

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 698

BY SENATORS WELD, LINDSAY, AND HAMILTON

[Introduced February 21, 2022; referred
to the Committee on Military]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §9A-1-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to the number and selection of members for the Governor's Veterans Council.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' ASSISTANCE.

§9A-1-2. Veterans' Council; administration of department.

1 (a) There is continued the "Veterans' Council" consisting of ~~nine~~ 11 members who must
 2 be citizens and residents of this state and who have served in and been honorably discharged or
 3 separated under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces of the United States and whose
 4 service was within a time of war as defined by the laws of the United States.

5 (b) ~~Where feasible, two members of the council shall be veterans of either World War II or~~
 6 ~~the Korean Conflict, at least two members of the council shall be veterans of the Vietnam era, at~~
 7 ~~least one member shall be a veteran of the first Gulf War and at least one member shall be a~~
 8 ~~veteran of the Afghanistan or Iraqi Conflicts~~ Where feasible, members of the council shall be
 9 veterans who are active in the veteran community and who have been recommended by a West
 10 Virginia veterans service organization, with consideration given to ensure a diverse representation
 11 of service branches in council membership. Additionally, no more than seven members of the
 12 council shall reside in any one congressional district. The members of the veterans' council shall
 13 be selected with special reference to their ability and fitness to effectuate the purposes of this
 14 article. If an eligible veteran is not available or cannot be selected, a veteran who is a citizen and
 15 resident of this state, who served in and was honorably discharged or separated under honorable
 16 conditions from the Armed Forces of the United States and who served during any time of war or
 17 peace may be selected.

18 (c) The secretary and such officers, assistants and employees as the secretary considers
 19 advisable, shall administer the West Virginia Department of Veterans' Assistance.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure Veterans' Council membership contains representatives from varying regions of the state as well as varying service branches.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.