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S.B. 259
134th General Assembly

Final Analysis

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Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hoagland

Effective date: March 14, 2023

Daniel DeSantis, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

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

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Veterans Advisory Committee

The act 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 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.¹ Therefore, the Committee had to include a representative of Paralyzed Veterans of America only if a member of that organization was serving as a veterans service commissioner in Ohio. The act requires that Paralyzed Veterans of America be represented on the Veterans Advisory Committee regardless of whether a member is currently serving as a veterans service commissioner in Ohio.²

The Veterans Advisory Committee advises and assists the Department of Veterans Services in the Department’s duties. The Department must submit to the 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.

¹ The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has compiled a [list of accredited veterans service organizations](#), which includes Paralyzed Veterans of America, and which is available on the Department’s website: [va.gov](#).

² R.C. 5902.02.

The Veterans Advisory Committee is comprised of the following members:³

- 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;
 - 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;⁴
- 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 must 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.

³ See also the [list of the membership of the Ohio Veterans Advisory Committee](#), available on the Ohio Department of Veterans Services' website: dvs.ohio.gov.

⁴ 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 \(PDF\)](#), updated November 1, 2022, which is available on the Congressional Research Service's website: crsreports.congress.gov.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-02-21
Reported, S. Veterans and Public Safety	03-30-22
Passed Senate (32-0)	04-06-22
Reported, H. Armed Services and Veterans Affairs	12-01-22
Passed House (77-1)	12-01-22
