

CHAPTER 110.

[H. B. 59.]

VETERANS' REHABILITATION COUNCIL.

AN ACT relating to veterans; creating a Veterans' Rehabilitation Council; defining powers, duties and responsibilities of the Council; making an appropriation therefor; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a "Veterans' Rehabilitation Council" which shall consist of one member from each veterans' organization now or hereafter chartered by Act of Congress, and one other member, all appointed by the Governor in the manner following:

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, United Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and any veterans' organization hereafter chartered by act of Congress and authorized to represent claims before the Veterans' Administration shall each submit to the Governor a panel of three names selected by the commanders and approved by the executive committee or board of directors, respectively, of each nationally chartered veterans' organization. The Governor shall appoint one member from each panel so submitted. Members shall serve for terms of three years expiring on the 15th day of January: *Provided*, That of the members first appointed two shall be appointed for a term of one year, one shall be appointed for a term of two years and one shall be appointed for a term of three years. One additional member shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall not be a veteran. The members shall receive no compensation but shall receive their actual necessary traveling and other expenses in going to, attending, and returning from meetings of the council: *Provided further*, That the per diem expense of each board member shall not exceed fifteen

Council created.

Appointment by Governor.

How appointed.

Submission of names.

Terms of office.

Compensation.

dollars (\$15) per day and the travel expense shall not exceed five cents (5¢) per mile from his legal home residence to and from the place of the official meetings.

Organiza-
tion.

SEC. 2. The council shall meet in Olympia to organize at the earliest possible date and shall select one of its number as chairman. The council shall employ a director, who shall serve as executive officer of the council and shall fix his salary at not to exceed six thousand dollars (\$6,000) annually and shall employ such additional persons as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. The council shall maintain an office in Olympia only and shall have power to meet at such other places as it may provide by resolution from time to time. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Employment
of director.

Salary of
director.

Office.

Quorum.

Rules and
regulations.

SEC. 3. The council shall have the power and it shall be its duty to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act and administer the affairs of this council. It shall be its duty to furnish information, advice and assistance to veterans and to coordinate all programs and services in the field of veterans' claims service, education, health, vocational guidance, and placement, and welfare not provided by some other agency of the state or by the federal government. The council shall render to the Governor before the 15th day of January each year, a complete report of its activities for the preceding year.

Assistance
to veterans.

Reports to
Governor.

Veterans'
Rehabilita-
tion Coun-
cil Fund.

SEC. 4. There is hereby created in the state treasury a fund to be known as the Veterans' Rehabilitation Council fund and no money shall be withdrawn therefrom except by warrant of the State Auditor for claims approved by the council and filed upon forms approved by the State Auditor.

Gifts and
donations.

SEC. 5. The council may receive gifts, donations, and grants from any person or agency and all such gifts, donations, and grants shall be placed in the

Veterans' Rehabilitation Council fund and used in accordance with the donors' instructions.

SEC. 6. The council is hereby empowered to improve expenditures by veterans' organizations represented upon the said council, and to reimburse such organizations therefor. All sums paid to any veterans' organization shall be used by the respective organization in the maintenance of a rehabilitation service and to assist veterans in the prosecution of their claims and solution of their problems arising out of military service. Such service and assistance shall be rendered all veterans and their dependents and also all beneficiaries of any military claim and shall include but not be limited to those services now rendered by the service departments of the respective council member organizations. The council is also authorized and empowered to establish a field and contact service wherever and to whatever extent such service may in its judgment be necessary.

Expenditures.

Services and assistance to veterans.

SEC. 7. Payments to any veterans' organization shall first be approved by the council and so far as possible shall be on an equitable basis for work done.

Payments to veterans' organizations.

SEC. 8. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund to the Veterans' Rehabilitation Council fund the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or so much thereof as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Appropriation.

SEC. 9. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Effective immediately.

Passed the House February 27, 1947.

Passed the Senate March 5, 1947.

Permitted to become a law without the signature of the Governor.

BELLE REEVES,
Secretary of State.