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S.B. 259
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hoagland

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SUMMARY

- Adds a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America to the Veterans Advisory Committee.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Veterans Advisory Committee

The bill requires the Director of Veterans Services to include a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, who is a resident of Ohio, on the Veterans Advisory Committee. Under continuing law, the Veterans Advisory Committee advises and assists the Department of Veterans Services in the Department's duties. The Department must submit to the Veterans Advisory Committee proposed rules for the Committee's operation. The Committee may review and revise these proposed rules before submitting them to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

The Veterans Advisory Committee currently is comprised of the following members:¹

- A member of the National Guard Association of the United States who is a resident of Ohio;
- A member of the Military Officers Association of America who is a resident of Ohio;
- A state representative of the congressionally chartered veterans organizations referred to in R.C. 5901.02, which are:
 - American Legion;

¹ See also the [list of the membership of the Ohio veterans advisory committee](#), available on the Ohio Departments of Veterans Services' website: <https://dvs.ohio.gov/home>.

- Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- Disabled American Veterans;
- AMVETS;
- Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A.;
- Vietnam Veterans of America;
- Korean War Veterans Association.
- A representative of any other congressionally chartered state veterans organization that has at least one veterans service commissioner in Ohio;²
- Three representatives of the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Commissioners (who have a combined vote of one);
- Three representatives of the State Association of County Veterans Service Officers (who have a combined vote of one);
- A representative of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (who shall be a county commissioner not from the same county as any of the other county representatives);
- A representative of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans;
- A representative of a labor organization;
- A representative of the Office of the Attorney General.

As mentioned above, under current law, the Veterans Advisory Committee must include a representative of any congressionally chartered “state veterans organization” that has at least one veterans service commissioner in Ohio. Paralyzed Veterans of America is a congressionally chartered veterans service organization.³ Therefore, under current law, the Veterans Advisory Committee must only include a representative of Paralyzed Veterans of America if a member of the organization is currently serving as a veterans service commissioner in Ohio. The bill requires that Paralyzed Veterans of America be represented on the Veterans Advisory

² Currently, the Veterans Advisory Committee includes a member of each of the following: Army and Navy Union, U.S.A.; Catholic War Veterans of U.S.A.; Jewish War Veterans of U.S.A.; and Marine Corps League. The Congressional Research Service has composed a resource on veterans service organizations, entitled [Veterans Service Organizations \(VSOs\): Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#), available on the Congressional Research Service’s website: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/>.

³ The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has compiled a directory of veterans and military service organizations, entitled [Veterans and Military Service Organizations \(PDF\)](#). Paralyzed Veterans of America is discussed on page 27 of the document.

Committee regardless of whether a member of Paralyzed Veterans of America is currently serving as a veterans service commissioner in Ohio.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-02-21
Reported, S. Veterans and Public Safety	03-30-22
Passed Senate (32-0)	04-06-22

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⁴ R.C. 5902.02.