

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

H. B. No. 729

Representative Stewart

A BILL

To amend sections 5901.02 and 5901.03 of the
Revised Code to require county veterans service
commissions to include two members whose
military service commenced on or after September
11, 2001, and to require one member of the
commission to be appointed by the board of
county commissioners.

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

Section 1. That sections 5901.02 and 5901.03 of the
Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5901.02. (A) In each county there shall be a
commission known as "the veterans service commission." Except as
provided in section 5901.021 of the Revised Code, the commission
shall be composed of five residents of the county appointed to
five-year terms ~~by a judge of the court of common pleas~~. At the
time of appointment or reappointment to the commission, no
commission member appointed under this section shall be an
employee of the commission or hold an elective or other
appointive office of the county served by the commission.

(B) Each member of the commission appointed under this

section shall be an honorably discharged or honorably separated 20
veteran. Within sixty days after the date of appointment, each 21
such member shall file the member's form DD214 with the 22
department of veterans services in accordance with guidelines 23
established by the director of that department. Such 24
appointments shall be made from lists of recommended persons, in 25
the manner specified in ~~the following paragraph~~this section. One 26
person shall be a representative recommended by the American 27
Legion; one person shall be a representative recommended by the 28
Veterans of Foreign Wars; one person shall be a representative 29
recommended by the Disabled American Veterans; one person shall 30
be a representative recommended by the AMVETS; and one person 31
shall be a representative recommended by the Military Order of 32
the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., the Vietnam Veterans of America, 33
or the Korean War Veterans Association. If any such organization 34
has no post or chapter located in the county, the appointment 35
shall be made from lists of recommended persons submitted by 36
posts or chapters of any other congressionally chartered 37
veterans organizations located in the county. If no such other 38
organizations have posts or chapters located in the county, the 39
~~judge responsible for making appointments under this section~~
appointing authority may appoint any qualified veteran to 41
represent the veteran community. 42

(C) On or before the fifteenth day of October of each 43
year, the appointing ~~judge~~authority shall notify each post or 44
chapter of each organization within the county from which the 45
member may or must be appointed that it may submit a list 46
containing three recommendations of persons who are eligible for 47
appointment. At least one of the persons recommended shall have 48
commenced military service on or after September 11, 2001. 49

Except as provided under division (D) of this section, and 50

not later than January 15, 2024, at which time appointments 51
shall have been made under divisions (E) (4) and (5) of this 52
section for 2023 and 2024 respectively, a veterans service 53
commission shall consist of at least two members whose military 54
service commenced on or after September 11, 2001. The appointing 55
authority, before making an appointment, shall ascertain the 56
current composition of the commission to determine if 57
appointment of a person whose military service commenced on or 58
after September 11, 2001, is necessary to comply with this 59
section. 60

(D) If the judge-appointing authority does not receive any 61
recommendations within sixty days after providing the required 62
notification, the judge-appointing authority may appoint any 63
qualified veteran to represent the veteran community. The judge- 64
appointing authority shall make the appointment on or before the 65
fifteenth day of January of each year. Any vacancy in a 66
membership appointed under this section shall be filled in the 67
same manner as the original appointments. 68

~~Beginning in the year 2000, appointment~~ (E) Appointment of 69
members to the commission under this section shall be made as 70
follows: 71

~~(A)~~ (1) Appointments for members to represent the American 72
Legion shall be made by the judge of the court of common pleas 73
of the county for terms to commence in years ending in zero and 74
five. 75

~~(B)~~ (2) Appointments for members to represent the Veterans 76
of Foreign Wars shall be made by the judge of the court of 77
common pleas of the county for terms to commence in years ending 78
in one and six. 79

~~(C)~~ (3) Appointments for members to represent the Disabled American Veterans shall be made by the judge of the court of common pleas of the county for terms to commence in years ending in two and seven. 80
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~~(D)~~ (4) Appointments for members to represent the AMVETS shall be made by the judge of the court of common pleas of the county for terms to commence in years ending in three and eight. 84
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~~(E)~~ (5) 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 by the board of commissioners of the county. These appointments shall be for terms to commence in years ending in four and nine. 87
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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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(F) The appointing authority shall remove ~~a~~ any member who was appointed by that appointing authority and who fails to maintain certification or whose certification is revoked by the director of veterans services. The appointing authority may remove, for cause, any member of the commission appointed by that appointing authority and shall fill vacancies occurring among memberships for the unexpired terms in the manner provided for the original appointments. 95
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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 cause, any member of the commission appointed under section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, and shall fill vacancies occurring~~ 103
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~~among memberships appointed under that section for the unexpired- 109~~
~~terms in the manner provided for the original appointments. 110~~

The commission's duties shall include but are not limited 111
to the following: 112

(A) Employing such staff as are necessary to carry out the 113
commission's duties, and fixing their compensation; 114

(B) Establishing policies and procedures for the 115
administration of the commission and the veterans service 116
office; 117

(C) Establishing policies and procedures for the 118
administration of assistance as provided under this chapter; 119

(D) Causing the budgets of the veterans service commission 120
and veterans service office to be presented to the board of 121
county commissioners for approval; 122

(E) Establishing programs of outreach and coordination 123
with other agencies to enhance available services to veterans 124
within the county; 125

(F) Promoting, monitoring, and providing funding for 126
ongoing education and training for veterans service 127
commissioners and staff; 128

(G) Making reports to the organizations represented on the 129
commission, as provided in section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, 130
and to others, upon request; 131

(H) Establishing regularly scheduled transportation for 132
veterans to and from veterans administration medical centers 133
whose districts the county is within, through contractual 134
agreements or through other arrangements determined by the 135
commission to be most cost-effective; 136

(I) Participating in appropriate memorial and	137
commemorative activities to help promote patriotism and veterans	138
services;	139
(J) Taking any other actions required by this chapter.	140
Section 2. That existing sections 5901.02 and 5901.03 of	141
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	142