

LEGISLATIVE BILL 37

Approved by the Governor March 9, 2005

Introduced by Schimek, 27

AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission; to amend sections 72-724 and 72-728, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions involving appointments to the commission; to change and eliminate procedures for naming persons to the Nebraska Hall of Fame; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 72-724, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

72-724. (1) There is hereby created a Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, which shall consist of seven members, six of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. The Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society shall be the seventh member of the commission and shall serve as secretary of the commission. ~~Not~~ The Governor shall appoint no more than three members of the commission shall be appointed from the same political party. The Governor shall consider gender and ethnic diversity and the person's appreciation for the history and culture of the state when making the appointments. In making the initial appointments of the commission, the Governor shall appoint two members for a term of two years, two members for a term of four years, and two members for a term of six years. As the terms of the members expire, the Governor shall appoint or reappoint a member of the commission for a term of six years to succeed the member whose term expires. The members shall serve without compensation. The Governor shall be an ex officio member of the commission.

(2) The Nebraska State Historical Society shall be responsible for the administration of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission.

Sec. 2. Section 72-728, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

72-728. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission ~~(a) shall not name any individual to the Nebraska Hall of Fame on or after April 19, 1998, and before January 1, 2000, (b) shall not name more than one person to the Nebraska Hall of Fame during a five-year period beginning January 1, 2000, and ending December 31, 2004, and (c) on and after January 1, 2005, shall name not more than one person every five years thereafter shall not name more than one person to the Nebraska Hall of Fame during each five-year period beginning on and after January 1, 2005.~~ During the first two years of the ~~each~~ five-year period, ~~required in subdivisions (b) and (c) of this subsection,~~ the commission shall receive nominations of candidates to be named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame. The commission shall review the nominations and may select the finalists for induction. ~~During the following subsequent two years of each five-year period, the commission shall review the finalists, if any, and shall hold public hearings regarding the finalists in each of the congressional districts. After the hearings, the commission may select one finalist for induction. If a finalist is selected for induction, the commission shall name him or her to the Nebraska Hall of Fame during the final year of the ~~each~~ five-year period. No individual shall be named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame until at least thirty-five years after such person's demise.~~

(2) Notwithstanding the limitations imposed by subsection (1) of this section, the commission shall procure an appropriate plaque upon which shall be placed the names of each Nebraskan awarded the Medal of Honor as a result of such person's services in the armed forces of the United States. Such plaque shall have sufficient space for listing the names of persons who shall be awarded the Medal of Honor in the future. The plaque shall have a suitable place in the State Capitol.

Sec. 3. Original sections 72-724 and 72-728, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.