

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: #21-14

SUBMITTED BY: Department Legislative Committee

**SUBJECT: Request the State of Michigan Begin the Next Phase for State
Veteran Homes**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In February, 2016, a State Auditor General report found many problems at the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home; and

WHEREAS, A workgroup was created in the spring of 2016 to find a solution to Michigan's State Veteran Homes; and

WHEREAS, The workgroup reported back in August, 2016, with a six phase plan to build seven (7) new state veteran homes; and

WHEREAS, The vision of the workgroup was to "By 2022, through an established Authority, the Michigan Veterans Health System will provide a sustainable Centers of Service in collaboration with a network of partnerships for Veterans and their families"; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Veterans Facility Authority will be opening phase one homes in the spring of 2021 with a new veteran home in Grand Rapids and in Chesterfield; and

WHEREAS, The procedure to request for a 65% grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Administration takes many months; and

WHEREAS, Phase two of the workgroup suggested a new home in Flint/Bay City/Saginaw area; and

WHEREAS, Phase three of the workgroup suggested a new home along the I-94 Corridor area, i.e. Jackson/Battle Creek/Kalamazoo; and

WHEREAS, It will take time for the first two (2) new homes to begin generating appropriate revenues, and proof of concepts to apply for bonding and a proper capital fundraising campaign;

WHEREAS, The investment into these homes shows the commitment of the State to our veterans who served honorably to defend the State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Winter Department Executive Committee Meeting, assembled via Zoom, February 11, 2021, that the Department of Michigan request that Governor Whitmer, State Senate, State

House, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, and Michigan Veterans Facility Authority begin the process to start phase two and phase three of the workgroup recommendations; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Budget Director, Senate and House Appropriations committees take this request under consideration for capital expenditure in the 2021-2022 State Budget; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Department forward this resolution to all appropriate offices, and all members of the State Senate, State House, and U.S. Congress Michigan Delegation.

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FOR COMMITTEE USE

APPROVED REJECTED REFERRED TO _____ APPROVED w/AMEND _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
(Chairman)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
(Chairman)