

**As Introduced**

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

**H. B. No. 69**

**Representatives Stewart, Willis**

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**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
<b>Section 2.</b> That existing sections 5901.02 and 5901.03 of	139
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	140