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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 69
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stewart and Willis

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SUMMARY

- Requires each county veterans' service commission to include at least two members who served in the military after September 11, 2001.
- Requires one member of each county veterans' service commission to be appointed by the board of county commissioners.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Veterans service commission composition

The bill alters how the veterans' service commission of each county must be constituted. Under continuing law, each commission must be composed of five residents of the county who are honorably discharged or honorably separated veterans.¹

The bill requires that, not later than January 15, 2024 (a date after any necessary appointments for years 2023 and 2024), a veterans' service commission must consist of at least two members who served in the military after September 11, 2001. The bill requires that the appointing authority, before making an appointment, ascertain the current composition of a commission to determine if appointment of a person who served in the military after September 11, 2001, is necessary to comply with the bill.²

Appointment authority

Current law requires all five members to be appointed by a judge of the court of common pleas from lists of recommended persons. The lists are provided to the judge by

¹ R.C. 5901.02(A).

² R.C. 5901.02(C).

various veterans' organizations.³ The bill requires that a list provided by a veterans' organization include at least one person who served in the military after September 11, 2001.

The bill transfers appointment authority, for one of the five positions on each veterans' service commission, from the judge of the court of commons pleas to the board of commissioners of the county. Under the bill, 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, must be made by the board.⁴

Exception

Continuing law provides an exception to the requirement that appointments to veterans' service commissions be made from lists of recommended persons. If the appointing authority does not receive recommendations within the required time frame, which under the bill would include recommendations of persons who served in the military after September 11, 2001, the appointing authority may appoint any qualified veteran to the county veterans' service commission.⁵

Re-codification

Under continuing law, an appointing authority may remove, for cause, any member of the veterans' service commission, and must fill vacancies occurring among membership in the manner provided for the original appointments. This provision of existing law has been re-codified in the bill for clarity.⁶

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 02-27-23 |

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³ R.C. 5901.02(B); ((1) The American Legion, (2) the Veterans of Foreign Wars, (3) the Disabled American Veterans, (4) the AMVETS, and (5) the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., the Vietnam Veterans of America, or the Korean War Veterans Association).

⁴ R.C. 5901.02(E)(5).

⁵ R.C. 5901.02(D).

⁶ R.C. 5901.02(F) and 5901.03.