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SENATE BILL NO. 344

Offered January 22, 1996

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.1-51.27, 2.1-738, 2.1-744.1, 2.1-744.5, and 2.1-744.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Veterans Care Center.*

Patron—Trumbo

Referred to the Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.1-51.27, 2.1-738, 2.1-744.1, 2.1-744.5, and 2.1-744.6 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.1-51.27. Agencies for which responsible.

The Secretary of Administration shall be responsible to the Governor for the following agencies: Department of Information Technology, Council on Information Management, Department of Personnel and Training, Department of General Services, Compensation Board, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Department of Employee Relations Counselors, Department of Veterans' Affairs, ~~Virginia Veterans Care Center Board of Trustees~~, Commission on Local Government, and Charitable Gaming Commission. The Governor may, by executive order, assign any other state executive agency to the Secretary of Administration, or reassign any agency listed above to another secretary.

§ 2.1-738. General powers and duties of Director.

A. The Director shall establish, equip, and operate such offices as may be necessary or desirable to render assistance to veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their Virginia-domiciled surviving spouses, orphans, and dependents in matters of rehabilitation and in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of all lawful claims, by, or on behalf of, such veterans and their surviving spouses, orphans, and dependents, to obtain the benefit of their rights and privileges under various federal, state, and local laws enacted for their benefit. For these purposes the Director is authorized to employ such personnel as in his judgment may be necessary for the proper operation of such offices and for the proper discharge of the duties and functions of such Department.

Such offices shall be so located as to make the services of the Department conveniently available to such veterans and their surviving spouses, orphans, and dependents. Appropriate geographic areas of responsibility shall be assigned from time to time for each office. The various localities in each such area shall be visited by a representative attached to the office having responsibility for the area at such intervals as may be necessary or desirable.

B. *The Director shall also be responsible for the Virginia Veterans Care Center Board of Trustees established pursuant to § 2.1-744.1, the Virginia Veterans Care Center Facility Maintenance Fund established pursuant to § 2.1-744.5, and the Virginia Veterans Care Center Endowment Fund established pursuant to § 2.1-744.6.*

§ 2.1-744.1. Virginia Veterans Care Center Board of Trustees; appointments; terms.

A. The Virginia Veterans Care Center Board of Trustees is hereby established and shall be referred to in this chapter as the Board. The Board is a supervisory board within the meaning of § 9-6.25 and shall operate as an agency under the supervision and direction of the ~~Secretary of Administration~~ *Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs*. The Board shall govern and oversee the administration of the Virginia Veterans Care Center, located in the City of Roanoke, adjacent to the United States Veterans Administration hospital. The purpose of the Virginia Veterans Care Center is to provide adult home and nursing home care for Virginia residents who are veterans of the armed forces of the United States or those who were Virginia residents at the time of their entry in the armed forces.

B. The Board shall be composed of ten members, all residents of the Commonwealth, to be appointed by the Governor. Three members shall be chosen from a list of nominees submitted by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. Two members shall be chosen from a list of nominees submitted by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. In making appointments, the Governor shall select members who possess the qualifications and experience necessary to control the operations of the Virginia Veterans Care Center, so as to provide financially sound, high quality care to its residents.

C. Members of the Board shall be appointed for four-year terms. Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term. No person shall be eligible to serve for more than two successive four-year terms. However, any person appointed to fill a vacancy may be eligible for two successive full terms after the term of the vacancy for which he was appointed has expired. Members of the Board may be removed by the Governor at his pleasure.

§ 2.1-744.5. Virginia Veterans Care Center Facility Maintenance Fund.

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60 There is hereby created the Virginia Veterans Care Center Facility Maintenance Fund. The Fund
61 shall be used for equipment, repair and renovation of the Center and to pay for maintenance reserve and
62 capital outlay projects appropriated to the Board or the Center in the general appropriation act.

63 The Fund shall consist of depreciation or similar revenue received under contracts to operate the
64 Virginia Veterans Care Center, or any gifts, grants, bequests, or devises received for the Fund's purpose
65 by the Board. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. Any funds remaining in
66 such Fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund.
67 Interest earned on the Fund shall be credited to the Fund. The Board shall develop guidelines for the use
68 of the Fund. The Board shall report to the ~~Secretary of Administration~~ *Director of the Department of*
69 *Veterans' Affairs* annually on the uses of the Fund.

70 § 2.1-744.6. Virginia Veterans Care Center Endowment Fund.

71 There is hereby created the Virginia Veterans Care Center Endowment Fund. The Fund shall be used
72 to support programs, activities, and services for residents of the Center. It is the intent of the General
73 Assembly that the Fund shall not be used as operating revenue for the Center, but in addition thereto to
74 enhance the Center and the lives of its residents.

75 The Fund shall consist of any gifts, grants, bequests, or devises received for the Fund's purpose by
76 the Board. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. Any funds remaining in such
77 Fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the general fund, but shall remain in the Fund. Interest
78 earned on the Fund shall be credited to the Fund. The Board shall develop guidelines for the use of the
79 Fund. The Board shall report to the ~~Secretary of Administration~~ *Director of the Department of Veterans'*
80 *Affairs* annually on the uses of the Fund.