

A bill for an act

relating to veterans; changing certain qualifications for service on the Minnesota Veterans Homes Board and service as the board's executive director; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 198.002, subdivision 2; 198.004, subdivision 1.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 198.002, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Membership.** The board consists of nine voting members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The members of the board shall fairly represent the geographic areas of the state. The members are:

(1) a chair, designated by the governor;

(2) three public members experienced in policy formulation with professional experience in health care delivery; and

(3) at least five members experienced in policy formulation with professional experience in health care delivery who are members of congressionally chartered veterans organizations or their auxiliaries that have a statewide organizational structure and state level officers in Minnesota.

The commissioner of veterans affairs shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the board. From each house of the legislature, the chair of the committee that deals with veterans affairs or the chair's designee shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member ~~if that person is a veteran~~ of the board.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 198.004, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Appointment.** (a) The board shall appoint an executive director. The executive director shall serve in the unclassified service at the pleasure of the board. The

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2.1 executive director must be a resident of the state of Minnesota, ~~a~~ and citizen of the United
2.2 States, ~~and~~. Preferably, the executive director shall be a veteran as that term is defined
2.3 in section 197.447, but it is not required that the person be a veteran. The executive
2.4 director shall serve as secretary of the board.

2.5 (b) When selecting an executive director, the board shall give preference to qualified
2.6 applicants who are veterans by initially placing only the names of qualified applicants who
2.7 are veterans on the selection list for final consideration, and only if the list contains fewer
2.8 than three qualified applicants who are veterans shall the names of qualified applicants
2.9 who are not veterans be added to the list. The board shall then select the most qualified
2.10 applicant from the list. If at any point in the selection process, the board concludes that
2.11 no applicant is sufficiently qualified for the director position, the board may reopen the
2.12 application process.