



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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AGENT ORANGE COMMISSIONERS

House Bill 4446 as introduced
First Analysis (3-18-93)

Sponsor: Rep. Robert DeMars
Committee: Military & Veterans Affairs

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Public Act 49 of 1987 created the Agent Orange Commission within the Department of Public Health to oversee research on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other chemicals by veterans of the Vietnam conflict. The commission conducts studies on the effects of these chemicals on humans and relays the information found to persons exposed to these contaminants. The commission is composed of 14 members who serve for two-year terms, 12 of whom are appointed by the governor. The 12 members appointed by the governor, however, may only be reappointed once. Some people argue that this provision essentially denies these commissioners the opportunity to continue offering their services on the board, despite their having a great deal of expertise on the effects of chemical contaminants like Agent Orange on humans. It has been suggested that the act be amended to allow commissioners appointed by the governor to be reappointed more than once.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend Public Act 49 of 1987 to permit gubernatorially-appointed members of the Agent Orange Commission to be reappointed more than once.

MCL 333.5731

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The House Fiscal Agency says the bill would not affect state or local budget expenditures. (3-16-93)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would allow Agent Orange Commissioners who were appointed by the governor to be reappointed more than once and, thus, would allow those members who had gained considerable knowledge and experience studying the effects of

chemical contaminants on Vietnam veterans the chance to continue working on the commission. Reappointment would be permissive, giving the governor the option to determine whether a particular member's expertise justified his or her reappointment to the commission.

POSITIONS:

The American Legion supports the bill. (3-16-93)

A representative of the Polish Legion of American Veterans testified in support of the bill. (3-17-93)

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