

**HO-CHUNK NATION CODE (HCC)
TITLE 1 – ESTABLISHMENT ACTS
SECTION 7 – DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING ESTABLISHMENT
AND ORGANIZATION ACT OF 2001**

ENACTED BY LEGISLATURE: APRIL 18, 2001

LAST AMENDED AND RESTATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2009

CITE AS: 1 HCC § 7

This Act supersedes the Department of Housing Establishment and Organization Act of 1995 (HCNL 012-95) as enacted by the Legislature on 12/19/95 and further amended on 02/03/09.

1. Authority.

a. Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution (“Constitution”) grants the Legislature the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes.

b. Article V, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to establish Executive Departments, and to delegate legislative powers to the Executive Branch to be administered by such Departments in accordance with the law; any Department established by the Legislature shall be administered by the Executive; the Legislature reserves the power to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power.

c. Article V, Section 2(c) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to constitute a Board of Directors for each Department, except the President shall name the Executive Director, subject to confirmation by the Legislature.

d. Article V, Section 2(d) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to authorize expenditures by law and appropriate funds to the various Departments in an annual budget.

e. Article VI, Section 1(b) of the Constitution requires a Department of Housing.

f. Article VI, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the President the power to administer all Departments, boards, and committees created by the Legislature.

2. Purpose. The Legislature establishes and organizes a Department of Housing as required by the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

3. **Mission.** The Ho-Chunk Department of Housing shall shelter Tribal members by obtaining and maintaining housing that meets generally accepted standards of safety, decency, sanitation, and comfort. In doing so, the Department shall safeguard the interests of the Nation, enhance the sovereignty of the Nation, and exercise stewardship over those resources committed to it by the Nation and foreign jurisdictions.

4. **Functions.** The Department of Housing shall:

a. Provide maintenance and/or upkeep on Tribal buildings and/or property.

b. Make resources available to increase and maintain home ownership among Tribal membership.

c. Provide for effective communication and dissemination of Tribal information to the Tribal population.

5. **Internal Organization.**

a. The Department of Housing shall consist of an Executive Director and such divisions, branches, and offices necessary for the execution of its mission, performance of its mandated functions, and to achieve its annual goals and objectives.

b. The Department shall employ staff professionals, support personnel, and/or contract with professional service firms as the Executive Director shall determine consistent with the Nation's *Finance Manual*, other laws of the Nation, and the Legislative approved budgetary authority.

c. The Department shall maintain a current Organizational Chart. The Organizational Chart shall accompany its annual budget submission and any budget modifications during the fiscal year in accordance with the Nation's *Appropriations and Budget Process Act*.

6. **Executive Director and Board of Directors.**

a. Executive Director.

(1) The Executive Director shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Legislature.

(2) The Executive Director shall be a full-time employee and paid compensation commensurate with his or her skills, education, experience, and responsibilities and within the standards of compensation established by the Legislature.

(3) The Executive Director shall be responsible for operating within the annually appropriated budget for the Department.

b. Board of Directors. The President shall establish a Board of Directors for the Department of Housing subject to confirmation by the Legislature pursuant to paragraph 1c.

(1) Role. The Board of Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity on matters referred by the Executive Director.

(a) The Board shall not be a policy making body.

(b) The Board shall be involved in the Department's strategic community housing planning.

(c) The Board shall be consulted during the development of the Department's annual goals and objectives required pursuant to the *Appropriations and Budget Process Act*.

(2) Qualifications. Directors shall have the requisite skills, knowledge, and education to provide professional and expert advice and recommendations to the Executive Director.

(3) Membership. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of five (5) members.

(a) A Director shall not be an employee of the Department of Housing.

(b) A Director shall not be a member of more than two (2) department Boards of Directors.

(c) A Director shall not be appointed nor serve as a member of a subordinate advisory board within the Department of Housing.

(d) A Director shall not be appointed nor serve as a Commissioner of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency.

(e) Whether a Director can be an immediate family member of a Legislator, the President, or the appointed staff of the President shall be controlled by the *Open Meetings Act* (2 HCC § 2).

(f) Director vacancies shall be posted pursuant to the requirements of the *Legislative Organization Act* (2 HCC § 13).

(4) Directors shall serve two (2) year terms and may serve for more than one (1) term. The terms shall be alternated so that two (2) Directors are appointed or re-appointed after the first year and every two (2) years thereafter and three (3) Directors are appointed/re-appointed in the alternate years.

(5) Compensation. Directors shall be compensated for attendance at Board Meetings at a rate established by the Legislature. A Director must be present for a majority of the Meeting to receive compensation.

(6) Board Meetings.

(a) The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year and for special meetings as required and subject to the Board's By Laws.

(b) Board Meetings shall be subject to the Nation's *Open Meetings Act*.

(c) Quorum. Quorum for the Board of Directors shall be three (3) of the five (5) Directors. Quorum must be attained and maintained to conduct business and for Directors to be eligible for compensation.

(d) Minutes. The Board shall publish Meeting Minutes for each Board Meeting. Minutes shall be submitted to the Office of the President and the Legislature. A copy of the Meeting Minutes must be attached to compensation pay vouchers.

(7) Every twelve (12) months the Board shall elect a Chairperson.

(8) The Directors shall be subject to the Nation's law regarding nepotism and conflicts of interest.

(9) Within sixty (60) days of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Directors shall submit the By Laws of the Board to the Legislature for approval.

7. Annual Report to the Nation. The Department of Housing shall submit through the President to the Legislature a final written annual report within thirty (30) days of the end of each fiscal year. It will report on the activities of the Department, achievement of the goals and objectives for the previous fiscal year, and the impact, if any, of fiscal constraints on its current goals and objectives.

Legislative History:

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| 3/15/95 | Presented to the Legislature by the President and referred to the Environment, Lands, Housing and Building Development Committee. |
| 12/19/95 | Adopted by Legislature. |
| 4/18/01 | Enacted as 1 HCC § 6 by Ho-Chunk Nation Legislative Resolution 4/18/01E. |
| 3/16/04 | Amended and Restated by Legislative Resolution 3/16/04F reducing quorum for the Board of Directors from 4 to 3 and requiring Director vacancies to be posted in the Hocak Worak prior to filling. |
| 5/4/04 | Amended and Restated by Legislative Resolution 5/4/04C deleting reference to the Ho-Chunk Housing Authority and Tribal Ordinance 7A. |
| 10/21/08 | Legislature places out proposed Amendments for forty-five day public comment solely surrounding issue of immediate family of Legislators, President, and Appointed Presidential staff serving on the Board of Directors and posting of vacancies on Board. |
| 2/03/09 | Resolution 02-03-09 F Amends and Restates Act to allow immediate family of Legislators, President, and Appointed Presidential staff to serve on the Board of Directors. |