

My name is Adam Bartow and I am the State President of the Maine State Society, Sons of the American Revolution. I speak to you today on behalf of that organization and at the direction of the State Board of Managers.

We felt it necessary to offer our thoughts on this bill, LD 379 An Act to Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission, as we are for all intents and purposes named as an optional member of the commission, as there is no active Sons of the Revolution chapter in Maine.

We, the Maine State Society, Sons of the American Revolution offer our support to this bill. We feel that proper management and oversight of our cemeteries is a very important and worthwhile effort. Indeed, our members and Chapters are active in helping clean and maintain cemeteries in Maine, especially those that have Revolutionary War Patriots buried in them.

One thing we would like to see changed is to substitute the word “shall” for “may” in subsection 3 so that it says duties shall instead of duties may. Using the word may does not provide concrete direction to the commission whereas shall provides a specific course of action and role for the commission once it is established.

We would also ask for clarification as to the term of service for each member of the commission. Is the duration of the term for each member determined by the representative organization? We all know that each organization has different terms of office for administrations. For example, officers in the Daughters of the American Revolution typically serve one year terms whereas officers in the Sons of the American Revolution are elected to one year terms, with the ability to be re-elected.

Additionally, will there be an established chairperson of this commission? Is that to be determined by the membership of the commission? And how long would that election/appointment to the chair last?

The Maine SAR does hope that this Commission is formed and that it is advertised and promoted as appropriate so that its existence is known and utilized.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Adam W. Bartow  
Maine State President 2020-2022  
Sons of the American Revolution  
[SARSouthernMaine@gmail.com](mailto:SARSouthernMaine@gmail.com)  
207-653-2409  
Messar.org