

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 698

BY SENATORS WELD, LINDSAY, AND HAMILTON

[Originating in the Committee on Military; reported on

February 23, 2022]

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'~~ VETERANS ASSISTANCE.

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

1 (a) There is continued the "~~Veterans' Council~~" Veterans Council consisting of ~~nine~~ 11
2 members who must be citizens and residents of this state and who have served in and been
3 honorably discharged or separated under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces of the
4 United States₁ and whose service was within a time of war as defined by the laws of the United
5 States.

6 (b) ~~Where feasible, two members of the council shall be veterans of either World War II or~~
7 ~~the Korean Conflict, at least two members of the council shall be veterans of the Vietnam era, at~~
8 ~~least one member shall be a veteran of the first Gulf War and at least one member shall be a~~
9 ~~veteran of the Afghanistan or Iraqi Conflicts~~ Where feasible, members of the council shall be
10 veterans who are active in the veteran community and who have been recommended by a West
11 Virginia veterans service organization, with consideration given to ensure a diverse representation
12 of service branches in council membership. Additionally, no more than seven members of the
13 council shall reside in any one congressional district. The members of the ~~veterans'~~ veterans
14 council shall be selected with special reference to their ability and fitness to effectuate the
15 purposes of this article. If an eligible veteran is not available or cannot be selected, a veteran who
16 is a citizen and resident of this state, who served in and was honorably discharged or separated
17 under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces of the United States₁ and who served during
18 any time of war or peace₁ may be selected.

19 (c) The secretary and such officers, assistants₁ and employees as the secretary considers
20 advisable, shall administer the West Virginia Department of ~~Veterans'~~ Veterans Assistance.