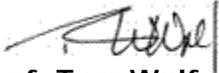


Executive Order

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office

Subject: Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services	Number: 2013-03 As Amended
 By Direction of: Tom Wolf, Governor	Date: November 4, 2019

WHEREAS, over eight hundred thousand Pennsylvania residents are veterans who have defended our nation's freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces, making our Commonwealth home to the fourth (4th) largest population of veterans among the states; and

WHEREAS, veterans have unique needs and have earned a wide array of benefits that are fragmented across the federal, state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is committed to providing a structure to provide coordinated, high-quality services to help veterans recognize and access the benefits and services that they earned; and

WHEREAS, the Adjutant General, Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs and the State Veterans Commission are responsible for championing Veterans Affairs at the federal, state and local levels and for ensuring that state veterans' programs and services are coordinated, provided, and delivered in a timely and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need to increase collaboration between state agencies to enhance administrative efficiency and optimize services for veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, the delivery of veterans' programs and services requires dedicated and strategic outreach and collaboration between many departments and partners at the federal, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, a cooperative advisory council would be best suited to bridge the gaps in coordination and communication at the state level and ultimately to enhance the quality of services provided for our veterans and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby formally establish the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services, and do order and direct as follows:

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services is to review, evaluate, and assess state veterans' programs in collaboration with senior staff from state agencies and commissions; to increase information sharing, ensure program fidelity, coordinate complementary programs; and to facilitate meaningful enhancements in service accessibility to veterans' benefits and services within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

2. **Responsibilities.**
 - a. Review, evaluate and maintain a comprehensive inventory of all programs within the Executive Branch related to services and benefits for veterans.
 - b. Serve as a coordinating body for all agencies that are responsible for programs related to services and benefits for veterans.
 - c. Increase interoperability and collaboration between administrators of veterans' programs.
 - d. Coordinate efforts to establish a compendium of veterans' programs to the county and regional level to enable quick reference and enhance access to Veteran assistance and support at the local level.
 - e. Improve program fidelity by seeking regional input from the veterans' community through quarterly meetings in each Department of Military and Veterans Affairs designated region.
 - f. Report findings through the Adjutant General to the Governor.

3. **Composition.** The Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services shall consist of the following members, each of whom will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor:
 - a. The Deputy Adjutant General – Veterans Affairs from the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, to serve as Chairperson;
 - b. The Chairperson of the State Veterans Commission, to serve as Co-Chairperson;
 - c. The Secretary of the Governor's Policy Office or designee;
 - d. The Secretary of the Department of Aging or designee;
 - e. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture or designee;
 - f. The Secretary of the Department of Banking and Securities or designee;
 - g. The Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development or designee;

- h. The Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources or designee;
 - i. The Secretary of the Department of Corrections or designee;
 - j. The Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs or designee;
 - k. The Secretary of the Department of Education or designee;
 - l. The Secretary of the Department of Health or designee;
 - m. The Secretary of the Department of Human Services or designee;
 - n. The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry or designee;
 - o. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs or designee;
 - p. The Secretary of the Department of Transportation or designee;
 - q. The Secretary of the Office of Administration or designee;
 - r. A State Civil Service Commissioner or designee;
 - s. The Executive Director of the Fish and Boat Commission or designee;
 - t. The Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts or designee;
 - u. A designee of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council; and
 - v. Up to three at-large members appointed by the Governor.
4. **Committees.** The chairperson may establish named committees with specific purposes and goals. Members or their designated representatives will make up the composition of these committees. The committee chairperson will report on a quarterly basis to the Council regarding work that is being done in their respective committee.
5. **Responsibilities of Commonwealth Agencies.** All agencies, boards and commissions under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate fully with the Council and, upon request, shall provide support and assistance, including an inventory of veterans' services and programs as needed by the Council to carry out its responsibilities.
6. **Compensation.** Members of the Council, who are not Commonwealth employees, shall receive no compensation for their services, but may receive reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses for attendance at meetings.

7. **Effective Date.** This Executive Order 2013-03, As Amended, shall take effect immediately.
8. **Termination Date.** This Executive Order 2013-03, As Amended, shall remain in effect unless revised or rescinded by the Governor.