
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 933 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, LAUGHLIN, ROBINSON AND STEFANO,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs,
3 further providing for advisory councils for veterans' homes.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 704(a), (b), (d) and (f) of Title 51 of
7 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended and the
8 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 § 704. Advisory councils for veterans' homes.

10 (a) Establishment of advisory council.--There is hereby
11 established an advisory council for each veterans' home operated
12 by the Commonwealth to provide stakeholders with a means to
13 advise the Adjutant General on the resident care, management,
14 operations and compliance of facilities and services in
15 veterans' homes to ensure high-quality health care and well-
16 being for residents of veterans' homes. Each advisory council
17 shall consist of 15 members and the Adjutant General or the
18 Adjutant General's designee, who shall serve ex officio. The

1 following shall apply:

2 (1) [Twelve] Thirteen of the members shall be appointed
3 by the Governor from a list of nominations submitted to the
4 Adjutant General [by the Pennsylvania War Veterans' Council.]
5 in accordance with the following:

6 (i) Ten of the members shall be from a list of
7 nominations submitted by veterans from the local
8 community of the veterans' home.

9 (ii) Two of the members shall be from a list of
10 nominations submitted by the current residents of the
11 veterans' home.

12 (iii) One of the members shall be from a list of
13 nominations submitted by a family member of a resident of
14 the veterans' home or a current or former resident of the
15 veterans' home.

16 (2) The Adjutant General shall ensure that each nominee
17 for appointment on each advisory council under paragraph (1)
18 is a member of the local community of the veterans' home.

19 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
20 President pro tempore of the Senate shall each appoint one
21 member from their respective bodies to serve on each council.
22 [The remaining member on the advisory council shall be
23 selected by the residents of the veterans' homes.]

24 (4) The department shall designate a subject matter
25 expert to attend each advisory council's meeting to provide
26 input on the resident care, management, operations and
27 compliance of facilities and services in each veterans' home.

28 (b) Term of office and officers.--

29 (1) Each member of the councils appointed from the
30 General Assembly shall serve for the duration of that General

1 Assembly. [~~The eight~~] Except as provided under paragraph (2),
2 the thirteen members appointed by the Governor shall serve a
3 term of three [~~years, provided that the initial eight members~~
4 ~~selected by the Governor shall serve as follows: three~~
5 ~~members for one year, three members for two years and two~~
6 ~~members for three years as designated by the Governor.~~]
7 years.

8 (2) The initial thirteen members selected by the
9 Governor on or after the effective date of this paragraph
10 shall serve as follows: four members for one year, four
11 members for two years and five members for three years as
12 designated by the Governor.

13 (3) Each council shall organize as soon as possible and
14 shall annually elect a president, vice president and
15 secretary from the voting members.

16 * * *

17 (d) Quorum and time of meetings.--~~[Six]~~ Eight members of a
18 council shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting
19 the business of the council. Each advisory council shall meet at
20 least quarterly and at other times at the call of the president.
21 Each advisory council shall conduct meetings in accordance with
22 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

23 * * *

24 (f) Power and duty of advisory councils.--Each veterans'
25 home advisory council shall advise the Adjutant General as to
26 the resident care, management, operation and the [~~adequacy~~]
27 compliance of facilities and services at their respective homes.

28 (g) Annual reports.--Each advisory council shall submit an
29 annual report to the department that identifies the work of the
30 advisory council, includes an overall assessment of the resident

1 care, management, operations and compliance of facilities and
2 services in each veterans' home and provides recommendations.
3 The department shall submit a consolidated report on the annual
4 reports submitted by each advisory council under this subsection
5 to the Adjutant General and the chair and minority chair of the
6 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
7 Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs
8 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of
9 Representatives no later than January 30, 2024, and each year
10 thereafter.

11 Section 2. The amendment or addition of 51 Pa.C.S. § 704(a)
12 (1) and (2) and (b) (1) and (2) shall apply upon the expiration
13 of a member's term on the advisory council appointed by the
14 Governor before the effective date of this section.

15 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.