

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: **16-3-W**
SUBMITTED BY: The American Legion, Department of Michigan
SUBJECT: Opposition to HB 4642 – Amendments to “Veterans Trust Fund” Act of 1946

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of war veterans who have dedicated themselves to the well-being of all American military service veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Michigan encompasses nearly 400 local posts and represents approximately 70,000 wartime service veteran members and, by extension, every military service veteran in the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, A bill has been introduced in the Michigan Legislature designated HB 4642 to amend the “Veterans Trust Fund Act” of 1946 (1946 (1st Executive Session) PA 9) [herein called “VTF”]; and

WHEREAS, Amendments to Section 4 and Section 5 of this Act proposed in HB 4642 replace references to “veteran county and district committees” with “regional committees; and

WHEREAS, Amendments to Section 6 of this Act proposed in HB 4642 specifically call for the establishment of “NOT MORE THAN 10 REGIONAL committees”; and dictate the makeup of these “regional committees” referencing “different conflicts” and “population demographics”; and

WHEREAS, It is the position of The American Legion, Department of Michigan that moving to regional boards will have negative effects on the operation of the VTF, extending the resolution time from around two days to fourteen or more days and removing the “neighbor to neighbor” trust that is essential to the confidence the veterans in need must have to apply for assistance in the first place; and

WHEREAS, It is the position of The American Legion, Department of Michigan that approval of these amendments will be an extreme disservice to the veterans the VTF is designed to help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Winter Meeting assembled in Flint, Michigan, February 13-14, 2016, That The

American Legion, Department of Michigan is strongly opposed to Michigan HB 4642 (2015); and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan express to the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, and all members of the Michigan Legislature, our opposition to HB 4642.