

**VETERANS AFFAIRS AMENDMENTS**

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Val L. Peterson**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies the governing structure for certain veterans park and nursing home boards.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ modifies who appoints members to the Veterans' Memorial Park Board and the Veterans' Nursing Home Advisory Boards;
- ▶ directs to whom minutes of board meetings are provided with a time line; and
- ▶ amends membership of Veterans' Nursing Home Advisory Boards.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**71-7-4**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 214

**71-8-2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 214

**71-11-7**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 214

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*



28 Section 1. Section 71-7-4 is amended to read:

29 **71-7-4. Veterans' Memorial Park Board -- Members -- Appointment -- Meetings**  
30 **-- Per diem and travel expenses.**

31 (1) There is created a Veterans' Memorial Park Board to serve as an advisory body to  
32 the Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs on matters relating to the establishment and  
33 operation of a veterans' cemetery and memorial park.

34 (2) The board shall consist of the following five members:

35 (a) one representative recommended by the state commander of the Veterans of  
36 Foreign Wars;

37 (b) one representative recommended by the state commander of the American Legion;

38 (c) one representative recommended by the state commander of the Disabled American  
39 Veterans;

40 (d) the director of the Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs; and

41 (e) one person not affiliated with any of the organizations referred to in this Subsection  
42 (2).

43 (3) (a) Except as required by Subsection (3)(b), the ~~[governor]~~ executive director shall  
44 appoint members in Subsections (2)(a), (b), (c), and (e) above for four-year terms. The  
45 governor shall make final appointments to the board by June 30 of any year in which  
46 appointments are to be made under this chapter.

47 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection (3)(a), the ~~[governor]~~ executive  
48 director of the Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs shall, at the time of appointment or  
49 reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of board members are  
50 staggered so that approximately half of the board is appointed every two years.

51 (c) All members shall serve until their successors are appointed.

52 (d) Members may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

53 (4) When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the replacement shall be  
54 appointed for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

55 (5) (a) The board shall select a chair annually from among its members at its first  
56 meeting after July 1.

57 (b) Three members of the board constitute a quorum to transact business.

58 (c) The board shall meet at least quarterly on a regular date fixed by the board.

59 (d) The chair or three members of the board may call additional meetings.

60 (6) The board shall provide copies of all minutes [~~and an annual report of its activities~~  
61 ~~by June 30 of each year to the Veterans' Advisory Council created in Section 71-8-4~~] to the  
62 Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs within 14 days of approval.

63 (7) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but  
64 may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

65 (a) Section 63A-3-106;

66 (b) Section 63A-3-107; and

67 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and  
68 63A-3-107.

69 Section 2. Section 71-8-2 is amended to read:

70 **71-8-2. Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs created -- Appointment of**  
71 **executive director -- Department responsibilities.**

72 (1) There is created the Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs.

73 (2) The governor shall appoint an executive director for the department, after  
74 consultation with the Veterans' Advisory Council, who is subject to Senate confirmation.

75 (a) The executive director shall be a veteran.

76 (b) Any veteran or veteran's group may submit names to the council for consideration.

77 (3) The department shall:

78 (a) conduct and supervise all veteran activities as provided in this title; and

79 (b) adopt rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative

80 Rulemaking Act, to carry out the provisions of this title.

81 (4) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as altering or preempting the provisions  
82 of Title 39, Militia and Armories, as specifically related to the Utah National Guard.

83 Section 3. Section 71-11-7 is amended to read:

84 **71-11-7. Veterans' Nursing Home Advisory Boards.**

85 (1) [~~(a)~~] Each home shall have a Veterans' Nursing Home Advisory Board to act as a  
86 liaison between the residents, members of the public, and the administration of the home.

87 [~~(b) The board shall interview candidates for the position of nursing home~~  
88 ~~administrator and make a recommendation to the department.~~]

89 (2) Each board shall consist of the following [~~seven~~] nine members appointed by the

90 executive director of the Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs:

91 ~~[(a) one resident of the home appointed by the governor;]~~

92 ~~[(b) two members of the Veterans' Advisory Council, designated by the governor, one~~  
93 ~~of which shall specifically be designated as the board's representative to the council;]~~

94 ~~[(c) one veteran from the area in which the home is located appointed by the governor;]~~

95 ~~[(d) one representative from the VA Health Care System, appointed by its director;]~~

96 (a) one appointee of the Resident Council of the specific veterans nursing home;

97 (b) three veterans from the geographic area in which the veterans nursing home is  
98 located;

99 (c) one medical professional experienced in veteran nursing home quality of care  
100 issues;

101 (d) two at-large members with an interest in the success of veterans nursing homes;

102 (e) one representative from the Department of Health, appointed by its executive  
103 director; and

104 (f) one representative from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regional  
105 office.

106 (3) (a) (i) Members shall serve for four-year terms.

107 (ii) Except as required by Subsection (3)(b), as terms of current board members expire,  
108 the [governor] executive director shall appoint each new or reappointed member to a four-year  
109 term beginning on July 1.

110 (b) The [governor] executive director shall, at the time of appointment or  
111 reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of board members are  
112 staggered so that approximately half of the board is appointed every two years.

113 (c) The [governor] executive director shall make final appointments to the board by  
114 June 30 of any year in which appointments are to be made under this chapter.

115 (4) Vacancies not including the Resident Council representative shall be filled by the  
116 [governor] executive director within 60 days of receiving notice of a vacancy, but only for the  
117 unexpired term of the vacated member.

118 (5) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), members may not serve more than two  
119 consecutive terms.

120 (b) Members appointed by the VA Health Care System and the United States

121 Department of Veterans Affairs are exempt from the term limit requirement.

122 (6) Each board shall elect a chair annually from among its members at its first meeting  
123 after July 1.

124 (7) Each board shall meet at least quarterly.

125 (8) Four members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

126 (9) Each board shall provide copies of all minutes [~~and an annual report of its activities~~  
127 ~~by June 30 of each year to the executive director~~] of each meeting to the Department of  
128 Veterans' and Military Affairs[~~, and the Veterans' Advisory Council~~] within 14 days of  
129 approval.

130 (10) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but  
131 may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

132 (a) Section [63A-3-106](#);

133 (b) Section [63A-3-107](#); and

134 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections [63A-3-106](#) and  
135 [63A-3-107](#).

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 2-20-15 9:09 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**