

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
S.P. 373 - L.D. 1111

An Act To Update the Statutes Governing Membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §603, as amended by PL 2015, c. 397, §10 and PL 2019, c. 377, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§603. Board of trustees

1. Administration of the homes. The administration of the homes is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes, as authorized by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 34.

2. Appointment; composition. The board consists of 11 members, one of whom must be the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services, *ex officio*, who serves without term. The Governor shall appoint the remaining members. The board shall submit a list of nominees to the Governor for the Governor's consideration. The board shall request established veterans' service organizations with chapters in the State and organizations and individuals who have demonstrated leadership in their fields to submit names of nominees to the board. The membership of the board must reflect the diversity of the State, including, but not limited to, diversity in geographic location, cultural and ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity and professional experience. The majority of board members must be honorably discharged veterans.

3. Terms; vacancies. Except for the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services, board members serve 3-year terms and are limited to serving 3 full terms. In the event of a vacancy, a successor may be appointed to complete a member's unexpired term or to a new 3-year term. Each member continues to hold office until a successor is appointed.

Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §604, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2001, c. 676, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Meetings. The board shall meet at least ~~6~~ 4 times annually. Six members constitute a quorum.

Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §604, sub-§3, as corrected by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. B, §44, is amended to read:

3. Selection of officers. At its first annual meeting each year, ~~which must be held in July each year~~, the board shall elect a chair, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary for that fiscal year.

Sec. 4. 37-B MRSA §606, as amended by PL 2015, c. 397, §13, is further amended to read:

§606. Chief executive officer

The chief executive officer ~~must be an honorably discharged veteran who~~ shall administer the homes in accordance with the rules, guidelines and general policies established by the board. The chief executive officer serves an indefinite term, but may be removed for cause by the board. The chief executive officer's salary is set by the board. The chief executive officer shall hire the necessary employees to operate the homes and, whenever possible, give preference in hiring to veterans. These employees are not deemed employees of the State.

Sec. 5. 37-B MRSA §610, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 3, §1 and amended by c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is repealed.

Sec. 6. Transition. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 603, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes serving on the board on the effective date of this Act may serve the remainder of that member's term.