

**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

*(09/12/2022)*

[Administrative Code - County Veterans Service Officer Role and Duties]

**Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to place the County Veterans Service Officer (“Officer”) under the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) rather than the Department of Administrative Services; give the Director of the DAS authority to nominate the Officer; update annual reporting requirements of the Officer to the Board of Supervisors and Mayor; and provide administrative support to the Veterans’ Affairs Commission.**

Existing Law

Consistent with California Military and Veterans Code Section 970, the Administrative Code establishes a County Veterans Service Officer to administer local aid and other services to veterans in San Francisco. The County Veterans Service Officer is “under the Director of Administrative Services” and the Director of Administrative Services nominates qualified candidates for appointment by the Board of Supervisors. The County Veterans Service Officer provides a semiannual report to the Board of Supervisors, containing information specified in the Administrative Code. Separate from the County Veterans Service Officer, the Veterans’ Affairs Commission advises the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors on the needs of veterans residing in San Francisco. Currently, the Administrative Code does not provide for the Veterans’ Affairs Commission to receive administrative support from a City department.

Amendments to Current Law

The ordinance would place the County Veterans Service Officer under the Department of Disability and Aging Services, rather than the Department of Administrative Services. Rather than the Director of Administrative Services nominating candidates to the Board of Supervisors, the Director of the Department of Disability and Aging Services, with the concurrence of the Mayor, would nominate qualified candidates for appointment by the Board of Supervisors. The ordinance would update the information required to be included in the County Veterans Service Officer’s reports to the Board of Supervisors. The ordinance would provide for the Veterans’ Affairs Commission to receive administrative support from the Human Services Agency.

Background Information

The Department of Disability and Aging Services coordinates services for veterans in San Francisco, including aiding veterans to access benefits. The County Veterans Service Officer could better coordinate aid to veterans with other aid available to older San Francisco residents from a position within the Department of Disability and Aging Services. The Director of the Department of Disability and Aging Services is most qualified to identify candidates to

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serve as County Veterans Service Officer. The County Veterans Service Officer is required to report information to the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and that information differs from the information required to be included in the County Veterans Service Officer's reports to the Board of Supervisors. The Human Services Agency provides support to the Veterans' Affairs Commission.

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