

Assembly Bill No. 241—Assemblymen Edwards, Armstrong, Kirner,  
Ellison, Elliot Anderson; Hambrick, Hickey, Moore,  
Oscarson, Stewart and Trowbridge

Joint Sponsor: Senator Goicoechea

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to the military; creating the Women Veterans Advisory Committee; setting forth the composition of the Committee; requiring the Committee to perform duties and conduct activities of concern to, and of assistance to, women veterans 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:**

**Section 5.3** of this bill creates the Women Veterans Advisory Committee and sets forth its membership. **Section 5.5** of this bill sets forth the duties of the Committee, including issues related to: (1) locating, educating and advocating for women veterans; (2) informing women veterans about available programs and benefits; (3) determining the unique needs of women veterans; (4) making recommendations on an annual basis to the Governor, the Nevada Legislature and the Director of the Department of Veterans Services; and (5) working cooperatively with the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs. In addition, **section 5.5** requires the Committee to submit an annual report to the Governor. **Section 5.7** of this bill requires the Department of Veterans Services to provide administrative assistance to the Committee.

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

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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 5.7, inclusive, of this act.

**Secs. 2-5.** (Deleted by amendment.)

**Sec. 5.1.** *As used in sections 5.1 to 5.7, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Committee" means the Women Veterans Advisory Committee created by section 5.3 of this act.*

**Sec. 5.2.** *The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:*

*1. Women make up 15 percent of the veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and continue to be an increasingly integral part of the operations of the Armed Forces of the United States around the world.*



2. Few studies have been conducted to determine and understand the unique challenges that women veterans may have, both postdeployment and following separation from active duty.

3. Many veterans who are women do not self-identify as veterans and may, therefore, fail to consider various programs and benefits that are available to them as a result of their military service.

**Sec. 5.3.** 1. The Women Veterans Advisory Committee is hereby created consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, at least three of whom must be women, and all of whom must be former members of the Armed Forces of the United States, including, without limitation, the Nevada Army National Guard and the Nevada Air National Guard, who received, upon severance from service, an honorable discharge. Each member serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

2. In making appointments pursuant to subsection 1, the Governor shall consider:

(a) The recommendations of the Director;

(b) Whether the appointments provide a geographical balance between the urban and rural areas of this State and represent the cultural diversity of this State; and

(c) The level of activity of the person in the veteran community.

3. The Committee shall elect a Chair from among its members.

4. After the initial terms, each member of the Committee appointed pursuant to subsection 1 serves a term of 4 years.

5. A vacancy on the Committee must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

6. The Committee shall meet at least four times per year at the call of the Chair.

7. A majority of the members of the Committee appointed pursuant to subsection 1 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

8. Each member of the Committee:

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

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



**Sec. 5.5. *The Committee shall:***

**1. *Support and assist the Department in:***

*(a) Locating, educating and advocating for all women veterans in this State;*

*(b) Determining the unique needs of women veterans;*

*(c) Conducting outreach and education through various means, including, without limitation, the Green Zone Network, the organization of statewide women veterans events, the promotion of benefits and superior health care for women veterans and the development of programs that inform pupils, business leaders and educators about the important role women play in the Armed Forces of the United States;*

*(d) Educating women veterans as to benefits and programs that are available to them;*

*(e) At least annually, making such recommendations as may be deemed necessary or advisable to the Governor, the Nevada Legislature, the office of the Director of the Department of Veterans Services and such other offices of this State as may be appropriate; and*

*(f) Advocating on behalf of women veterans to ensure that the programs and policies of this State and of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs remain open to women and mindful of the elements of the experience of a veteran that are unique to women.*

**2. *Work cooperatively with the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs and make recommendations concerning the needs of, and resources available to, women veterans.***

**3. *On or before February 15 of each year, submit a report concerning the activities of the Committee during the preceding calendar year and any recommendations of the Committee to the Governor. The report must include, without limitation, information pertaining to:***

*(a) The demographics of women veterans.*

*(b) The contributions that women veterans have made on behalf of the United States and this State.*

*(c) The unique needs of the population of women veterans.*

*(d) Steps taken to reduce misinformation and improve support for programs for women veterans.*

**Sec. 5.7. *The Department shall provide the personnel, facilities, equipment and supplies required by the Committee.***

**Secs. 6 and 7. (Deleted by amendment.)**

**Sec. 7.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, the Governor shall, on or before July 1, 2015, appoint:**



1. Three of the members of the Women Veterans Advisory Committee, established by the Governor pursuant to Executive Order 2014-08, issued on March 13, 2014, to a term of office on the Women Veterans Advisory Committee created by section 5.3 of this act expiring on January 1, 2018.

2. Two of the members of the Women Veterans Advisory Committee, established by the Governor pursuant to Executive Order 2014-08, issued on March 13, 2014, to a term of office on the Women Veterans Advisory Committee created by section 5.3 of this act expiring on January 1, 2016.

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

**Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting any regulations or performing any preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and on October 1, 2015, for all other purposes.

