



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2007-11S

**Establishing a Study Council to Provide Recommendations Regarding the
Creation of the Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs**

1. **Ohio Has A Rich History of Its Citizens Serving in the Armed Forces.** Ohio has a proud history of its sons and daughters serving in the National Guard and our nation's armed forces. In fact, Ohio is home to over a million veterans and thousands more military personnel who are serving today.
2. **Ohio Must Ensure That Its Veterans Receive the Services and Support They Need.** For too long, Ohio's veterans have not been receiving the support or services they deserve. Every Ohioan who has served in our nation's armed forces and their families must be connected to the benefits that they have earned and to which they are entitled.
3. **Establishment of the Veterans Study Council.** To ensure that Ohio's veterans are receiving the support that they need, I hereby order the establishment of a Veterans Study Council (the "Study Council").
 - a. **The Role of the Study Council.** The mission of the Study Council is to:
 - i. Identify existing State services that are provided to veterans and their families
 - ii. Examine ways in which State services to veterans and their families can be aligned and reorganized into a new cabinet-level department
 - iii. Look at ways to enhance the use of federal resources and communicate effectively with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs; and

- iv. Compile these findings in a report of recommendations that I will receive by no later than December 31, 2007
- b. **The Composition of the Study Council.** The Study Council shall be composed of twenty-two members:
- i. A chairperson of the Study Council, appointed by the Governor
 - ii. American Legion Department of Ohio Commander or his designee
 - iii. AMVETS Department of Ohio Commander or his designee
 - iv. Army and Navy Union USA Department of Ohio Commander or his designee
 - v. Catholic War Veterans Department of Ohio Commander or his designee
 - vi. County Veterans Service Officers President or his designee
 - vii. Disabled American Veterans Department of Ohio Commander or his designee
 - viii. Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans Chair or her designee
 - ix. Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee Chair or his designee
 - x. Jewish War Veterans Department of Ohio Commander or his designee
 - xi. Korean War Veterans Department of Ohio Commander or his designee
 - xii. Marine Corps League of Ohio Commandant or his designee
 - xiii. Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Ohio Commander or his designee
 - xiv. Veterans of Foreign Wars Ohio State Commander or his designee
 - xv. Veterans Service Commissioners President or his designee
 - xvi. Vietnam Veterans of America Ohio State President or his designee
 - xvii. The Adjutant General or his designee
 - xviii. The Attorney General or his designee
 - xix. Two (2) members of the Ohio Senate, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate
 - xx. Two (2) members of the Ohio House of Representatives, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the House

- c. **Assessment of Financial Resources Available to Ohio's Veterans.** In support of the Study Council's mission, I direct the Office of Budget and Management to perform a financial review of services provided to veterans by state entities and agencies, including, but not limited to, the Ohio Veterans Homes Agency, the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Adjutant General, the Department of Education, the Board of Regents and the Attorney General.
- d. **Support Staff and Compensation.** The Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs shall provide all administrative, financial, and staff support for the Study Council and no member of the Study Council will receive compensation.
4. I signed this executive order on May 30, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio and it will expire on my last day of office unless rescinded before then.



Ted Strickland
Ted Strickland, Governor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State