whose service began on or after September 11, 2001.

Under current law, a county veterans service commission consists of five members appointed to five-year terms by a judge of the court of common pleas and

who must be honorably discharged or honorably separated veterans.¹ A board of county commissioners of a county with a population of more than 5,000, and that meets other qualifications, may add up to an additional six members. But it is not clear if any counties have opted to do so.²

Appointment of additional members

A veterans service commission must inform the judge responsible for making commission appointments within 30 days after it makes an affirmative decision to create two additional memberships. Subsequently, when the appointing judge sends the notification that must be provided under current law to certain organizations, the judge also must inform each organization that, if the organization has sufficient contact and knowledge of such persons, the organization may submit a list containing one additional recommendation of a person who is eligible for appointment as a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or who served subsequently in those theaters of operation, and one person who is eligible for appointment as the military spouse of an active service member or of a veteran.³

Under continuing law, the appointing judge must send notifications to each post or chapter of each organization within the county from which a member may or must be appointed. These organizations include the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Korean War Veterans Association, and if necessary, any other congressionally chartered veterans organizations located in the county.⁴

Under the bill, the notifications sent by the appointing judge, regarding appointments for the two additional positions, must also include a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the county, a posting in public libraries of the county, and other such means as may be used to reach individuals eligible for the appointments. Also, the public notices published in newspapers and posted in libraries must include instructions for individuals who meet the qualifications for appointment to submit a request to the appointing judge.

The bill requires that appointments be made from the lists of recommended persons, or from requests received by the appointing judge, as follows:

¹ R.C. 5901.02 and 5901.022(A).

² R.C. 5901.021, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 5901.022(B).

⁴ R.C. 5901.02.



(1) Appointments for members who are veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or who served subsequently in those theaters of operation, must be made for terms to start in years ending in zero and five.

If the appointing judge does not receive any recommendations within 60 days after providing the required notifications, or the judge does not wish to appoint a person who has submitted a request, the judge may appoint any otherwise qualified veteran to serve on an interim basis until a veteran who meets the requirements becomes available and is appointed to serve the remainder of the term.

(2) Appointments for members who are military spouses of active service members or of veterans, whose service began on or after September 11, 2001, must be made for terms to start in years ending in one and six.

In any county with a population of less than 100,000, if a qualified military spouse is unavailable for appointment, a military dependent, who is the son or daughter of an active service member or of a veteran, whose service began on or after September 11, 2001, may be appointed to serve on an interim basis until a qualified military spouse becomes available and is appointed to serve the remainder of the term.

Any vacancy in these memberships must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.⁵

Initial appointments

The bill requires appointing judges, for commissions that have elected to add two additional members, to make initial appointments on or before January 15, 2018, for the two new members.

The initial appointment for a member who is a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or who served subsequently in those theaters of operation, must be for a term that expires before the term that will begin in 2020. Thereafter, appointments for this position must be for five-year terms that start in years ending in zero or five.

The initial appointment, for a member who is a military spouse of active service members or of veterans, whose service began on or after September 11, 2001, must be made for a term that expires before the term that will begin in 2021. Thereafter,

⁵ R.C. 5901.022(B) and (C).

appointments for this position must be for five-year terms that start in years ending in one or six.⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-01-17

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⁶ Section 3.

