

SENATE BILL 678

By Lundberg

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58,  
Chapter 7, relative to naming of state veterans'  
homes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 7, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) In accordance with this section:

(1) The Tennessee state veterans' homes board may name the campus, buildings, facilities, and grounds of any state veterans' home; and

(2) Each veterans' home administrator may name portions of the campus, buildings, facilities, and grounds of the state veterans' home at which the administrator is employed.

(b) Any campus, building, facility, or grounds, or portions thereof, named pursuant to this section must:

(1) Be named for an individual or group who has been recognized for the individual's actions as a veteran, the individual's or group's contributions to veteran services, or the individual's actions performed in the service of the United States armed forces;

(2) Not be named for an individual who has been convicted of a felony or received a discharge from the armed forces that is less than honorable;

(3) Not be named for an individual or group that is currently being used to name another campus, building, facility, or grounds, or portion thereof; and

(4) Not be named for employees of the department of veterans services or members of the Tennessee state veterans' homes board.

(c)

(1) Except as provided in (c)(2), any campus, building, facility, grounds, or portion thereof named pursuant to this section must be so designated for the useful life of the campus, building, facility, or grounds.

(2) The Tennessee state veterans' homes board or veterans' home administrator, as applicable, may remove a name from any campus, building, facility, grounds, or portion thereof, if:

(A) The removal protects the reputation of the state veterans' home; and

(B) The name is removed by the same process by which the campus, building, facility, grounds, or portion thereof was named.

(d)

(1) The Tennessee state veterans' home board shall create a committee to recommend names to the board for the naming of campuses, buildings, facilities, and grounds of state veterans' homes.

(2) The committee shall request input from the state senator and representative representing the district where the veterans' home is located, the county mayor and city mayor, if applicable, representing the county and city where the veterans' home is located, representatives of local veteran-affiliated organizations in the area where the veterans' home is located, and any other interested parties the committee deems appropriate.

(3) The committee shall accept suggestions for names from any interested party. The committee may develop a form to be used to submit suggestions.

(4) The committee shall submit its recommendations to the board, and the board shall vote to approve or disapprove the recommendations.

(5) If the board votes to approve a recommendation, the board shall submit the recommendation to the commissioner of veterans services, along with a report detailing all of the names suggested and considered and a justification for the recommendation.

(6) After the commissioner of veterans services endorses the recommendation, the commissioner shall forward the recommendation to the governor for approval.

(7) The board shall not publicize the naming of any campus, building, facility, or grounds until the naming has been approved by the governor.

(e)

(1) Each veterans' home administrator shall create a committee, composed of members of the administration of the veterans' home, to recommend names to the administrator for naming of portions of campuses, buildings, facilities, and grounds of the state veterans' home at which the administrator is employed. The administrator shall act as chair of the committee. The committee shall not be convened more than twice in any calendar year.

(2) The committee shall request input from the county mayor and city mayor, if applicable, representing the county and city where the veterans' home is located, representatives of local veteran-affiliated organizations in the area where the veterans' home is located, and any other interested party the committee deems appropriate.

(3) The committee shall accept suggestions for names from any interested party. The committee may develop a form to be used to submit suggestions.

(4) The committee shall approve or disapprove suggestions by majority vote.

(5) The administrator shall keep a permanent record of:

(A) Any suggestions submitted to the committee;

(B) The minutes of any meetings of the committee;

(C) The members of the committee present at each meeting;

(D) A list of any attendees at each meeting of the committee;

(E) Any votes taken; and

(F) The reasoning behind any disapproval of a suggested name.

(f)

(1) Ceremonies related to the naming of a campus, building, facility, or grounds of any state veterans' home must follow any regulations, guidelines, or directives in effect for such purposes.

(2) Ceremonies related to the naming of a portion of a campus, building, facility, or grounds of any state veterans' home must be planned and conducted by the veterans' home administrator. The administrator shall establish requirements for the format, size, mounting, and presentation of any dedication plaque or comparable marking. Any dedication plaque or comparable marking must be funded by the person who made the suggestion or by donations.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.