

CHAPTER 198

MINNESOTA VETERANS HOME

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NOTE: See sections 137.20 and 137.21.

198.001 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of this chapter, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Resident" means a person admitted to any of the Minnesota veterans homes.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1975 c 61 s 26]

Subd. 4. "Administrator" means an administrator of any of the Minnesota veterans homes.

Subd. 5. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of veterans affairs.

Subd. 6. "Board" means the board of directors of the Minnesota veterans homes created by section 198.002.

Subd. 7. "Deputy commissioner" means the deputy commissioner of veterans affairs for veteran health care.

Subd. 8. "Home" means any of the Minnesota veterans homes.

History: 1965 c 643 s 1; 1967 c 148 s 2; 1971 c 619 s 1; 1975 c 61 s 14,15; 1988 c 699 s 5

198.002 BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Subdivision 1. **Creation.** The Minnesota veterans homes are governed by a board of directors appointed by the governor.

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) 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. The chair of the senate veterans affairs committee and the chair of the house committee on general legislation, veterans affairs, and gaming serve as ex

officio, nonvoting members of the board if they are veterans. In the event that one or both of the chairs are not veterans, then any member of the respective committees who is a veteran may be designated by the chair to serve on the board.

Subd. 3. **Terms; compensation.** Membership terms, compensation of members, removal of members, and filling of vacancies are as provided in section 15.0575.

Subd. 4. **Initial appointments.** Initial appointments to the board of directors are not subject to section 15.0597.

Subd. 5. **Administrative services.** The commissioner of veterans affairs shall provide administrative services to the board necessary for it to carry out its responsibilities.

Subd. 6. **Future elimination.** If the governor fails to appoint a board, or if the board is eliminated by any other means, its authority vests in the commissioner of veterans affairs.

History: 1988 c 699 s 6

198.003 POWERS AND DUTIES.

(a) It is the duty of the board and the board has the power to:

(1) determine policy and, subject to chapter 14, adopt, amend, and repeal rules for the governance of the homes;

(2) report quarterly to the governor on the management, operations, and quality of care provided at the homes; and

(3) take other action as provided by law.

(b) The board may appoint a deputy commissioner who shall serve as secretary of the board.

History: 1988 c 699 s 7

198.004 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR VETERAN HEALTH CARE TO BE APPOINTED; DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Appointment.** The board may appoint a deputy commissioner of veterans affairs for veteran health care who shall have the training, experience, and other qualifications in the field of health care management as the board determines.

Subd. 2. **Powers and duties.** If a deputy commissioner is appointed by the board, the deputy commissioner is the administrative head of the veterans homes and has the powers and duties provided by law and delegated by the commissioner. A delegation must be in writing, signed by the commissioner, and filed with the secretary of state. If appointed, the deputy commissioner shall:

(1) act as an advisor to the board and shall also act as its secretary;

(2) attend the meetings of the board;

(3) prepare and recommend to the board policies and rules for governance of the homes;

(4) appoint an administrator of each home with the approval of the board;

(5) appoint other employees of the homes in accordance with chapter 43A, which appointment power must be delegated to administrators;

(6) define the duties of the administrators and employees, and delegate to the administrators those powers and duties determined by the deputy, subject to the control of the deputy;

(7) with the assistance of the administrators, prepare and submit biennial and annual budgets for the homes to the board and, with the approval of the board, submit the budgets to the commissioner of veterans affairs for review and comment. The commissioner shall forward the budgets to the commissioner of finance as part of the department's budget;

(8) report to the board, at least quarterly, on the management, operations, and quality of care at the homes; and

(9) with the approval of the board, perform other duties as may be required for the management and administration of the homes.

