

SENATE BILL NO. 58—COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises various provisions relating to veterans.
(BDR 37-124)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to veterans; revising provisions governing the membership of the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs, the Nevada Veterans Services Commission and certain Advisory Committees; revising provisions relating to the service organizations which the Director and the Deputy Director of the Department of Veterans Services are required to aid and assist; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law creates the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs and requires
2 the Council to perform various duties relating to the needs of veterans, service
3 members and their families. (NRS 417.0191, 417.0195) The Council consists of the
4 heads of various state agencies and other persons appointed by the Governor. (NRS
5 417.0191) **Section 1** of this bill adds the Administrator of the Division of Human
6 Resource Management of the Department of Administration as a member of the
7 Council.

8 Under existing law, the Director and the Deputy Director are required to aid,
9 assist, encourage and cooperate with every nationally recognized service
10 organization with respect to activities that benefit veterans, servicemen and
11 servicewomen. (NRS 417.090) **Section 2** of this bill extends this duty to such
12 service organizations recognized in Nevada.

13 Under existing law, the Nevada Veterans Services Commission was also
14 created to perform various duties relating to veterans. (NRS 417.147, 417.150,
15 417.190, 417.400) The Commission consists of nine members, including five
16 members who are representatives of nationally recognized veterans’ organizations.
17 (NRS 417.150) **Section 3** of this bill increases the number of members on the
18 Commission to 11, by adding a member who is also a member of the Women



19 Veterans Advisory Committee and a member who is a student veteran pursuing a
20 baccalaureate or higher degree in Nevada. **Section 3** also authorizes the
21 appointment of representatives of veterans' organizations recognized in Nevada as
22 Commission members who are required to be representatives of veterans'
23 organizations.

24 The Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Northern Nevada and the
25 Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Southern Nevada were created
26 under existing law to consult with the Director of the Department of Veterans
27 Services regarding the establishment, maintenance and operation of those veterans
28 cemeteries. (NRS 417.230) Five of the seven members of each Advisory
29 Committee are required to be from veterans' organizations in this State and one
30 such member of each Advisory Committee serves on the Nevada Veterans Services
31 Commission. (NRS 417.150, 417.230) **Section 4** of this bill clarifies that the
32 veterans' organizations from which those members of the Advisory Committees are
33 appointed are organizations that are recognized nationally and in this State.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 417.0191 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 417.0191 1. The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs is
4 hereby created. The Council consists of:

- 5 (a) The Director of the Department of Business and Industry;
- 6 (b) The Director of the Department of Corrections;
- 7 (c) The Director of the Department of Employment, Training
8 and Rehabilitation;
- 9 (d) The Director of the Department of Health and Human
10 Services;
- 11 (e) The Director of the Department of Public Safety;
- 12 (f) The Director of the Department of Veterans Services;
- 13 (g) The Adjutant General;
- 14 (h) The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education;
- 15 (i) The Executive Director of the Office of Economic
16 Development;
- 17 (j) The Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission;
- 18 ~~and~~
- 19 (k) *The Administrator of the Division of Human Resource
20 Management of the Department of Administration; and*
21 (l) Any other persons appointed by the Governor, including,
22 without limitation, representatives of federal and local governmental
23 agencies and private entities that provide services to veterans.
24 Members appointed pursuant to this paragraph serve at the pleasure
25 of the Governor.

26 2. A member of the Council may designate a person to
27 represent him or her at any meeting of the Council. The person



1 designated may exercise all the duties, rights and privileges of the
2 member that he or she represents.

3 **Sec. 2.** NRS 417.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 417.090 The Director and the Deputy Director shall:

5 1. Assist veterans, and those presently serving in the military
6 and naval forces of the United States who are residents of the State
7 of Nevada, their wives, widows, widowers, husbands, children,
8 dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives,
9 in preparing, submitting and presenting any claim against the United
10 States, or any state, for adjusted compensation, hospitalization,
11 insurance, pension, disability compensation, vocational training,
12 education or rehabilitation and assist them in obtaining any aid or
13 benefit to which they may, from time to time, be entitled under the
14 laws of the United States or of any of the states.

