

As Introduced

**135th General Assembly
Regular Session
2023-2024**

H. B. No. 69

Representatives Stewart, Willis

A BILL

To amend sections 5901.02 and 5901.03 of the
Revised Code to require county veterans service
commissions to include two members who served in
the military 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

veteran. Within sixty days after the date of appointment, each 20
such member shall file the member's form DD214 with the 21
department of veterans services in accordance with guidelines 22
established by the director of that department. Such 23
appointments shall be made from lists of recommended persons, in 24
the manner specified in ~~the following paragraph~~this section. One 25
person shall be a representative recommended by the American 26
Legion; one person shall be a representative recommended by the 27
Veterans of Foreign Wars; one person shall be a representative 28
recommended by the Disabled American Veterans; one person shall 29
be a representative recommended by the AMVETS; and one person 30
shall be a representative recommended by the Military Order of 31
the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., the Vietnam Veterans of America, 32
or the Korean War Veterans Association. If any such organization 33
has no post or chapter located in the county, the appointment 34
shall be made from lists of recommended persons submitted by 35
posts or chapters of any other congressionally chartered 36
veterans organizations located in the county. If no such other 37
organizations have posts or chapters located in the county, the 38
~~judge responsible for making appointments under this section~~
appointing authority may appoint any qualified veteran to 39
represent the veteran community. 40
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(C) On or before the fifteenth day of October of each 42
year, the appointing ~~judge~~ authority shall notify each post or 43
chapter of each organization within the county from which the 44
member may or must be appointed that it may submit a list 45
containing three recommendations of persons who are eligible for 46
appointment. At least one of the persons recommended shall have 47
served in the military after September 11, 2001. 48

Except as provided under division (D) of this section, and 49
not later than January 15, 2024, at which time appointments 50

shall have been made under divisions (E) (4) and (5) of this 51
section for 2023 and 2024 respectively, a veterans service 52
commission shall consist of at least two members who served in 53
the military after September 11, 2001. The appointing authority, 54
before making an appointment, shall ascertain the current 55
composition of the commission to determine if appointment of a 56
person who served in the military after September 11, 2001, is 57
necessary to comply with this section. 58

(D) If the judge-appointing authority does not receive any 59
recommendations within sixty days after providing the required 60
notification, the judge-appointing authority may appoint any 61
qualified veteran to represent the veteran community. The judge- 62
appointing authority shall make the appointment on or before the 63
fifteenth day of January of each year. Any vacancy in a 64
membership appointed under this section shall be filled in the 65
same manner as the original appointments. 66

~~Beginning in the year 2000, appointment~~ (E) Appointment of 67
members to the commission under this section shall be made as 68
follows: 69

~~(A)~~ (1) Appointments for members to represent the American 70
Legion shall be made by the judge of the court of common pleas 71
of the county for terms to commence in years ending in zero and 72
five. 73

~~(B)~~ (2) Appointments for members to represent the Veterans 74
of Foreign Wars shall be made by the judge of the court of 75
common pleas of the county for terms to commence in years ending 76
in one and six. 77

~~(C)~~ (3) Appointments for members to represent the Disabled 78
American Veterans shall be made by the judge of the court of 79

common pleas of the county for terms to commence in years ending 80
in two and seven. 81

~~(D)~~ (4) Appointments for members to represent the AMVETS 82
shall be made by the judge of the court of common pleas of the 83
county for terms to commence in years ending in three and eight. 84

~~(E)~~ (5) Appointments for members to represent the Military 85
Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., the Vietnam Veterans of 86
America, or the Korean War Veterans Association shall be made by 87
the board of commissioners of the county. These appointments 88
shall be for terms to commence in years ending in four and nine. 89

~~The terms immediately preceding the initial appointments~~ 90
~~made under divisions (A) to (E) of this section may be for~~ 91
~~periods of less than five years.~~ 92

(F) The appointing authority shall remove ~~a~~ any member who 93
was appointed by that appointing authority and who fails to 94
maintain certification or whose certification is revoked by the 95
director of veterans services. The appointing authority may 96
remove, for cause, any member of the commission appointed by 97
that appointing authority and shall fill vacancies occurring 98
among memberships for the unexpired terms in the manner provided 99
for the original appointments. 100

Sec. 5901.03. The veterans service commission shall select 101
one of its members as president, one as vice-president, and one 102
as secretary. The commission shall meet at least once each 103
month. ~~A judge of the court of common pleas may remove, for~~ 104
~~cause, any member of the commission appointed under section~~ 105
~~5901.02 of the Revised Code, and shall fill vacancies occurring~~ 106
~~among memberships appointed under that section for the unexpired~~ 107
~~terms in the manner provided for the original appointments.~~ 108

The commission's duties shall include but are not limited	109
to the following:	110
(A) Employing such staff as are necessary to carry out the	111
commission's duties, and fixing their compensation;	112
(B) Establishing policies and procedures for the	113
administration of the commission and the veterans service	114
office;	115
(C) Establishing policies and procedures for the	116
administration of assistance as provided under this chapter;	117
(D) Causing the budgets of the veterans service commission	118
and veterans service office to be presented to the board of	119
county commissioners for approval;	120
(E) Establishing programs of outreach and coordination	121
with other agencies to enhance available services to veterans	122
within the county;	123
(F) Promoting, monitoring, and providing funding for	124
ongoing education and training for veterans service	125
commissioners and staff;	126
(G) Making reports to the organizations represented on the	127
commission, as provided in section 5901.02 of the Revised Code,	128
and to others, upon request;	129
(H) Establishing regularly scheduled transportation for	130
veterans to and from veterans administration medical centers	131
whose districts the county is within, through contractual	132
agreements or through other arrangements determined by the	133
commission to be most cost-effective;	134
(I) Participating in appropriate memorial and	135
commemorative activities to help promote patriotism and veterans	136

services;	137
(J) Taking any other actions required by this chapter.	138
Section 2. That existing sections 5901.02 and 5901.03 of	139
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	140