

VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Tim M. Cosgrove

Senate Sponsor: Todd Weiler

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a legislative commission to address veterans' and military affairs issues.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates a legislative commission and limits its composition to not more than 23 members;
- ▶ requires the commission to study policy issues related to servicemembers, veterans, and their dependents;
- ▶ further requires the commission to study the impact of military facilities on Utah and how to maximize the benefits of those facilities for veterans and the state;
- ▶ requires the commission to report to the Government Operations Interim Committee; and
- ▶ provides a sunset date.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in the fiscal year 2014-15:

- ▶ To the Senate, as an ongoing appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, \$7,000, to pay for the Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission.
- ▶ To the House of Representatives, as an ongoing appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, \$10,000, to pay for the Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission.

30 **Other Special Clauses:**

31 None

32 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

33 AMENDS:

34 **63I-2-236**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 283

35 ENACTS:

36 **36-28-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 **36-28-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

38 **36-28-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

39 **36-28-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



41 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

42 Section 1. Section **36-28-101** is enacted to read:

43 **CHAPTER 28. VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

44 **36-28-101. Title.**

45 This chapter is known as the "Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission."

46 Section 2. Section **36-28-102** is enacted to read:

47 **36-28-102. Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission -- Creation -- Membership**
48 **-- Chairs -- Terms -- Per diem and expenses.**

49 (1) There is created the Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission.

50 (2) The commission membership is composed of 19 permanent members, but may not
51 exceed 23 members, and is as follows:

52 (a) five legislative members to be appointed as follows:

53 (i) three members from the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
54 House of Representatives, no more than two of whom may be from the same political party;
55 and

56 (ii) two members from the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate, no more
57 than one of whom may be from the same political party;

58 (b) the executive director of the Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs or the
59 director's designee;

60 (c) the chair of the Utah Veterans' Advisory Council;

61 (d) the executive director of the Department of Workforce Services or the director's
62 designee;

63 (e) the executive director of the Department of Health or the director's designee;

64 (f) the executive director of the Department of Human Services or the director's
65 designee;

66 (g) a representative from the Administrative Office of the Courts who is
67 knowledgeable in court services appointed by the Judicial Council;

68 (h) a representative from the Utah National Guard appointed by the adjutant general;

69 (i) Guard and Reserve Transition Assistance Advisor; and

70 (j) a representative from the Board of Regents;

71 (k) three representatives of veteran service organizations as recommended by the
72 Veterans Advisory Council;

73 (l) one representative from the Utah Defense Alliance; and

74 (m) one military affairs representative from a chamber of commerce recommended by
75 the Utah State Chamber of Commerce.

76 (3) The commission may appoint by majority vote of the entire commission up to four
77 representatives of state and local government agencies or interest groups the commission feels
78 necessary to complete its duties.

79 (4) (a) The president of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed
80 under Subsection (2)(a) as a cochair of the commission.

81 (b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House
82 of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(a) as a cochair of the commission.

83 (5) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum. The
84 action of a majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the commission.

85 (6) The term for each commission member appointed in accordance with Subsection

86 (3) shall be two years from the date of appointment. A member may not serve more than three
87 terms.

88 (7) If a member leaves office or is unable to serve, the vacancy shall be filled as it was
89 originally appointed. A person appointed to fill a vacancy under this section does not serve the
90 remaining unexpired term of the member being replaced but begins serving a new term.

91 (8) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service but
92 may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

93 (a) Section [63A-3-106](#);

94 (b) Section [63A-3-107](#); and

95 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections [63A-3-106](#) and
96 [63A-3-107](#).

97 Section 3. Section **36-28-103** is enacted to read:

98 **36-28-103. Duties.**

99 The commission shall:

100 (1) comply with the rules of legislative interim committees;

101 (2) study and make recommendations to the Legislature on the following issues as they
102 impact active duty servicemembers, veterans, and their dependents:

103 (a) reintegration from military to civilian status;

104 (b) employment;

105 (c) finances;

106 (d) education;

107 (e) health and mental health, including suicide prevention;

108 (f) military affairs, including the impact of military bases; and

109 (g) coordination of state and local government resources to assist active duty
110 servicemembers, veterans, and their dependents; and

111 (3) consider the unique role of the Utah National Guard and its servicemembers in
112 regard to the issues in Subsection (2).

113 Section 4. Section **36-28-104** is enacted to read:

114 **36-28-104. Staff support.**

115 The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall staff the commission.

116 Section 5. Section **63I-2-236** is amended to read:

117 **63I-2-236. Repeal dates -- Title 36.**

118 (1) Section **36-12-15.1** is repealed July 1, 2015.

119 (2) Sections **36-16a-101** through **36-16a-108** are repealed January 1, 2013.

120 (3) Sections **36-28-101** through **36-28-104** are repealed July 1, 2019.

121 Section 6. **Appropriation.**

122 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, for
123 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, the following sums of money
124 are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or reduced from amounts
125 previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated. These sums of money are in
126 addition to any amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2015.

127 To Legislature - Senate

128 From General Fund, Ongoing \$7,000

129 Schedule of Programs:

130 Administration \$7,000

131 To Legislature - House of Representatives

132 From General Fund, Ongoing \$10,000

133 Schedule of Programs:

134 Administration \$10,000