

HOUSE BILL 1375

By Ragan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
relative to the Tennessee historical commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-11-102, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) The entire membership of the Tennessee historical commission as comprised on June 30, 2023, is vacated on July 1, 2023, and new members are appointed in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) There is created the Tennessee historical commission, which is composed of twenty (20) members as follows:

(1) One (1) person appointed from each of the three (3) grand divisions of the state and two (2) at-large members, appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(2) One (1) person appointed from each of the three (3) grand divisions of the state and two (2) at-large members, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(3) One (1) person appointed from each of the three (3) grand divisions of the state and two (2) at-large members, appointed by the governor and

(4) Five (5) ex officio non-voting members, including the:

(A) Governor or the governor's designee;

(B) State historian;

(C) State archaeologist;

(D) Commissioner of environment and conservation or the commissioner's designee;

(E) State librarian and archivist.

(c) The commission shall appoint an executive director, who serves at the pleasure of the commission and who must be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties assigned to the director, including as keeper of the Tennessee register of historic places under § 4-11-207.

(d)

(1) In order to stagger the terms of the newly appointed commission members, initial appointments are made as follows:

(A) The persons appointed as at-large members under subdivisions (b)(1)-(3) serve an initial term of one (1) year, which expires on June 30, 2024;

(B) The persons appointed from the eastern grand division under subdivision (b)(1), the middle grand division under subdivision (b)(2), and the western grand division under subdivision (b)(3) serve an initial term of two (2) years, which expires on June 30, 2025;

(C) The persons appointed from the middle grand division under subdivision (b)(1), the western grand division under subdivision (b)(2), and the eastern grand division under subdivision (b)(3) serve an initial term of three (3) years, which expires on June 30, 2026; and

(D) The persons appointed from the western grand division under subdivision (b)(1), the eastern grand division under subdivision (b)(2), and

the middle grand division under subdivision (b)(3) serve an initial term of four (4) years, which expires on June 30, 2027.

(2) Following the expiration of members' initial terms as prescribed in subdivision (d)(1), each term is for five (5) years that begins on July 1 and terminates on June 30, five (5) years later.

(e)

(1) In making appointments to the commission, the appointing authorities shall strive to ensure that at least one (1) person serving on the commission is sixty (60) years of age or older and that at least one (1) person serving on the commission is a member of a racial minority. In making the appointments, there must be a conscientious effort by the appointing authorities to ensure that persons meeting these criteria are inclusive of African-Americans and of Native American ancestry.

(2) The appointing authorities shall ensure that at least three (3) persons serving on the commission have an academic background in history or historic preservation, or both, preferably a master's degree.

(f) If a member of the commission dies or resigns from the commission, then the appointing authority who appointed the member to the commission shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy.

(g) All members of the commission may be paid necessary expenses while engaged in the work of the commission. All reimbursement for travel expenses must be in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-11-207, is amended by deleting the section and substituting the language:

The executive director of the Tennessee historical commission is designated as keeper of the Tennessee register of historic places.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.