

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 36—COMMITTEE  
ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to veterans.  
(BDR 37-242)

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 veterans; adding certain members to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs; revising certain data submitted to the Council; removing a requirement that the Council develop and administer a fellowship program; revising the time period to which certain reports pertain; revising the duties of the Women Veterans Advisory Committee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law creates the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs, which is made up of certain heads of state agencies and any other persons appointed by the Governor. (NRS 417.0191) Existing law requires the Council to perform certain duties related to addressing the needs of and improving outcomes for veterans. (NRS 417.0195) **Section 1** of this bill adds the Attorney General, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation to the members of the Council.

Existing law requires certain state agencies and regulatory bodies to report certain data relating to service members, veterans and members of the Nevada National Guard to the Council for each fiscal year. (NRS 417.0194) **Section 2** of this bill requires the total number of veterans service officers reported by the Department of Veterans Services to include only veterans service officers employed by this state. **Section 2** also removes a requirement that the Adjutant General report the total number of members of the Nevada National Guard identified by Military Occupational Specialty and zip code. **Section 3** of this bill removes a requirement that the Council develop and administer a fellowship



program to increase research on improving outcomes for veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families.

Existing law requires the Council and the Nevada Veterans Services Commission to each prepare and submit a biennial report concerning their respective activities during the preceding 2 calendar years. (NRS 417.0195, 417.190) **Sections 3 and 4** of this bill instead require the Council and the Commission to prepare and submit such reports concerning their respective activities during the preceding 2 fiscal years.

Existing law requires the Women Veterans Advisory Committee to: (1) conduct certain outreach and education regarding women veterans; and (2) assist the Department of Veterans Services in making annual recommendations to the Governor, the Nevada Legislature, the office of the Director of the Department and other entities. Existing law also requires the Committee to prepare a biennial report concerning activities and recommendations of the Committee during the preceding 2 calendar years and to submit the report to the Governor, the Council and the Legislative Counsel Bureau. (NRS 417.330) **Section 5** of this bill: (1) makes certain revisions concerning the outreach conducted by the Committee; (2) removes the requirement for the Committee to assist the Department in making annual recommendations; (3) adds the Director of the Department to the list of entities which receive the biennial report; and (4) requires the biennial report to address the preceding 2 fiscal years, rather than the preceding 2 calendar years.

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

**Section 1.** NRS 417.0191 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.0191 1. The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs is hereby created. The Council consists of:

(a) The Director of the Department of Business and Industry;  
(b) The Director of the Department of Corrections;  
(c) The Director of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation;

(d) The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(e) The Director of the Department of Public Safety;

(f) The Director of the Department of Veterans Services;

(g) The Adjutant General;

(h) The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education;

(i) The Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development;

(j) The Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission;

(k) The Administrator of the Division of Human Resource Management of the Department of Administration; ~~and~~

(l) *The Attorney General;*

(m) *The Superintendent of Public Instruction;*

(n) *The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation; and*



(o) Any other persons appointed by the Governor, including, without limitation, representatives of federal and local governmental agencies and private entities that provide services to veterans. Members appointed pursuant to this paragraph serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

2. A member of the Council may designate a person to represent him or her at any meeting of the Council. The person designated may exercise all the duties, rights and privileges of the member that he or she represents.

**Sec. 2.** NRS 417.0194 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.0194 1. Each state agency and regulatory body identified in subsections 2 to 16, inclusive, shall report, subject to any limitations or restrictions contained in any state or federal law governing the privacy or confidentiality of records, the data identified in subsections 2 to 17, inclusive, as applicable, to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs. Each state agency and regulatory body shall submit such information for the immediately preceding fiscal year to the Council not later than November 30 of each year and shall provide the information in aggregate and in digital form, and in a manner such that the data is capable of integration by the Council.

2. The Department of Veterans Services shall provide annual statistics regarding:

(a) The distribution of expenditures in this State by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

(b) The number of veterans who receive care at a veterans' home operated by the State;

(c) The number of interments and other services provided by the veterans' cemeteries in this State;

(d) The total number of veterans service officers who are *employed by this State and* located in this State, by zip code;

(e) The number of claims filed on behalf of veterans and the family members of veterans by veterans service officers in this State;

(f) The amount of annual payments in the form of disability compensation and pension benefits made to veterans and the family members of veterans in this State as a result of claims filed by any veterans service officers employed or managed by the Department of Veterans Services;

(g) The number of persons who participate as advocates for veterans in this State in a volunteer program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Services, by zip code;

(h) The number of employers in this State who participate in a program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Services that facilitates the employment of veterans; and



(i) The number of events sponsored or supported by the Department of Veterans Services held in this State to provide outreach to veterans regarding benefits, claims and services, segregated by the geographical location of each event.

3. The Department of Administration shall provide:

(a) Descriptions of and the total amount of the grant dollars received for veteran-specific programs;

(b) The total combined number of veterans and, to the extent the information is available, widows and widowers of persons killed in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, who are employed by each agency in the State; and

(c) The total number of veterans with service-connected disabilities who are seeking preferences through the Purchasing Division and the State Public Works Division of the Department of Administration pursuant to NRS 333.3366 and 338.13844.

4. The State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall provide the total number of veterans receiving:

(a) Expedited certification for the grade I certification examination for wastewater treatment plant operators based on their military experience; and

(b) Any discounted fees for access to or the use of state parks.

5. The Department of Corrections shall provide:

(a) An annual overview of the monthly population of inmates in this State who are veterans; and

(b) The success rates for any efforts developed by the Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council.

6. The Office of Economic Development shall provide an overview of the workforce that is available statewide of veterans, organized by O\*NET-SOC code from the United States Department of Labor or the trade, job title, employment status, zip code, county, highest education level and driver's license class.

