

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: **C-16-14**

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Michigan

SUBJECT: **Exempt Certain Income From VA Pension Rate Determination**

WHEREAS, Veterans and surviving spouses in receipt of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pension benefits under Public Law (PL) 95-588 must report all income received from outside sources, since this directly affects the amount of VA pension to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, Countable income received by the veteran from most sources would include earnings, disability and retirement payments, interest and dividends, and net income from farming or business; and

WHEREAS, Any reimbursement that would compensate a veteran for expenses due to an accident, theft or loss would also be considered countable income; and

WHEREAS, At many polling places, there is a shortage of needed supervisory personnel and serving as an election judge helps ensure a fair and impartial election process; and

WHEREAS, The amount of financial remuneration received from these types of civic activities is relatively small, but it can result in the reduction in monthly benefits, dollar for dollar, or the complete loss of entitlement to pension; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention, assembled in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, June 24 – June 26, 2016, That The American Legion support legislation to amend paragraph (5), section 1503(a), and title 38, United States Code, to exempt the reimbursement of expenses related to accidents, theft loss or casualty loss from being included in the determination of countable income with respect to pensions for veterans and surviving spouses and children of veterans; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to exempt income received from jury duty and income from service as an election judge in determining the VA pension rate under Public Law (P.L.) 95-588.