

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 933 Session of 2023

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

SENATOR MASTRIANO, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 20, 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 (II) THREE OF THE MEMBERS SHALL BE FROM A LIST OF <--  
17 NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CURRENT RESIDENTS OF THE  
18 VETERANS' HOME AND SHALL INCLUDE A FAMILY MEMBER OF A  
19 CURRENT OR FORMER RESIDENT OF THE VETERANS' HOME.

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

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

28 (4) The department shall designate a subject matter  
29 expert to attend each advisory council's meeting to provide  
30 input on the resident care, management, operations and

1 compliance of facilities and services in each veterans' home.

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

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

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

17 (3) Each council shall organize as soon as possible and  
18 shall annually elect a president, vice president and  
19 secretary from the voting members.

20 \* \* \*

21 (d) Quorum and time of meetings.--[Six] Eight members of a  
22 council shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting  
23 the business of the council. Each advisory council shall meet at  
24 least quarterly and at other times at the call of the president.  
25 Each advisory council shall conduct meetings in accordance with  
26 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

27 \* \* \*

28 (f) Power and duty of advisory councils.--Each veterans'  
29 home advisory council shall advise the Adjutant General as to  
30 the resident care, management, operation and the [adequacy]

1 compliance of facilities and services at their respective homes.

2 (g) Annual reports.--Each advisory council shall submit an  
3 annual report to the department that identifies the work of the  
4 advisory council, includes an overall assessment of the resident  
5 care, management, operations and compliance of facilities and  
6 services in each veterans' home and provides recommendations.  
7 The department shall submit a consolidated report on the annual  
8 reports submitted by each advisory council under this subsection  
9 to the Adjutant General and the chair and minority chair of the  
10 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the  
11 Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs  
12 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of  
13 Representatives no later than January 30, 2024, and each year  
14 thereafter.

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

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.