

An Act To Establish the Maine State Cemetery Preservation Commission

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§2-H is enacted to read:

2-H.

<u>Cemeteries</u>	<u>Maine State Cemetery</u>	<u>Not authorized</u>	<u>13 MRSA §1374</u>
	<u>Preservation Commission</u>		

Sec. 2. 13 MRSA §1374 is enacted to read:

§1374. Maine State Cemetery Preservation Commission

The Maine State Cemetery Preservation Commission, referred to in this section as "the cemetery preservation commission," is established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-H as provided in this section.

1. ~~Permanent m~~Members. The cemetery preservation commission has the following 8 ~~permanent-11~~ members:

A. Two members representing a statewide association dedicated to the preservation of neglected cemeteries, appointed by its board of directors;

B. Two members representing a statewide association of cemetery directors and supervisors, appointed by its board of directors;

C. One member representing a statewide association representing municipalities, appointed by its board of directors;

D. One member representing a statewide association of town clerks, appointed by its board of directors;

E. One member representing a statewide association of funeral directors, appointed by its board of directors; ~~and~~

F. The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management;

G. One member representing a statewide association of realtors, appointed by its board of directors;

H. One member representing a historical society located in the city of Portland, appointed by its board of directors; ~~and~~

J. One member representing the Wabanaki Tribes, appointed by the tribal governments of the Wabanaki Tribes

~~2. Optional members.~~ The permanent members of the cemetery commission may invite, upon majority agreement, one member each from a state organization representing female descendants of veterans of the American Revolution, a state organization representing male descendants of veterans of the American Revolution and the American Legion or similar military veterans' group.

32. Duties. The cemetery preservation commission may shall:

A. Advise and educate municipalities and property owners about the existence of burying grounds and cemeteries and the laws applicable to burying grounds and cemeteries;

B. Advise and educate municipalities, property owners and owners of burying grounds and cemeteries on the proper care and preservation of graves, gravestones, walls and fences in and around burying grounds and cemeteries; and

C. Review statutes applicable to burying grounds and cemeteries and provide information to the legislature on recommended changes.

3. By-laws. The members shall adopt bylaws within 1 year of the effective date of this section. The bylaws must provide for the regulation and management of the affairs of the commission and must establish the terms of office, the method for selecting a chair and the method for filling a vacancy on the commission. The bylaws may be amended at any time by the affirmative vote of a majority of members.

SUMMARY

The amendment adds the word “preservation” into the title of the commission to better reflect the focus and work of the commission. The amendment adds 3 additional members to the commission, representatives of a statewide realtors’ association, a historical society located in the city of Portland, and a member of the Wabanaki Tribes. The amendment removes the optional members to the commission and requires the members establish bylaws within 1 year of the effective date of the law.