

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 401

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VETERANS: Provides relative to the membership of the Veterans' Affairs Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 29:253(A)(1)(b), (2)(a), and (3), relative to the Veterans' Affairs  
3 Commission; to provide for the appointment and removal of commission members;  
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 29:253(A)(1)(b), (2)(a), and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted  
7 to read as follows:

8 §253. Veterans' Affairs Commission

9 A. The Veterans' Affairs Commission shall be composed of nine members  
10 who are honorably discharged veterans, citizens of the United States of America and  
11 of this state, and qualified voters.

12 (1) The membership of the commission shall be determined as follows:

13 \* \* \*

14 (b) The governor shall, from such nominees, make ~~the necessary six~~  
15 appointments. However, the governor shall not appoint more than two members to  
16 serve on the commission from one eligible veterans organization, ~~and one member~~  
17 ~~appointed by the~~ The governor shall appoint three additional members who need not  
18 be from any eligible veterans organization, but such ~~member~~ members shall have the  
19 qualifications provided in the introductory paragraph of this Subsection ~~A of this~~  
20 Section.

1           (2)(a) Each member shall serve a six-year term, ~~except the members initially~~  
2           ~~appointed as provided in Section 2 of Act 285 of the 2003 Regular Session shall be~~  
3           ~~appointed for terms as provided in that Act.~~ Each member shall serve at the pleasure  
4           of the governor and may be removed without cause prior to the expiration of his term  
5           upon written request by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans  
6           Affairs.

\* \* \*

8           (3) If required, nominations for appointment to fill vacancies occurring  
9           because of the death, resignation, removal, or incapacity of a member shall be made  
10          within thirty days of the date of vacancy, and the governor shall make the  
11          appointment within thirty days after receiving the nominations. If nominations are  
12          not required, the governor shall make the appointment within thirty days after  
13          receiving notice of the vacancy. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made for the  
14          remainder of the unexpired term.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 401 Original

2017 Regular Session

Gisclair

**Abstract:** Provides for the appointment and removal of members of the Veterans' Affairs Commission.

Present law provides for the composition of the Veterans' Affairs Commission, to be made up of nine members. Requires the governor to make appointments from nominations by certain veterans organizations operating in this state and participating in the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Proposed law requires the governor to make six appointments from the nominees submitted, and increases from one to three the number of members appointed by the governor who are not required to be a member of an eligible veterans organization. Further provides that all members serve at the pleasure of the governor and may be removed without cause prior to the expiration of the term upon written notice by the secretary of the La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Proposed law also removes obsolete language regarding the terms of the initial appointments.

(Amends R.S. 29:253(A)(1)(b), (2)(a), and (3))