

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: 4-26-21
To: Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
From: Sam Praver, Legislative Analyst

LD 1111 An Act To Update the Statues Governing Membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes

SUMMARY:

This bill amends certain laws governing the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes. It amends the composition of the board. It requires the board to submit a list of nominees for appointment to the board to the Governor for the Governor's consideration. It requires the board to request certain organizations and individuals to submit to the board names of suggested nominees. It limits board members to serving 3 full terms or no more than 9 consecutive years. It changes the number of annual meetings from 6 to 4. It requires the board to elect a vice-chair and treasurer, in addition to a chair and secretary. It removes a requirement that the chief executive officer be an honorably discharged veteran. It repeals a provision in law related to renovations undertaken by the Maine Veterans' Homes Augusta nursing facility.

As printed, the bill separates out each amended section of the relevant law. For context, the following link contains the full chapter: [Title 37-B, Chapter 11: MAINE VETERANS' HOMES](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Maine Veterans' Homes: Changes in the bill were unanimously approved by the MVH Board of Trustees.
- Some testimony suggested amending the bill to clarify that preference be given to veterans in selecting the chief executive officer of MVH, even if the chief executive officer is not required to be a veteran.

TECHNICAL ISSUES:

- **Terms and Vacancies.** Subsection 3 on terms and vacancies, lines 19-20, reads "board members serve 3-year terms and are limited to serving 3 full terms or no more than 9 consecutive years."

The committee may want to consider whether the "or" in that sentence should be an "and" to indicate that the proper limitation is whichever metric is met first, rather than an option between the two. As currently written, there would be a choice between either limitation, which could allow a member to serve for more than three full terms and more than 9 years as long as that services is not consecutive.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact, as drafted.