

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules
DATE: January 30, 2024
BY: Leslie Porter, Analyst
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

The Governor has appointed the following individual to serve as the Director of the Department of Veteran's Affairs subject to Senate confirmation.¹

Appointee

Nakeia Daniels of Salem

Term

Serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 406.020 \(2023\)](#).

Statement of Economic Interest²

Required.

Statutory Requirements³

The appointment must be made with the written approval of the Advisory Committee. The director must be a veteran, chosen on the basis of executive and administrative ability. The director must furnish a fidelity bond in an amount to be fixed by the Governor.

Duties⁴

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is responsible for the administration of federal and state laws relating to veterans. The director provides supervision and control of DVA, and must organize and coordinate the administration of all present and future federal and state laws pertaining to veterans, their spouses, dependents, and survivors in this state.

The director must:

- provide aid and assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon with regard to programs of service for Native American veterans overseen by the

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4, ORS 171.562 and 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

³ [ORS 406.020 and ORS 406.070 \(2023\)](#).

⁴ [ORS 406.005 to 406.452 \(2023\)](#).

tribes and the accreditation of tribal veterans representatives by the Office of General Counsel in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

- provide statewide expertise, advocacy, coordination, and assistance to veterans to assist them in navigating federal, state, and local health care and mental health care systems;
- solicit recommendations from the Advisory Committee on the administration of all federal and state laws affecting veterans, their spouses, dependents, and survivors in this state;
- instruct and report to members of the Advisory Committee concerning the operation of all veterans' programs administered by the director;
- establish a general and uniform policy to be followed by the various organizations and counties in carrying out the work to which the state contributes aid funds;
- establish a program to enhance and expand the services provided by county veterans' service officers; and,
- in consultation with the Association of Oregon Counties, adopt rules for the administration of county veterans' service programs, including the distribution of funds to county governing bodies.

The director may:

- require the fingerprints of specified persons for the purpose of requesting a state or nationwide background check;
- with advice from the Advisory Committee, aid veterans' organizations that have been accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and counties of the state, in connection with their respective programs of service to veterans;
- with advice from the Advisory Committee, adopt such procedural rules and regulations as the director deems advisable in making distribution of aid funds;
- accept services voluntarily tendered by any person or organization;
- cooperate with the established service agencies and officers of any organization for the benefit and welfare of all veterans in this state and their dependents or beneficiaries; and,
- establish by rule a state certification program to ensure the competency of veterans' service officers and other individuals providing similar services.

