

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: #22-25

SUBMITTED BY: Legislative Committee

SUBJECT: Extend Dates of Eligibility for the Vietnam Era Bonus Act 370 of 1974 or Create New Legislation for Those Who Qualify Under This Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Era Bonus Act 370 was passed by voters in Michigan in 1974, soon after the most combat troops left Vietnam and release of American POW's; and

WHEREAS, The "Period of Service" dates of the Vietnam Era Bonus were between 12:01 a.m. January 1, 1961 to 12:01 a.m. September 1, 1973 to receive the Bonus; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Era Bonus states a "Veteran" to mean a person who completed not less than 190 days of Honorable Service; and

WHEREAS, The Federal law established the end of the "Vietnam Era" as May 7, 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Law, Uniformity of Service Dates Act of 1965, states veterans having served in the Vietnam Era, which is the period beginning February 28, 1961 and ending on May 7, 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Era Veterans that served between 12:02 a.m. on September 1, 1973 to May 7, 1975 at 12:01 a.m. did not get the Michigan Vietnam Era Bonus; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Vietnam Era Bonus paid out did miss a limited number of veterans who should have been eligible for the Bonus; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 24-26, 2022, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan implore the Michigan Legislature to amend the "Vietnam Era Bonus Act 370 of 1974" or create new legislation to cover those Michigan veterans who served their country from September 1, 1973 to an end date of May 7, 1975 for Michigan veterans who served on Active Duty for at least 190 days during a period of service from February 24, 1973 (to get the 190 days during the time frame) and May 7, 1975 to correct the dates to the true ending of the Vietnam Era and give Michigan veterans the recognition due to them; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That the time limitation be extended to allow veterans, not previously eligible for the Vietnam Era Bonus Act of 1974, a reasonable amount of time to apply for this bonus or like approved legislation. Also, veterans applying for this Bonus must prove eligibility through use of an Honorable Discharge showing that they served their Country in the military during this time frame and that they were residents of this State upon entry and discharge from the military by use of their Honorable Discharge paperwork.