History: 1988 c 699 s 8

198.005 ADMINISTRATORS.

If a deputy commissioner of veteran health care is appointed by the board, the deputy commissioner shall, with the approval of the board, appoint an administrator for each of the veterans homes. The administrators act as the administrative head for their respective veterans homes. The administrators shall have a current Minnesota nursing home administrator's license and shall serve in the unclassified service. The salaries of the administrators are not subject to section 43A.17, subdivision 1. The deputy commissioner may remove an administrator with the approval of the board. If a deputy commissioner is not appointed by the board, the board shall appoint the administrators.

History: 1988 c 699 s 9

198.006 SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS.

The board of directors shall work with federal, state, local, and private agencies to develop alternative institutional and noninstitutional care programs for veterans to supplement the mission of the homes. Veterans shall be afforded the least restrictive, most appropriate level of care available.

History: 1988 c 699 s 10

198.007 QUALITY ASSURANCE.

The board shall use the case-mix system established under section 144.072 to assess the appropriateness and quality of care and services provided residents of the homes.

The board shall adopt a preadmission screening program, such as the one established under section 256B.091, for all applicants for admission to the homes who may require nursing or boarding care.

History: 1988 c 699 s 11

198.01 VETERANS HOME; ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS.

The Minnesota veterans homes shall provide nursing care and related health and social services for veterans and their spouses who meet eligibility and admission requirements of the Minnesota veterans homes. The word "veteran" as used in this section has the meaning provided in section 197.447.

History: (4344) RL s 1835; 1931 c 176 s 1; 1943 c 54 s 1; 1951 c 71 s 1; 1957 c 150 s 1; 1967 c 52 s 1; 1967 c 148 s 1; 1971 c 619 s 2; 1973 c 572 s 11; 1975 c 61 s 16; 1980 c 414 s 6; 1984 c 609 s 18; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1988 c 699 s 12

198.02 [Repealed, 1953 c 117 s 2]

198.021 [Repealed, 1971 c 619 s 17]

198.022 ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES, SURVIVING SPOUSES, PARENTS.

The board is authorized to admit eligible spouses of those veterans who are or if living would be, eligible for admission to the homes.

(1) All applicants for admission to the Minnesota veterans home must be without adequate means of support and unable by reason of wounds, disease, old age, or infirmity to properly maintain themselves.

(2) Veterans must have served in a Minnesota regiment or have been credited to the state of Minnesota, or have been a resident of the state preceding the date of application for admission.

(3) Spouses and surviving spouses of eligible veterans must be at least 55 years of

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age, and have been residents of the state of Minnesota preceding the date of application for admission.

History: 1971 c 619 s 3; 1975 c 61 s 17; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 699 s 13

198.03 MAINTENANCE CHARGES.

Any person otherwise eligible for admission to the Minnesota veterans homes, except that the person has means of support, may, at the discretion of the board, be admitted to one of the Minnesota veterans homes upon entering into and complying with the terms of a contract made by the person with the board, providing for reasonable compensation to be paid by such person to the state of Minnesota for care, support, and maintenance in the home. Any earnings derived by the person from participating in a work therapy program while the person is a resident of the home may not be considered a means of support.

History: (4346) 1923 c 13; 1967 c 148 s 2; 1971 c 619 s 4; 1975 c 61 s 18; 1984 c 505 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 699 s 14

198.04 [Repealed, 1967 c 52 s 11]

198.05 NEW BUILDINGS.

The department of administration shall have and exercise full authority in the erection and construction of new buildings at the veterans homes. When new buildings are to be erected and constructed by authority of the state or old buildings to be remodeled it shall be the duty of the department of administration to cause to be prepared plans and specifications for the same, but in so doing it shall consult with the board in respect to these plans and specifications and shall adopt and carry out, so far as it deems practicable, their requests and desires in the matter.