15 2. Aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every ~~nationally~~
16 ~~recognized~~ service organization *recognized nationally or in this*
17 *State* insofar as the activities of such organizations are for the
18 benefit of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen.

19 3. Give aid, assistance and counsel to each and every problem,
20 question and situation, individual as well as collective, affecting any
21 veteran, serviceman or servicewoman, or their dependents, or any
22 group of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen, when in their
23 opinion such comes within the scope of this chapter.

24 4. Coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.

25 5. Serve as a clearinghouse and disseminate information
26 relating to veterans' benefits.

27 6. Conduct any studies which will assist veterans to obtain
28 compensation, hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability
29 compensation, vocational training, education, rehabilitation or any
30 other benefit to which veterans may be entitled under the laws of the
31 United States or of any state.

32 7. Aid, assist and cooperate with the office of coordinator of
33 services for veterans created in a county pursuant to NRS 244.401.

34 8. Pay to each county that creates the office of coordinator of
35 services for veterans, from state money available to him or her, a
36 portion of the cost of operating the office in an amount determined
37 by the Director.

38 9. Take possession of any abandoned or unclaimed artifacts or
39 other property that has military value for safekeeping. The Director
40 or Deputy Director may transfer such property to a veterans' or
41 military museum.

42 **Sec. 3.** NRS 417.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 417.150 1. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission,
44 consisting of ~~nine~~ *11* members, is hereby created.

45 2. The Governor shall appoint:



1 (a) Three members who are representatives of ~~internationally~~
2 ~~recognized~~ veterans' organizations *recognized nationally or in this*
3 *State* and who possess honorable discharges from some branch of
4 the military and naval service of the United States.

5 (b) *One member who is a member of the Women Veterans*
6 *Advisory Committee created by NRS 417.320.*

7 (c) *One member who is enrolled as a student at an institution*
8 *of higher education in this State in a program for a baccalaureate*
9 *or higher degree and who possesses an honorable discharge from*
10 *some branch of the military and naval service of the United States.*

11 (d) Two members who are representatives of the general public.

12 3. The Chair of the Advisory Committee for a Veterans
13 Cemetery in Northern Nevada and the Chair of the Advisory
14 Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Southern Nevada shall each
15 appoint one member from their respective committees to serve as a
16 member of the Commission. Each member so appointed must be a
17 representative of a ~~internationally recognized~~ veterans' organization
18 *recognized nationally or in this State* and possess an honorable
19 discharge from some branch of the military and naval service of the
20 United States.

21 4. The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint one member
22 of the Senate to serve as a member of the Commission.

23 5. The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint one member of
24 the Assembly to serve as a member of the Commission.

25 6. The Governor may remove a member of the Commission at
26 any time for failure to perform his or her duties, malfeasance or
27 other good cause.

28 7. The term of office of each member is 2 years.

29 8. If a vacancy occurs in the membership of those members
30 appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2, the Governor
31 shall fill the vacancy from among the names of qualified nominees
32 provided to the Governor in writing by the Director.

33 **Sec. 4.** NRS 417.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 417.230 1. There are hereby created the Advisory Committee
35 for a Veterans Cemetery in Northern Nevada and the Advisory
36 Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Southern Nevada, each
37 consisting of seven members as follows:

38 (a) One member of the Senate, appointed by the Majority Leader
39 of the Senate.

40 (b) One member of the Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of
41 the Assembly.

42 (c) Five members of veterans' organizations *recognized*
43 *nationally or* in this State, appointed by the Governor.

44 2. The members of the Committees shall serve terms of 2
45 years.



- 1 3. Each Committee shall annually elect a Chair and a Vice
2 Chair from among its members.
- 3 4. Each Committee shall meet at least 4 times a year.
- 4 5. Any legislative member of a Committee who is not a
5 candidate for reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues
6 to serve after the general election until the next regular or special
7 session of the Legislature convenes.
- 8 6. While engaged in the work of the Committee, each member
9 of each Committee is entitled to receive the per diem allowances
10 and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees
11 generally.
- 12 7. The Director shall consult with each Committee regarding
13 the establishment, maintenance and operation of the veterans'
14 cemetery for which the Committee was created.
- 15 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

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