7. The Department of Education shall provide the distribution of dependents of service members enrolled in Nevada's public schools.

8. The Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation shall provide a summary of:

(a) The average number of veterans served by a veteran employment specialist of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation per week;

(b) The average number of initial and continuing claims for benefits filed per week by veterans pursuant to NRS 612.455 to 612.530, inclusive;

(c) The average weekly benefit received by veterans receiving benefits pursuant to chapter 612 of NRS; and



(d) The average duration of a claim by claimants who are veterans receiving benefits pursuant to chapter 612 of NRS.

9. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide:

(a) The total number of veterans who have applied for and received certification as an Emergency Medical Technician-B, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic through the State Emergency Medical Systems program; and

(b) A report from the State Registrar of Vital Statistics setting forth the suicide mortality rate of veterans in this State.

10. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall provide:

(a) The total number of veterans who have declared themselves as a veteran and who applied for and received a commercial driver's license;

(b) The average monthly total of veteran license plates issued; and

(c) An overview of the data on veterans collected pursuant to NRS 483.292, 483.852 and 483.927.

11. The Adjutant General shall provide the total number of:

(a) Members of the Nevada National Guard using waivers for each semester and identifying which schools accepted the waivers;

*and*

~~(b) [Members of the Nevada National Guard identified by Military Occupational Specialty and zip code; and~~

~~—(c)]~~ Members of the Nevada National Guard employed under a grant from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon.

12. The Department of Public Safety shall provide the percentage of veterans in each graduating class of its academy for training peace officers.

13. The Department of Taxation shall provide the total number of veterans receiving tax exemptions pursuant to NRS 361.090, 361.091, 361.155, 371.103 and 371.104.

14. The Department of Wildlife shall provide the total number of:

(a) Veterans holding hunting or fishing licenses based on disability; and

(b) Service members holding hunting or fishing licenses who are residents of this State but are stationed outside this State.

15. The Commission on Postsecondary Education shall provide, by industry, the total number of schools in this State approved by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs that are serving veterans.

16. Each regulatory body shall provide the total number of veterans and service members who have:

(a) Applied for a license from the regulatory body.



(b) Been issued a license by the regulatory body.

(c) Renewed a license with the regulatory body.

17. Each state agency and regulatory body identified in subsections 2 to 16, inclusive, shall ensure that the form used to collect data from a veteran, including, without limitation, a digital form posted on an Internet website, includes the following questions:

(a) “Have you ever served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and separated from such service under conditions other than dishonorable?”

(b) “Have you ever been assigned to duty for a minimum of 6 continuous years in the National Guard or a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States and separated from such service under conditions other than dishonorable?”

(c) “Have you ever served the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States in the capacity of a commissioned officer while on active duty in defense of the United States and separated from such service under conditions other than dishonorable?”

18. The Council shall, upon receiving the information submitted pursuant to this section and NRS 612.237, synthesize and compile the information, including any recommendations of the Council, and submit the information with the report submitted pursuant to subsection ~~18~~ 7 of NRS 417.0195.

19. As used in this section:

(a) “License” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 622.030.

(b) “Regulatory body” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 622.060.

(c) “Service member” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 125C.0635.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 417.0195 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.0195 The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs shall:

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

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

3. Develop and disseminate best practices for improving outcomes for veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families through policy recommendations at the state and local governmental levels.



4. Foster the development and dissemination of research and policy for improving outcomes for veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families.

~~5. [Develop and administer a fellowship program to increase research on improving outcomes for veterans and servicemen and servicewomen and their families, including, without limitation, in the areas of education, employment and wellness. The program must include, without limitation, publication of peer reviewed materials and an annual conference.~~

~~—6.]~~ Cultivate leadership opportunities for veterans.

~~[7.]~~ 6. Develop models for outreach to and engagement of veterans.

~~[8.]~~ 7. On or before February 15 of each even-numbered year, submit a report concerning the activities of the Council during the preceding 2 ~~[calendar]~~ *fiscal* years, including the information synthesized and compiled pursuant to NRS 417.0194, and any recommendations of the Council to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Commission.

**Sec. 4.** NRS 417.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.190 The Nevada Veterans Services Commission shall:

1. Advise the Director.

2. Prepare and submit a report, on or before February 15 of each even-numbered year, to the Governor, the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Commission. The report must, without limitation:

(a) Summarize the activities of the Commission during the preceding 2 ~~[calendar]~~ *fiscal* years.

(b) Make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature and the Director regarding issues relating to veterans.

3. Make recommendations to the Governor pursuant to NRS 417.400.

**Sec. 5.** NRS 417.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.330 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~~



1 ~~educators]~~ *the community* about the important role women play in  
2 the Armed Forces of the United States;

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

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

10 ~~—(f)]~~ Advocating on behalf of women veterans to ensure that the  
11 programs and policies of this State and of the United States  
12 Department of Veterans Affairs remain open to women and mindful  
13 of the elements of the experience of a veteran that are unique to  
14 women.

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

18 3. On or before February 15 of each even-numbered year,  
19 submit a report concerning the activities of the Committee during  
20 the preceding 2 ~~calendar~~ *fiscal* years and any recommendations of  
21 the Committee to the Governor, the Interagency Council on  
22 Veterans Affairs , *the Director of the Department of Veterans  
23 Services, any other offices of this State as may be appropriate* and  
24 the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the  
25 Legislative Commission. The report must include, without  
26 limitation, information pertaining to:

27 (a) The demographics of women veterans.

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

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

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

33 **Sec. 6.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do  
34 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a  
35 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

36 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