History: (4348) 1913 c 88 s 1; 1967 c 148 s 2; 1975 c 61 s 19; 1988 c 699 s 15

198.055 [Repealed, 1983 c 147 s 5]

198.06 [Repealed, 1988 c 699 s 33]

198.061 [Repealed, 1971 c 619 s 17]

198.065 CHIROPRACTIC CARE AVAILABILITY.

In addition to the other services now provided to residents of the Minnesota veterans homes, the board shall provide chiropractic services. The services shall be provided, as appropriations permit, without charge to residents by a licensed chiropractor who is either employed by the board for the purpose or who has contracted with the board to provide the services.

History: 1982 c 503 s 1; 1988 c 699 s 16

198.066 GERIATRIC RESEARCH AND TEACHING.

The board of directors shall develop a geriatric research and teaching mission for the homes in collaboration with the Veterans Administration and other medical education and allied health facilities.

History: 1988 c 699 s 17

198.07 [Repealed, 1975 c 61 s 26]

198.071 [Repealed, 1975 c 61 s 26]

198.072 [Repealed, 1975 c 61 s 26]

198.073 [Repealed, 1975 c 61 s 26]

198.075 MINNESOTA VETERANS HOME EMPLOYEES; EXCLUDED FROM COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES.

No commissary privileges including food, laundry service, janitorial service, and

household supplies shall be furnished to any employee of the Minnesota veterans homes.

History: 1979 c 333 s 93; 1988 c 699 s 18

- 198.08 [Repealed, 1975 c 61 s 26]
- 198.09 [Repealed, 1975 c 61 s 26]
- 198.10 [Repealed, 1967 c 886 s 15]
- 198.11 [Repealed, 1967 c 886 s 15]
- 198.12 [Repealed, 1967 c 886 s 15]
- 198.13 [Repealed, 1967 c 52 s 11; 1967 c 886 s 15]
- 198.14 [Repealed, 1971 c 619 s 17]
- 198.15 [Repealed, 1971 c 619 s 17]

198.16 DONATIONS; GENERAL PURPOSES.

The board is authorized to accept on behalf of the state any gift, grant, bequest, or devise made for the purposes of this chapter, and administer the same as directed by the donor. All proceeds therefrom including money derived from the sale of any real or personal property shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the Minnesota veterans home endowment, bequest, and devises fund. Said fund shall consist of two accounts, one of which shall include any trusts prescribed by the donor, the other shall include any currently expendable proceeds. Disbursements from this fund shall be made in the manner provided for the issuance of other state warrants.

Whenever the board shall deem it advisable, in accordance with law, to sell or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property thus acquired, the commissioner of administration upon the request of the board shall sell or otherwise dispose of said property in the manner provided by law for the sale or disposition of other state property by the commissioner of administration.

History: (4359) RL s 1846; 1913 c 170 s 1; 1945 c 444 s 1; 1967 c 148 s 2; 1969 c 540 s 10; 1971 c 619 s 12; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1975 c 61 s 21; 1988 c 699 s 19

198.161 DONATIONS; PARTICULAR PURPOSES.

The commissioner may accept donations and gifts of money for the benefit of the residents of the homes. All money so received shall be deposited in a separate account for the home and records shall be kept, clearly showing the identity of the donor, the purpose of the donation and the ultimate disposition of the donation. Each donation shall be duly receipted and shall be expended or used by the board as nearly in accordance with the condition of the gift or donation as is compatible with the best interests of the residents of the homes. The donations so received to the extent they are made to the state of Minnesota are hereby appropriated to the board for the purposes of this chapter.

History: 1971 c 619 s 13; 1975 c 61 s 22; 1988 c 699 s 20

- 198.17 [Repealed, 1967 c 52 s 11]
- 198.18 [Repealed, 1971 c 619 s 17]
- 198.19 [Repealed, 1967 c 52 s 11]
- 198.20 [Repealed, 1971 c 619 s 17]
- 198.21 [Repealed, 1967 c 52 s 11]
- 198.22 [Repealed, 1967 c 886 s 15]

198.23 PERSONAL PROPERTY OF RESIDENTS; WILLS.

Upon the decease of any resident of the homes, the board shall cause such of the resident's personal estate as may be left in the resident's possession to be disposed of pursuant to the resident's will, if any. All property of the deceased resident of the home

not so bequeathed by will, and remaining at a home, unclaimed, for one year after the resident's death, shall be inventoried, appraised, and sold, and the proceeds thereof paid into the state treasury to the credit of the Minnesota veterans homes endowment, bequest and devises fund.

