

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020**

**S. B. No. 213**

**Senator Brenner**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 5901.02, 5901.03, and 5901.05 and 1  
to enact section 5901.10 of the Revised Code to 2  
modify Veterans Service Commission Law and to 3  
mandate each county veterans service commission 4  
to establish a veterans service committee. 5

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

**Section 1.** That sections 5901.02, 5901.03, and 5901.05 be 6  
amended and section 5901.10 of the Revised Code be enacted to 7  
read as follows: 8

**Sec. 5901.02.** (A) In each county there shall be a 9  
commission known as "the veterans service commission." Except as 10  
provided in section 5901.021 of the Revised Code, the commission 11  
shall be composed of ~~five~~nine residents of the county appointed 12  
to ~~five-year~~three-year terms by a judge of the court of common 13  
pleas. The board of county commissioners shall oversee the 14  
administration and operation of the veterans service commission. 15

At the time of appointment or reappointment to the 16  
veterans service commission, no commission member appointed 17  
under this section shall be an employee of the commission or 18  
hold an elective or other appointive office of the county served 19

by the commission. 20

Each member of the commission appointed under this section 21  
shall be an honorably discharged or honorably separated veteran. 22  
Within sixty days after the date of appointment, each such 23  
member shall file the member's form DD214 with the department of 24  
veterans services in accordance with guidelines established by 25  
the director of that department. Such appointments shall be made 26  
~~from lists of recommended persons,~~ in the manner ~~manner~~ 27  
specified in the following paragraph divisions (B) and (C) of 28  
this section. 29

(B) (1) A judge of the court of common pleas shall appoint 30  
five persons to serve on the commission. One person shall be a 31  
representative recommended by the American Legion; one person 32  
shall be a representative recommended by the Veterans of Foreign 33  
Wars; one person shall be a representative recommended by the 34  
Disabled American Veterans; one person shall be a representative 35  
recommended by the AMVETS; and one person shall be a 36  
representative recommended by the Military Order of the Purple 37  
Heart of the U.S.A., the Vietnam Veterans of America, or the 38  
Korean War Veterans Association. If any such organization has no 39  
post or chapter located in the county, the appointment shall be 40  
made from lists of recommended persons submitted by posts or 41  
chapters of any other congressionally chartered veterans 42  
organizations located in the county. If no such other 43  
organizations have posts or chapters located in the county, the 44  
appointing judge ~~responsible for making appointments under this~~ 45  
~~section~~ may appoint any qualified veteran to represent the 46  
veteran community. 47

(2) On or before the fifteenth day of October of each 48  
year, the appointing judge shall notify each post or chapter of 49

each organization within the county from which the member may or 50  
must be appointed that it may submit a list containing three 51  
recommendations of persons who are eligible for appointment. If 52  
the judge does not receive any recommendations within sixty days 53  
after providing the required notification, the judge may appoint 54  
any qualified veteran to represent the veteran community. 55

~~The~~ (C) In addition to the persons appointed under 56  
division (B) of this section, a judge of the court of common 57  
pleas shall appoint four persons to serve on the commission. The 58  
judge may appoint any qualified veteran to represent the veteran 59  
community, provided that at least one of the appointments is 60  
female if a qualified female is available, and is willing and 61  
able to serve. Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, not 62  
later than sixty days after the effective date of this 63  
amendment, the appointing judge initially shall appoint two 64  
persons to one-year terms, one person to a two-year term, and 65  
one person to a three-year term. Thereafter all appointments 66  
shall be for three-year terms. 67

(D) Except for initial appointments, the appointing judge 68  
shall make the appointment appointments required under divisions 69  
(B) and (C) of this section on or before the fifteenth day of 70  
January of each year. Any vacancy in a membership appointed 71  
under this section shall be filled in the same manner as the 72  
original appointments. 73

~~Beginning in the year 2000, appointment of members to the~~ 74  
~~commission under this section shall be made as follows:~~ 75

~~(A) Appointments for members to represent the American~~ 76  
~~Legion shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in~~ 77  
~~zero and five.~~ 78

