

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 86

By: Simpson of the Senate

3 and

4 Miller of the House

5
6 An Act relating to veterans; amending 72 O.S. 2011,
7 Section 63.2, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter
8 262, O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 63.2),
9 which relates to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission;
10 modifying membership criteria of Commission;
11 providing an effective date; and declaring an
12 emergency.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.2, as
15 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 262, O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp.
16 2020, Section 63.2), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 63.2. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall consist of
18 nine (9) members. ~~At least eight (8) members~~ all of whom shall be
19 honorably discharged veterans; provided, ~~three~~ one of the members
20 shall be ~~veterans~~ a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict and ~~one~~ two
21 shall be ~~a veteran~~ veterans of the Persian Gulf Wars. The members
22 shall be selected in the following manner: The state executive
23 board or committees of the veterans' organizations named in this
24 ~~(5)~~ persons qualified to serve as members of the Oklahoma Veterans

1 Commission. All appointments shall be broadly representative of the
2 veterans of this state in terms of age, gender, and race or
3 ethnicity. The list shall be submitted to the Governor not later
4 than three (3) months prior to the expiration of the terms of office
5 of the members of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission. The Governor
6 shall name one member from each of the following Veterans' groups:
7 the American Legion; the Veterans of Foreign ~~wars~~ Wars; the Disabled
8 American Veterans; the Paralyzed Veterans of America; the Military
9 Order of the Purple Heart; and the National Guard Association of
10 Oklahoma. The members representing the American Legion and the
11 Paralyzed Veterans of America shall take office no later than July
12 1, 2015. The members representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and
13 the Military Order of the Purple Heart shall take office no later
14 than July 1, 2016. The members representing the Disabled American
15 Veterans and the ~~Oklahoma~~ National Guard Association of Oklahoma
16 shall take office no later than July 1, 2017. The Governor shall
17 also appoint three members at large, ~~one of whom may be a nonveteran~~
18 ~~and shall have a family member residing in a state veteran center,~~
19 ~~one to be appointed 2015, one to be appointed in 2016, and one to be~~
20 ~~appointed in 2017.~~

21 The executive officer of each veterans' organization operating
22 within ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this state shall, on or before January
23 1 of the year in which the organization's appointee's term expires,
24 submit to the Secretary of State, the Governor, the President Pro

1 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives a copy of the performance audit and the financial
3 audit of the organization for the immediately preceding fiscal year
4 of the organization. Such audits shall be conducted in accordance
5 with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and
6 shall clearly show the total paid membership of the organization and
7 shall be certified to by a certified public accountant. Failure to
8 comply with this section shall render the organization ineligible to
9 submit a nominee to the Governor. The members of the Commission
10 shall be appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the
11 Senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. When a
12 vacancy on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission occurs, the organization
13 which is represented by the vacant position shall submit a list of
14 five ~~(5)~~ names to the Governor. The Governor shall choose a
15 replacement from that list. No person shall be appointed by the
16 Governor who is related by affinity or consanguinity within the
17 third degree to any person employed by the Oklahoma Department of
18 Veterans Affairs.

19 Before any member appointed as provided herein shall enter upon
20 his or her duties as a member of the Commission, he or she shall
21 take and subscribe to the oath of office as required by the
22 Constitution of this state.

23 Present members of the Commission shall continue in office until
24 the expiration of their terms and until their successors are

1 appointed and enter upon the duties of their offices. Appointments
2 shall be made for a three-year period. Any vacancy on the
3 Commission resulting from any cause shall be filled by appointment
4 by the Governor for the remainder of the term as provided in this
5 section.

6 No member of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall be employed
7 by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs during the time of
8 his or her service on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission nor shall any
9 person who served as a member of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission be
10 employed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs subsequent
11 to his or her service on the Commission for a period of two (2)
12 years.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

14 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
15 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
16 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
17 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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1 Passed the Senate the 9th day of March, 2021.

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3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2021.

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8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives