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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 933 Session of 2023

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

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED,  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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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

1 Adjutant General's designee, who shall serve ex officio. ~~The~~ <--  
2 following shall apply:

3 ~~(1) [Twelve] Thirteen~~ of the members shall be appointed <--  
4 by the Governor from a list of nominations submitted to the  
5 Adjutant General ~~[by the Pennsylvania War Veterans' Council.]~~ <--  
6 ~~in accordance with the following:~~ THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY: <--  
7 (1) THIRTEEN OF THE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE  
8 GOVERNOR FROM A LIST OF NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE ADJUTANT  
9 GENERAL BY THE PENNSYLVANIA WAR VETERANS' COUNCIL IN  
10 ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

11 (i) Ten of the members shall be from a list of <--  
12 nominations submitted by veterans from the local  
13 community of the veterans' home. APPOINTEES UNDER THIS <--  
14 SUBPARAGRAPH MUST BE VETERANS.

15 (ii) Three of the members shall be from a list of  
16 nominations submitted by the current residents of the  
17 veterans' home and shall include a family member of a  
18 current or former resident of the veterans' home.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 \* \* \*

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

26 \* \* \*

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

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

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

18       Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.