



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

Number 71

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, supporting those Tennessee citizens who have served or are serving their country and state in the United States Armed Forces, Reserves and National Guard and their families is among the highest priorities of state government; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to strengthening the system of care for service members, veterans and their families in a manner that builds upon existing collaborations and resources and is responsive to the needs of this population; and

WHEREAS, multiple agencies of federal, state and local governments have a shared responsibility for providing services and supports for service members, veterans and their families. These entities include state and local elected and appointed officials, including state agency heads, state legislators, and representatives from state offices of federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, other non-government members of our state are integral to the system of care for service members, veterans and their families, including veterans service and advocacy organizations that strive to address the unique challenges faced by this population. These challenges can include mental illness, substance use disorders, traumatic brain injury, serious physical injury, as well as unique challenges in the areas of employment, criminal justice and housing; and

WHEREAS, meeting the needs of service members, veterans and their families is not the sole responsibility of one agency or entity, but a collective responsibility of the entire state that requires a high level of collaboration and cooperation between key stakeholders. In acknowledgement of this reality, a group of key stakeholders began meeting informally in March 2008, in an effort to address these challenges. More recently, these stakeholders participated in a federally sponsored "Service Members, Veterans and their Families Policy Academy", the central goal of which was to present to the governor a recommendation to formalize and give permanency to their efforts by establishing the Governor's Council on Service Members, Veterans and Their Families.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and the laws of Tennessee, do hereby direct and order the following:

1. The Governor's Council on Service Members, Veterans and Their Families is hereby established. The Council is charged with facilitating collaboration and coordination within the system of care to effectively and responsively meet the needs of service members,

veterans and their families. In performing these duties the Council shall conduct planning, research and evaluation activities to improve system operations and coordination.

2. The Council shall consist of twenty-five (25) members. These members shall include:

a. The following seventeen (17) members shall be appointed by the governor. In making these appointments, the governor shall strive to appoint service members and veterans and in no event shall fewer than eight (8) of these seventeen members be service members and veterans.

These seventeen (17) members shall include:

- i. One (1) male veteran;
- ii. One (1) female veteran;
- iii. One (1) family member or spouse of an active duty service member from the State of Tennessee;
- iv. One (1) county or city mayor;
- v. One (1) person who represents law enforcement;
- vi. One (1) person who represents a veterans service organization;
- vii. One (1) person who represents a veteran service organization for women;
- viii. One (1) person who represents an active duty installation in the State of Tennessee;
- ix. One (1) person who represents the local office of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.
- x. One (1) person who represents an advocacy organization for mental illness and substance use disorders;
- xi. One (1) person who represents an advocacy organization for homelessness;
- xii. One (1) person who represents an advocacy organization for traumatic brain injury;
- xiii. One (1) person who represents an advocacy organization for physical disabilities;
- xiv. One (1) person who represents the statewide chamber of commerce;
- xv. One (1) person who represents labor;
- xvi. One (1) person who represents higher education;
- xvii. One (1) person who represents a non-profit supplier of services to service members, veterans and their families.


b. In addition, the council shall include the following eight (8) members:

- i. The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs;
- ii. The Adjutant General of the Military Department;
- iii. The Commissioner of Mental Health;
- iv. The Commissioner of Health;
- v. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development;
- vi. The Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources;
- vii. One (1) member of the Tennessee Senate to be selected by the Speaker of the Senate;
- viii. One (1) member of the Tennessee House of Representatives to be selected by the Speaker of the House or Representatives.

3. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from the membership of the Council.
4. The Council shall hold its initial meeting prior to October 1, 2010. Thereafter, the Council shall meet at such times and places as determined by the Chairperson.
5. The Council shall be attached to the Department of Veterans Affairs for administrative purposes.
6. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their services on the Council, but may be reimbursed for those expenses allowed by the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter. Members of the General Assembly shall be reimbursed in the same manner as they are paid for attending legislative meetings pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated Section 3-1-106.
7. All Executive Branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions shall fully cooperate with the Council in carrying out the mandates of the Executive Order and shall provide staff support and other assistance as requested.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 31st day of August 2010.





GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE