

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: #23-36

SUBMITTED BY: 3rd District

SUBJECT: Modification of Public Act 214 of 1899

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, A veterans service program established at the county level of government is essential to the citizens of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, It is statutorily mandated for the County Board of Commissioners of each county to levy a millage of up to 1/10th of a mill (2/10th of a mill in emergencies) to fund the County Veterans Relief Fund per 1899 Public Act 214 (MCL 35.21 et seq.) with the intent to provide financial relief to honorably discharged indigent veterans who served during a period of war; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Legislature last amended 1899 Public Act 214 on February 29, 1944; and

WHEREAS, The restrictive language in 1899 Public Act 214 prevents the county level of government from providing relief under that Act to many of the indigent veterans in our local communities; and

WHEREAS, A veteran is defined as a “person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable”, per Title 38 of the U.S. Code; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Fall Conference assembled in Muskegon, Michigan, September 22-24, 2023, That the Department Executive Committee hereby request the Michigan Legislature amend 1899 Public Act 214 to include providing relief to all indigent veterans who were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, including those who did not serve during a period of war, in order to better serve indigent veterans as defined under Title 38 of the U.S. Code; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Department Executive Committee request the Michigan Legislature amend 1899 Public Act 214 to also include providing relief to all indigent veterans that served in the Reserves and National Guard and who were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.