

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 241—ASSEMBLYMEN EDWARDS, ARMSTRONG,
KIRNER, ELLISON, ELLIOT ANDERSON; HAMBRICK,
HICKEY, MOORE, OSCARSON, STEWART AND TROWBRIDGE

MARCH 9, 2015

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR GOICOECHEA

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Creates the Advisory Military and Veterans
Research Committee. (BDR 36-579)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 the military; creating the Advisory Military and
Veterans Research Committee; authorizing the
Committee to research certain issues of concern to
veterans and members of the Armed Forces of the United
States; requiring the Committee to submit an annual
report; and providing other matters properly relating
thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 **Section 3** of this bill creates the Advisory Military and Veterans Research
2 Committee, provides for its membership and sets forth provisions regarding the
3 conduct of its business. **Section 4** of this bill authorizes the Committee to research
4 issues related to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and veterans
5 residing in this State including issues related to: (1) the pre- and post-deployment of
6 members of the Armed Forces of the United States to active conflict zones; (2) the
7 homelessness of veterans; (3) backlogs in the processing of claims by the
8 Department of Veterans Affairs in this State; (4) backlogs in the provision of
9 services at facilities operated by the Veterans Health Administration in this State;
10 and (5) mental health issues relating to members of the Armed Forces of the United
11 States and veterans. In addition, **section 4** requires the Committee to submit an
12 annual report to the Governor and Legislature. **Section 5** of this bill requires the
13 Office of the Military and the Department of Veterans Services to jointly provide
14 administrative assistance to the Committee.



* A B 2 4 1 *

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

Section 1. Chapter 417 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Committee" means the Advisory Military and Veterans Research Committee created by section 3 of this act.*

Sec. 3. 1. *The Advisory Military and Veterans Research Committee is hereby created consisting of the following twelve members:*

(a) Four members appointed by the Governor, at least three of whom must be former members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are now retired;

(b) One member who is a member of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(c) One member who is a member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(d) One member who is a member of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;

(e) One member who is a member of the Assembly appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly;

(f) The Attorney General, or his or her designee, as an ex officio member;

(g) The person who is appointed to the position commonly known as the Director of Military and Veterans Policy within the Office of the Governor, or his or her successor, as an ex officio member;

(h) The Commander of the Department of Nevada of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as an ex officio member; and

(i) The Commander of the Department of Nevada of the American Legion as an ex officio member.

2. The Governor shall annually select from the members of the Committee two members to serve as Chair and as Vice Chair.

3. After the initial terms, each member of the Committee appointed pursuant to paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive, of subsection 1 serves a term of 4 years.

4. If a vacancy occurs in the membership of a member appointed pursuant to paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive, of subsection 1, the applicable appointing authority shall appoint a new member to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.



1 5. *The Committee shall meet at least four times per year at*
2 *the call of the Chair.*

3 6. *A majority of the members of the Committee appointed*
4 *pursuant to paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive, of subsection 1*
5 *constitutes a quorum for the transaction of any business.*

6 7. *Each member of the Committee:*

7 (a) *Serves without compensation, except that a member of the*
8 *Committee who is a state officer or employee may receive his or*
9 *her regular compensation while engaging in the business of the*
10 *Committee; and*

11 (b) *While engaged in the business of the Committee, is entitled*
12 *to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for*
13 *state officers and employees generally.*

14 **Sec. 4. The Committee shall:**

15 1. *Work cooperatively with the Interagency Council on*
16 *Veterans Affairs to research issues related to members and*
17 *veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States residing in this*
18 *State, including, without limitation, issues related to:*

19 (a) *The pre- and post-deployment of such members of the*
20 *Armed Forces of the United States to active conflict zones;*

21 (b) *Homelessness among such veterans;*

22 (c) *Backlogs in the processing of claims by the Department of*
23 *Veterans Affairs in this State;*

24 (d) *Backlogs in the provision of services at facilities operated*
25 *by the Veterans Health Administration of the United States*
26 *Department of Veterans Affairs in this State; and*

27 (e) *Mental health issues relating to members of the Armed*
28 *Forces of the United States and veterans.*

29 2. *On or before February 15 of each year, submit a report*
30 *concerning the activities of the Committee during the preceding*
31 *calendar year and any recommendations of the Committee to the*
32 *Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for*
33 *transmittal to:*

34 (a) *If the Legislature is in session, the standing committees of*
35 *the Legislature which have jurisdiction over the subject matter; or*

36 (b) *If the Legislature is not in session, the Legislative*
37 *Commission.*

38 **Sec. 5. The Office of the Military and the Department of**
39 **Veterans Services shall jointly provide the Committee with:**

40 1. *Meeting rooms;*

41 2. *Staff assistance;*

42 3. *Data processing services; and*

43 4. *Clerical assistance.*

44 **Sec. 6.** NRS 417.0195 is hereby amended to read as follows:

45 417.0195 The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs shall:



1 1. Identify and prioritize the needs of veterans and servicemen
2 and servicewomen and their families in this State.

3 2. Study the coordination of the efforts of the Federal
4 Government, State Government, local governments and private
5 entities to meet the needs of veterans and servicemen and
6 servicewomen and their families in this State.

7 3. *Work with the Advisory Military and Veterans Research*
8 *Committee pursuant to section 4 of this act.*

9 4. On or before February 15 of each year, submit a report
10 concerning the activities of the Council during the preceding
11 calendar year and any recommendations of the Council to the
12 Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for
13 transmittal to:

14 (a) If the Legislature is in session, the standing committees of
15 the Legislature which have jurisdiction of the subject matter; or

16 (b) If the Legislature is not in session, the Legislative
17 Commission.

18 **Sec. 7.** The initial terms of the members of the Advisory
19 Military and Veterans Research Committee appointed pursuant to
20 paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive, of subsection 1 of section 3 of this
21 act are as follows:

22 1. Two of the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of
23 subsection 1 of that section shall serve an initial term of 4 years;

24 2. Two of the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of
25 subsection 1 of that section shall serve an initial term of 2 years;

26 3. The members appointed pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (d)
27 of subsection 1 of that section shall serve an initial term of 4 years;
28 and

29 4. The members appointed pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (e)
30 of subsection 1 of that section shall serve an initial term of 2 years.

31 **Sec. 8.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
32 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
33 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

34 **Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective upon:

35 1. Passage and approval for the purposes of adopting any
36 regulations or performing any preparatory administrative tasks that
37 are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

38 2. On October 1, 2015, for all other purposes.

