

**CHAPTER 10****(HB 309)**

AN ACT relating to veterans' affairs.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

Section 1. KRS 40.305 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) There is created a board to be known as the **Governor's** Advisory Board for Veterans' Affairs, which shall be attached to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- (2) The board shall be composed of the following:
  - (a) Seven (7) members appointed by the Governor;
  - (b) The executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs; and
  - (c) The adjutant general of the Commonwealth.
- (3) All board members appointed by the Governor shall serve until their successors are appointed, and all appointments shall be for three (3) years. It is further provided that the appointments shall be veterans with service during time of war or hostilities wherein American troops were engaged in conflict with an armed enemy. If practicable, the Governor, in making appointments to the board, shall give due consideration to a fair representation on the board of nationally recognized veterans' organizations active in Kentucky, based on size of the membership of such organizations in this state. The state headquarters of each major veterans' organization may, from time to time, submit a list of not more than three (3) names to the Governor from which list original appointments may be made and vacancies filled in his discretion.
- (4) Members of the board shall meet at least once every two (2) months at the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and at such other times as the chairman may designate, and the members shall decide as to the specific meeting date.
- (5) Members of the board shall be paid for the actual expenses incurred upon attendance of meetings of the board subject to the Finance and Administration Cabinet regulations.
- (6) At its first meeting the members of the board shall select a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary from among the *appointed* members.
- (7) ***The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide administrative support to the board.***
- (8) The board shall advise the commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs ***and the Governor*** on the administration of veterans' services programs.
- ~~(9)(8)~~ The commissioner shall advise the Governor on matters relating to veterans' affairs.
- ~~(10)(9)~~ The commissioner ***and the board*** shall advise the General Assembly on matters relating to veterans' affairs ***and the administration of veterans' services programs.***

Section 2. KRS 40.300 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) There is created the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which shall be attached to the Office of the Governor for administrative purposes. Notwithstanding KRS 12.028, the department's status as a separate organizational unit attached to the Office of the Governor shall not be changed except by action of the General Assembly. The department shall be headed by a

commissioner appointed by the Governor pursuant to KRS 12.040. The Office of the Commissioner is created within the department.

- (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall include the *Governor's* Advisory Board for Veterans' Affairs established by KRS 40.305.
- (3) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall be responsible for providing services to veterans in accordance with KRS 40.310 and KRS 40.320 to 40.335.

**Approved March 15, 2001**