



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 15

**AN ORDER RECONSTITUTING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SERVICE
MEMBERS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES AS THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR
ARMED FORCES, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, it is among the highest priorities of Tennesseans to support those Tennessee citizens who have served or are serving our country and State in the United States Armed Forces, Reserves and National Guard, and their families; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to our armed forces, veterans and their families, and to strengthening their system of care in a manner that builds upon existing collaborations and resources and is responsive to their needs; and

WHEREAS, state and local elected officials, including state agency heads, state legislators, and representatives of federal agencies have a shared responsibility for providing services and support for members of the armed forces, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, other non-government members of our state are integral to the system of care for members of the armed forces, veterans and their families, including veterans service and advocacy organizations that strive to address the unique challenges faced by this population such as mental illness, substance use disorders, traumatic brain injury, serious physical injury, employment, education and housing; and

WHEREAS, meeting the needs of the members of the armed forces, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and law, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Governor's Council on Service Members, Veterans and Their Families is reconstituted as the Governor's Council for Armed Forces, Veterans, and Their Families. The Governor's Council for Armed Forces, Veterans, and Their Families ("Council") is charged with facilitating collaboration and coordination within the system of care to effectively and responsively meet the needs of the members of the armed forces, 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 seventeen (17) members, which include the following individuals:
 - a. Ten (10) citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor. In making these appointments, the Governor shall strive to ensure that at least half of these members be service members or veterans and shall be demographically reflective of the veteran population in this state. These ten (10) members shall include:
 - i. One (1) family member or spouse of a previously deployed service member in the State of Tennessee;
 - ii. One (1) county or city mayor;
 - iii. One (1) person who represents a veterans service organization;
 - iv. One (1) person who represents a veterans service organization for women;
 - v. One (1) person who represents the local office of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
 - vi. One (1) person who represents an advocacy organization for mental illness and substance use disorders;
 - vii. One (1) person who represents an advocacy organization for homelessness;
 - viii. One (1) person who represents an advocacy organization for traumatic brain injury;
 - ix. One (1) person who represents an advocacy organization for physical disabilities; and
 - x. One (1) person who represents higher education.
 - b. In making the initial appointments, three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and four (4) members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Upon expiration of the initial terms, each member shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Vacancies resulting for reasons other than the expiration of a term shall be filled by the Governor for the remainder of the term.
 - c. In addition, the Council shall include the following seven (7) ex-officio members or their designees:
 - i. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
 - ii. The Adjutant General of the Military Department;
 - iii. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health;
 - iv. The Commissioner of the Department of Health;
 - v. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development;
 - vi. One (1) member of the Tennessee Senate to be selected by the Speaker of the Senate; and
 - vii. One (1) member of the Tennessee House of Representatives to be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
3. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from among the members of the Council.

4. The Council shall be attached to the Department of Veterans Affairs for administrative purposes.
5. 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.
6. All Executive Branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions shall fully cooperate with the Council in carrying out the mandates of this Order and shall provide staff support and other assistance as requested.
7. Executive Order No. 15 supersedes and rescinds all other Executive Orders and implementing directives and memoranda concerning the Governor's Council on Service Members, Veterans and Their Families.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 23rd day of July, 2012.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE



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