

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
96TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011**

**Introduced by Senators Moolenaar, Pappageorge, Green, Emmons, Colbeck, Proos, Nofs, Hansen, Meekhof,
Brandenburg, Anderson, Bieda, Booher, Casperson, Caswell, Gleason, Gregory, Hildenbrand, Hopgood,
Hune, Jansen, Johnson, Jones, Kahn, Kowall, Marleau, Richardville, Robertson, Schuitmaker and Walker**

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 798

AN ACT to amend 1946 (1st Ex Sess) PA 9, entitled "An act to create the Michigan veterans' trust fund, and to define who shall be eligible to receive assistance therefrom; to provide for the disbursement of the income thereof and surplus therein; to create a board of trustees, and to prescribe its powers and duties; to provide for county and district committees, and their powers, duties, and expenses; to prescribe penalties; and to make appropriations to carry out the provisions of this act," (MCL 35.602 to 35.610) by adding sections 3b and 6a; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 3b. (1) There is created a Michigan veterans' trust fund board of trustees. Each member of the board shall be a veteran. Each member appointed shall have demonstrated knowledge, skills, and experience in public service, business, or finance. Members shall be appointed as follows:

- (a) One representative of the American legion.
- (b) One representative of the veterans of foreign wars of the United States.
- (c) One representative of the disabled American veterans.

(d) One representative of any other congressionally chartered veterans' organization other than those organizations identified in subdivision (a), (b), or (c).

(e) Three independent members who may or may not be a member of 1 or more congressionally chartered veterans' organizations, but who shall not represent any congressionally chartered veterans' organization of which they are a member.

(2) The members shall be appointed by the governor. Each member shall hold office for the term of 3 years from the time of his or her appointment and shall continue to hold office at the pleasure of the governor. The members enumerated in subsection (1)(a), (b), (c), and (d) shall be appointed by the governor from the original list of at least 3 individuals recommended by each respective organization named in subsection (1)(a), (b), (c), and (d).

(3) Each member of the board shall qualify by taking and filing the constitutional oath of office.

(4) The governor may remove any member of the board for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, after hearing. Missing 3 or more consecutive meetings shall be considered malfeasance and is grounds for removal.

(5) If a vacancy occurs during the term of office of a member of the board of trustees, the member's successor shall be selected from the same organization and in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.

(6) The department of technology, management, and budget shall furnish suitable offices for use of the board.

(7) The board may employ assistants and incur necessary expenses in carrying out this act. Members of the board shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending scheduled meetings of the board in accordance with the accounting laws of this state.

(8) As used in this act:

(a) "Board" means the Michigan veterans' trust fund board of trustees created in subsection (1).

(b) "Veteran" means that term as defined in section 1 of 1965 PA 190, MCL 35.61.

Sec. 6a. (1) The board of trustees shall establish in the counties of this state representative veteran county committees for the administration of the allocated money on the local level. The board of trustees may combine 2 or more counties into a district if, in the opinion of the board of trustees, a more efficient local administration may result from that combination.

(2) Each member appointed shall have demonstrated knowledge, skills, and experience in public service, business, or finance. Members shall be appointed as follows:

(a) One representative of the American legion.

(b) One representative of the veterans of foreign wars of the United States.

(c) One representative of the disabled American veterans.

(d) One representative of any other congressionally chartered veterans' organization other than those organizations identified in subdivision (a), (b), or (c).

(e) Not less than 1 independent member who may or may not be a member of 1 or more congressionally chartered veterans' organizations, but shall not represent any congressionally chartered veterans' organization of which he or she is a member.

(3) Members appointed under subsection (2) shall be appointed by the board of trustees upon recommendation of the organizations identified in subsection (2). For members appointed under subsection (2)(a), (b), or (c), a recommendation for appointment shall come from an organized and functioning local unit of the organization, through the organization's headquarters. For a member appointed under subsection (2)(d), a recommendation for appointment shall come from the state headquarters of the congressionally chartered veterans' organization that validates the nominated member's qualifying criteria. For members appointed under subsection (2)(e), candidates shall submit through the county or district committee the request for consideration of appointment with the required criteria validated.

(4) Each member of a county or district committee shall be a veteran.

(5) The board of trustees may remove a member of a county or district committee for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, after hearing. Missing 2 or more consecutive meetings shall be considered malfeasance and is grounds for removal.

(6) If a vacancy occurs during the term of office of a member of a county or district committee, the member's successor shall be selected from the same organization and in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.

(7) Members of a county or district committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending scheduled meetings of the committee or in attending a meeting to make a determination on a grant, which expenses, together with administration expenses, shall be paid from money allocated to the county or district committee as provided in this act.

(8) The county boards of commissioners, or the board of county auditors in a county with a board of county auditors, shall provide suitable office space for county and district committees.

(9) A veteran who considers himself or herself aggrieved at a decision rendered by a county or district committee in connection with a request for assistance may appeal that decision to the board of trustees. The decision of the board of trustees on an appeal referred to it is final and binding on the veteran and the county or district committee.

Enacting section 1. Sections 3 and 6 of 1946 (1st Ex Sess) PA 9, MCL 35.603 and 35.606, are repealed.

Enacting section 2. This amendatory act takes effect January 1, 2012.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate

Gay E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved

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Governor