



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

20 W 12th St, St Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-296-2562 • Fax: 651-296-3954
MinnesotaVeteran.org • 1-888-LinkVet

Proposal: Veterans Homes Administrators Reporting Changes

Bill: HF 4335 (Rep. Bennett)/SF ____ (Sen.)

Background: This proposal is a technical change that clarifies the reporting structure of the Veterans health care division of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, reinforcing the supervisory interests of the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Health Care in overseeing operations of the Minnesota Veterans Homes.

This proposed amendment of Minn. Stat. §198.005 would correct an error to clarify the Minnesota Veterans Homes leadership reporting structure. It would eliminate language mandating Veterans homes administrators report directly to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

In 2008, the Minnesota Veterans Homes administration was transferred from the Veterans Homes Board of Directors to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs after a series of authority changes dating back to 1988. These changes also included the leader of the homes changing from Deputy Commissioner to Executive Director and back to Deputy Commissioner in 2008. Prior to the 2008 change, Veterans Homes administrators always reported to the leader of the healthcare division whether known as the Deputy Commissioner or Executive Director.

The session law that provided the latest change of authority was 2008 CHAPTER 297--S.F. No. 3683, Sec. 9. 196.021 [DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS; DUTIES]. The Revisors Instructions included the insertion of "commissioner" to replace "board," "board of directors," or "Veterans Homes Board of Directors" wherever used in Minnesota Statutes including Minn. Stat. §198.005 which was established when §198.004 was repealed as part of the 2008 session law.

Language: §Amend 198.005 The commissioner shall 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 administrators serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and report directly to the commissioner.~~

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