History: (4366) *RL s 1848; 1965 c 643 s 10; 1967 c 148 s 2; 1971 c 619 s 14; 1975 c 61 s 23; 1975 c 225 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 699 s 21*

198.231 PERSONAL PROPERTY OF DISCHARGED RESIDENTS.

Personal property of discharged residents of the veterans homes that remains unclaimed for one year after discharge may be inventoried, appraised, and sold. The proceeds from the sale must be deposited into the state treasury. Proceeds from the sale of personal property and any funds held on behalf of the resident in the member's depository accounts must be credited to a separate state account and disposed of in accordance with sections 345.41 to 345.43.

History: *1983 c 147 s 3; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 699 s 22*

198.26 [Repealed, 1969 c 1153 s 16]

198.261 CANTEEN AND COFFEE SHOP.

Any profits derived from the operation of canteens and coffee shops at the Minnesota veterans homes shall be used by the board only for the direct benefit of the residents of the homes.

History: *1969 c 1153 s 14; 1971 c 619 s 15; 1975 c 61 s 24; 1988 c 699 s 23*

198.265 DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS.

The board may accept money from residents for safekeeping purposes to be returned to such residents on demand. Sufficient money shall be retained at the homes to satisfy normal demand withdrawal requests of the residents and other anticipated needs. Residents' deposits shall otherwise be deposited in the state treasury to a separate investment account provided by the commissioner of finance, which shall be invested by the state board of investment in accordance with section 11A.21. Residents' money on deposit in this account may be placed in this account only after the member has signed an agreement that the resident is willing to have the money in an account that does not draw interest directly to the resident personally.

There is annually appropriated from the account established by this section a sufficient amount to return to the Minnesota veterans homes, upon written request, sufficient money to satisfy the demand of residents for the return of their money and other requirements.

The interest earned from the investment of the deposits is annually appropriated to the commissioner from the account established by this section to be used by the board only for the direct benefit of the residents of the homes, and the interest shall be available to the homes not less than twice each year.

History: *1969 c 1153 s 15; 1971 c 619 s 16; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1975 c 61 s 25; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 46; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 699 s 24*

198.266 IMPREST CASH FUNDS.

The board may establish an imprest cash fund in accordance with section 15.191, subdivision 2. The purpose of the fund is to maintain sufficient money to satisfy normal demand withdrawal requests from residents of the veterans homes as provided for in section 198.265. The fund may also be utilized for the payment of costs for residents to participate in on campus work therapy programs.

History: *1983 c 147 s 4; 1988 c 699 s 25*

198.31 VETERANS HOME, HASTINGS.

Control of the state hospital facilities at Hastings is transferred to the board. This transfer includes the cemetery. The board shall establish a veterans home in these facilities. The veterans home shall be licensed in accordance with the boarding care rules of the department of health.

History: 1978 c 554 s 1; 1979 c 333 s 94; 1988 c 699 s 26

198.32 VETERANS HOME; COMPLAINTS; RESIDENT'S RIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. Resident's rights. A resident of a Minnesota veterans home has the right to complain and otherwise exercise freedom of expression and assembly which is guaranteed by amendment I of the United States Constitution. The administrator of the home shall inform each resident in writing at the time of admission of the right to complain to the administrator about home accommodations and services. A notice of the right to complain shall be posted in the home. The administrator shall also inform each resident of the right to complain to the board or to the commissioner of veterans affairs. Each resident of a home shall be encouraged and assisted, throughout the period of stay in the home, to understand and exercise the rights of freedom of expression and assembly as a resident and as a citizen, and, to this end, the resident may voice grievances and recommend changes in policies and services to home staff, other residents, and outside representatives of the resident's choice, free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal, including retaliatory eviction. A resident of a home may not be denied any tenant rights available under chapter 566, including the right to recover possession of the premises.

