



**Sub. S.B. 277**

125th General Assembly  
(As Passed by the Senate)

**Sens. Spada, White, Harris, Wachtmann, Armbruster, Goodman, Mumper, Austria, Stivers, Amstutz, Carey, Fingerhut, Prentiss, Padgett, Miller, Mallory, Fedor, Jordan, Schuler, Schuring**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Creates in statute the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame to recognize the post-military achievements of outstanding veterans.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

The Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs and the Ohio Veterans' Home Agency administer an Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame established in 1992. Current law permits the Ohio Veterans' Home Agency to disburse donations made for the purpose of events sponsored by the Hall of Fame from residents' benefit funds that veterans' homes may establish. (R.C. 5907.11.)

The bill establishes the Hall of Fame in statute, and requires it to recognize the post-military achievements of outstanding veterans and spotlight all veterans' contributions to the civilian workplace. The Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs is required to serve as the Hall of Fame's administrative agent. Additionally, the Hall of Fame is to have an executive committee composed of 13 members, all of whom must be veterans. The bill requires each of the following entities to appoint one member of the executive committee: the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Foundation, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the AMVETS, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the American Legion. The Director of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs is to serve as an ex officio member. And, the remaining four members are to be appointed by the executive committee, as follows:

--One must be from a veterans organization that is incorporated in Ohio and that is not otherwise represented on the executive committee;

--One must be an individual who was inducted into the Hall of Fame three years before the current fiscal year;

--One must be individual who was inducted into the Hall of Fame two years before the current fiscal year;

--One must be an individual inducted into the Hall of Fame one year before the current fiscal year (R.C. 5904.01(A) and (B)).

Terms of office of executive committee members are for three years, and members are prohibited from serving more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies in the membership are to be filled in the same manner as original appointments. The members are to serve without compensation, but are to be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The bill does not indicate the funding source for these reimbursements. (R.C. 5904.01(C) to (E).)

The bill requires the executive committee to elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from its membership and to meet annually to select inductees for the Hall of Fame from the persons nominated in a manner prescribed by the executive committee. State elected officials, members of the General Assembly, members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Foundation, members of the executive committee, members of the Governor's staff, members of the Hall of Fame staff, members of any county veterans service commission, and the Director of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs generally are not eligible for induction until two years after they have left their position. The executive committee may, however, waive the two-year requirement for nominees over age 70. (R.C. 5904.01(F) and (G).)

The names of the selected inductees are to be submitted to the Governor for final approval. That approval must be provided within 30 days. The Governor may reject any of the selected inductees for cause, but cannot add any names to the submitted list. (R.C. 5904.01(F).)

Lastly, the bill states that the executive committee is not subject to the Sunset Review Committee Law (R.C. 5904.01(H)).

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	10-26-04	p. 2228
Reported, S. Finance & Financial Institutions	11-17-04	pp. 2280-2281
Passed Senate (30-0)	11-17-04	pp. 2291-2292

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