



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Alyssa Bethel

H.B. 561

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Rep. Pillich

BILL SUMMARY

- Increases to seven the number of individuals who serve on a county veterans service commission by adding a member who is the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran and a member who is a veteran of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq conflicts.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Additional members of a county veterans service commission

The bill increases the number of individuals who serve on a county veterans service commission. Under continuing law, each county must have a veterans service commission to assist veterans and their dependents.¹ Currently, each commission consists of five members.² The bill increases the membership of each commission to seven.³ The additional members must be: (1) a spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran, and (2) a veteran of the conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq, including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

¹ R.C. 5901.02.

² R.C. 5901.02. In counties having a population of more than 500,000, a commission may create six additional members.

³ R.C. 5901.02.

Currently, all members of a commission must be veterans who were honorably discharged or honorably separated.⁴ The bill exempts from this requirement the member added by the bill who must be a spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran.

Under continuing law, members of a commission are appointed by a judge of the court of common pleas to five-year terms. The member who is a veteran of the conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq serves a term that commences in years ending in zero and five.⁵ The member who is a spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran serves a term that commences in years ending in one and six.⁶ Initial appointments must be made within 60 days after the effective date of the bill. The initial term of a member who is a veteran of the conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq ends January 1, 2015, and the initial term of a member who is a spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran ends January 1, 2016.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-22-14

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⁴ R.C. 5901.02 (first and second paragraphs).

⁵ R.C. 5901.02(F).

⁶ R.C. 5901.02(G).