Subd. 2. Retaliation prohibited. An administrator may not retaliate against any resident who exercises the right to voice grievances by evicting the resident. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that any eviction within 45 days of the exercise by a resident of the right to voice grievances is retaliatory.

History: 1983 c 313 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 699 s 27

198.33 PRIVACY OF RESIDENTS; SEARCH AND SEIZURE LIMITED TO CRIMINAL WARRANT.

Subdivision 1. Searches prohibited. Residents of the Minnesota veterans homes have the right to a legitimate expectation of privacy in their persons and property against unreasonable searches and seizures. A search of a resident's room or property may be conducted only when necessary to protect the residents from weapons, illegal drugs, or alcohol, if possession is prohibited by the board, and is subject to the following:

(a) Prior to conducting a search of a resident's room or property, the administrator shall provide written authorization to conduct the search. This authorization must identify the resident whose room or property is to be searched, state the nature of the risk to the health or safety of that resident or to other individuals in the home, set forth the facts which establish that the risk exists and the source of those facts, and particularly describe the area to be searched and the property to be seized. A separate authorization must be completed for each resident whose room or property is to be searched.

(b) The resident shall be informed of the reasons necessitating a search of the room or property and shall be present during the conduct of the search if the resident requests to be present. A copy of the administrator's authorization must be given to the resident.

(c) If property or other items are taken, a written receipt describing the property or items taken must be given to the resident.

(d) The provisions of this section do not restrict the entry by employees of the home into a resident's room or into areas where the personal possessions of residents are stored for the purpose of providing care or services to the resident or for housekeeping and maintenance purposes. The provisions of this section do not apply to inspections conducted by governmental agencies for the purpose of assessing compliance with state or federal laws and regulations.

(e) Unauthorized searches or seizures by employees of the Minnesota veterans homes may be grounds for dismissal.

Subd. 2. Waiver prohibited. The Minnesota veterans homes may not require a resident to waive protection against unreasonable searches and seizures as a condition of eligibility for admission or continuing residence at a home. A search conducted under a waiver obtained in violation of this section is an unlawful search and seizure and the person aggrieved may move the district court for return of the property under section 626.21.

History: 1983 c 174 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 699 s 28

198.34 DEPOSIT OF RECEIPTS.

Federal money received by the board for the care of veterans in a veterans home, after being credited to a federal receipt account, must be transferred to the general revenue fund in the state treasury. Money paid to the board by a veteran or by another person on behalf of a veteran for care in a veterans home must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

History: 1Sp1985 c 13 s 29; 1988 c 699 s 29

NOTE: This section, as amended by Laws 1988, chapter 699, section 29, is effective July 1, 1989. See Laws 1988, chapter 699, section 34.

198.35 VETERANS HOME; SILVER BAY.

Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner may establish a veterans home in Silver Bay by renovating an existing facility owned by the city of Silver Bay if the city donates the building to the commissioner at no cost. Contracts made by the commissioner for the purposes of this subdivision are subject to chapter 16B. Buildings used for the veterans home must comply with requirements established by federal agencies as conditions for the receipt of federal funds for the nursing and boarding care of veterans. The city of Silver Bay shall secure the state match requirement from sources other than the state general fund. Money from other sources must equal at least 35 percent of the total cost of the renovation with the remainder of the funds to be provided by the United States Veterans Administration.

Subd. 2. Operation. The home must provide beds for nursing or boarding and nursing care in conformance with licensing rules of the department of health. The home must be under the management of an administrator appointed by the commissioner in the unclassified service.

History: 1988 c 689 art 2 s 63