

HOUSE BILL 1745

By Curtiss

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3,
Chapter 15, relative to veterans affairs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 15, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 8 inclusive of this act as a new Part 11.

SECTION 2.

(a) In order to adequately address the many needs and problems confronting Tennessee's veterans, including the health care and long term care crisis that our aging veteran population is facing, and to help ensure the highest quality of care for residents of our state veterans' homes, there is hereby created the select oversight committee on veterans affairs, hereafter referred to as "the committee."

(b) The committee shall be composed of sixteen (16) legislative members, with eight (8) members of the senate to be appointed by the speaker of the senate and eight (8) members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house.

SECTION 3.

(a) The committee shall elect from its membership a chair, a vice chair, and such other officers as it considers necessary.

(b) The committee may also:

- (1) Create subcommittees related to its purposes;
- (2) Request that standing committees of the general assembly, the fiscal review committee, or other state agencies study certain issues and legislation relative to veterans affairs and report to the committee;
- (3) Conduct hearings;

(4) Enter into contracts for technical or professional services, subject to the availability of funds; the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house shall jointly determine the qualifications and task or job descriptions of any consultant or other person contracted for services and shall jointly select any such consultant or other person on behalf of the committee; and

(5) Perform such other duties as are required.

SECTION 4.

(a) The committee shall meet at least annually and at the call of the chair. The first meeting of the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly. Thereafter, the committee shall be convened by the chair or the chair's designee.

(b) Members of the committee are entitled to be reimbursed for their expenses in attending meetings of the committee or any subcommittees thereof at the same rates and in the same manner as when attending sessions or committee meetings of the general assembly.

SECTION 5. The committee shall report on its activities to each member of the general assembly.

SECTION 6. The committee shall receive information and assistance from the department of veterans affairs and all other agencies of state government, as necessary.

SECTION 7.

(a) The respective speakers shall appoint new members or reappoint existing members to the committee for the duration of each general assembly, provided, that each member shall be a duly elected member of the general assembly.

(b) Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by the speaker of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives, as appropriate, for the duration of the general assembly.

SECTION 8. The committee shall cease to exist on June 30, 2017.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring
it.