~~(B) Appointments for members to represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in one and six.~~ 79  
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~~(C) Appointments for members to represent the Disabled American Veterans shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in two and seven.~~ 82  
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~~(D) Appointments for members to represent the AMVETS shall be made for terms to commence in years ending in three and eight.~~ 85  
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~~(E) 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 for terms to commence in years ending in four and nine.~~ 88  
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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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The appointing authority judge shall remove a member who fails to maintain certification in accordance with section 5902.02 of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder or whose certification is revoked by the director of veterans services. 95  
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(F) Meetings of a veterans service commission shall comply with section 121.22 of the Revised Code, and shall follow a recognized manual of parliamentary procedure, such as Robert's Rules of Order. 100  
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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 104  
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cause, any member of the commission appointed under section 108  
5901.02 of the Revised Code, and shall fill vacancies occurring 109  
among memberships appointed under that section for the unexpired 110  
terms in the manner provided for the original appointments. 111

The commission's duties shall include but are not limited 112  
to the following: 113

(A) Employing such staff as are necessary to carry out the 114  
commission's duties, and fixing their compensation; 115

(B) Establishing policies and procedures for the 116  
administration of the commission and the veterans service 117  
office; 118

(C) Establishing policies and procedures for the 119  
administration of assistance as provided under this chapter; 120

(D) Causing the budgets of the veterans service commission 121  
and veterans service office to be presented to the board of 122  
county commissioners for approval; 123

(E) Establishing programs of outreach and coordination 124  
with other agencies to enhance available services to veterans 125  
within the county; 126

(F) Promoting, monitoring, and providing funding for 127  
ongoing education and training for veterans service 128  
commissioners and staff; 129

(G) Making reports to the organizations represented on the 130  
commission, as provided in section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, 131  
and to others, upon request; 132

(H) Establishing regularly scheduled transportation for 133  
veterans to and from veterans administration medical centers 134  
whose districts the county is within, through contractual 135

agreements or through other arrangements determined by the 136  
commission to be most cost-effective~~r~~. The regularly scheduled 137  
transportation shall be available not less than five days each 138  
calendar week and shall provide transportation to a veterans 139  
administration medical center of the veteran's choosing, 140  
provided that the district of the center is within the county. 141

(I) Participating in appropriate memorial and 142  
commemorative activities to help promote patriotism and veterans 143  
services; 144

(J) Taking any other actions required by this chapter. 145

**Sec. 5901.05.** ~~On the first Monday of January in each year,~~ 146  
~~the~~ A veterans service commission may appoint shall create for 147  
the county a veterans service committee, consisting of ~~at least~~ 148  
~~three~~ six persons who are residents of the county, whose duties 149  
shall be set forth by the commission. The veterans service 150  
commission shall appoint three persons to the committee and the 151  
board of county commissioners shall appoint three persons to the 152  
committee. Such persons shall be veterans, one of whom shall be 153  
designated, by the veterans service commission, as chairperson 154  
of the county veterans service committee. Appointments to the 155  
committee shall be made on or before the fifteenth day of 156  
January of each year for terms that expire at the end of the 157  
thirty-first day of December of that calendar year. Persons may 158  
be reappointed to the committee. The commission or board shall 159  
fill all vacancies that occur in any such committee, and may 160  
remove any member of a committee, who was appointed by the 161  
commission or board, for cause. 162

Meetings of a veterans service committee shall comply with 163  
section 121.22 of the Revised Code, and shall follow a 164  
recognized manual of parliamentary procedure, such as Robert's 165

Rules of Order. 166

Sec. 5901.10. The office in each county, which is used by 167  
county veterans service officers, shall be open to the public 168  
every Monday through Saturday, except for legal holidays as 169  
defined in section 1.14 of the Revised Code, and shall not close 170  
before five p.m. on those days. 171

**Section 2.** That existing sections 5901.02, 5901.03, and 172  
5901.05 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 173

**Section 3.** A person who is serving as a member of a county 174  
veterans service commission upon the effective date of this act, 175  
appointed under section 5901.02 of the Revised Code, shall 176  
complete the five-year term to which the individual was 177  
appointed. Subsequent appointments shall be made for three-year 178  
terms in accordance with section 5901.02 of the Revised Code as 179  
amended in this act. 180

**Section 4.** Not later than sixty days after the effective 181  
date of this act, a board of county commissioners shall make 182  
initial appointments to a veterans service committee under 183  
section 5901.05 of the Revised Code that is in existence on that 184  
day. Or, if a committee is not in existence on that day, a 185  
veterans service commission and a board of county commissioners 186  
shall make initial appointments to a committee. Such 187  
appointments shall be for a term that expires at the end of the 188  
thirty-first day of December of the calendar year in which the 189  
appointment was made. Persons may be reappointed to the 190  
committee. 191