



S.B. 149

125th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Dann, Zurz, Stivers, Schuring, Fingerhut

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs to develop the Ohio Veterans Legion of Honor Program.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Existing law

Under current law, the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs is required to provide a number of services to assist the county veterans service commissions throughout the state, veterans and their family members, and others in obtaining information about laws, services, and programs available to assist veterans. Current law also sets forth specified duties for the Director of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs. Among other duties specified, the Director must provide information, assist the public in obtaining vital statistics pertaining to veterans or their dependents, adopt rules pertaining to minimum qualifications for and required duties of county veterans service officers, develop and monitor a variety of programs and agreements to assist veterans and county veterans service commissions, establish a veterans advisory committee, and receive discharge papers for veterans service commission members. (Sec. 5902.02.)

Changes proposed by the bill

The bill requires the Director of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs to develop the Ohio Veterans Legion of Honor Program to recognize and commemorate Ohio's honorably discharged or separated veterans who served an active duty, deceased veterans who died on active duty, and members of the uniformed services who are listed as missing in action (hereafter, "veterans"). The Program must allow veterans who are Ohio residents or the spouse, adult child, or parent of an Ohio resident veteran who is deceased or listed as missing in action to apply to the applicant's county veterans service commission for a Veterans Legion of Honor certificate. The Director may adopt rules under the Administrative

Procedure Act as necessary to implement the Program. (Secs. 5902.02(N) and 5902.09(A),(B), and (C).)

An applicant must provide proof of active duty service and honorable discharge or honorable separation from the uniformed services, proof of death on active duty, or proof of the missing in action status of the veteran. The Veterans Legion of Honor certificate must be issued by the appropriate county veterans service commission upon the submission of such proof and compliance with any other requirements the Director may establish for the issuance of a certificate. (Sec. 5902.09(B).) See **COMMENT**.

COMMENT

Under existing law, the Director is prohibited from receiving a fee or reward of any kind for rendering any service related to the duties specified by law (sec. 5902.08). This prohibition would extend to the new duties imposed on the Director by the bill.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
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