



**AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

---

## **2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

In addition to keeping track of new bills as introduced, our legislative priorities include but are not limited to:

### Federal and State Priorities:

1. SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS.
2. FUNDING FOR MORE VETERAN HOMES.
3. FUNDING FOR A VETERAN'S CEMETERY IN THE U. P. HAS BEEN AN ONGOING ISSUE FOR AT LEAST 20 YEARS. IN THE PAST, WHEN LEGISLATORS GOT CLOSE TO PASSING A BILL, VETERAN SERVICE GROUPS FROM THE UPPER PENINSULA LOBBIED FOR SPECIFIC LOCATIONS BEFORE THE FINAL APPROVAL. WE SHOULD AGREE TO ACCEPT THE FINDINGS OF THE STATE-FUNDED STUDY FOR THE CEMETERY PLACEMENT AND HOPE THAT VETERANS FROM THE U. P. WOULD ALSO HONOR THE STUDY WITHOUT CONTACTING STATE AND FEDERAL LAWMAKERS.
4. GET FUNDING FOR H.B.O.T. AVAILABILITY FOR VETERANS WITH P.T.S.D. OR T.B.I. WORKING WITH OUR STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS.

### State Priorities:

1. ROLL OVER FUNDING FOR THE SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAMS RUN BY THE AMERICAN LEGION, MICHIGAN DISABLED VETERANS, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, AND VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA.
2. CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION GIVEN TO 100% DISABLED VETERANS FROM SERVICE-CONNECTED INJURIES.
3. EXTEND THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE STATE VIETNAM BONUS TO INCLUDE VETERANS WHO DIDN'T QUALIFY INITIALLY BUT SERVED BETWEEN 2-24-1973 AND WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECLARED ITS END ON 5-7-1975
4. WORK WITH OTHER VETERAN GROUPS AND LEGISLATORS TO DETERMINE HOW THE M.V.A.A. SHOULD BE ORGANIZED TO BEST WORK WITH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE AMERICAN LEGION.
5. MAKE SURE VETERANS HAVE AT LEAST 75% SEATS ON THE BOARD OF THE C.C.C.O.A. (FORMERLY THE AMERICAN LEGION PROPERTY AT HIGGINS LAKE.)

### Federal Priorities:

1. WORK WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE THE LAW TO INCLUDE ALL VETERANS GETTING V.A. HOSPICE CARE AT HOME AFTER BEING IN A V.A. HOSPITAL OR VETERAN HOME. THIS WILL GIVE THE LARGER BURIAL PAYMENT TO THE VETERAN'S FAMILY.

### Other Identified Concerns:

1. PAID TRI-CARE COVERAGE FOR DEPENDANTS OF RETIRED MILITARY UNTIL THE AGE OF 26.