

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2216

Subject Repeal the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review

Referred to Convention Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, The VA MISSION Act of 2018 established a new process for the development, review, approval, and implementation of a list of recommendations or the modernization and realignment of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical facilities, and

WHEREAS, The VA MISSION Act requires the VA Secretary to develop an initial list of recommendations, including the acquisition of new space, the modernization of existing space and the disposal of unneeded space, by January 1, 2022, and

WHEREAS, The MISSION ACT required two sets of market capacity assessments – one to guide creation of the VA Community Care Network (VCCN) and the other to inform a future Asset and Infrastructure Review process in an open and transparent manner, and

WHEREAS, The VA combined the two assessments and conducted them in a closed manner without any meaningful consultation with veterans and Veteran Service Organization (VSO) stakeholders, and

WHEREAS, The VA Secretary released the required Asset and Infrastructure and Review Report on March 14, 2022, and

WHEREAS, In 2018, Congress also passed the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Act as part of the VA MISSION Act, and

WHEREAS, The mission of the AIR Commission, a panel comprised of nine members nominated by the president and approved by the Senate, is to review the recommendations submitted by the VA Secretary, hold public hearings, visit VA medical facilities, consult with VSOs, and

WHEREAS, upon completion of their work, the AIR Commission will transmit the recommendation, with any changes it deems necessary, to the President by January 1, 2023, and

WHEREAS, The AIR Commission panel did not exist until July, 2022, as all nominees had yet to be assessed by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and voted on by the full Senate, and

WHEREAS, The Senate failed to act timely to review and approve nominated members to the AIR Commission leaving the VA Secretary's recommended Asset and Infrastructure and Review Report on March 14, 2022, on hold, and

WHEREAS, The AIR Commission requirement to properly complete its review of the Asset and Infrastructure Review Report by January 1, 2023, once activated is impractical due to time constraints, now, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Legion urge Congress to repeal the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Act as part of the VA MISSION Act, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion urge Congress to closely oversee the VA MISSION ACT to ensure it is fully and faithfully implement as intended in an open and transparent manner that provides regular opportunities for meaningful participation from veterans and VSO stakeholders, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Department of New York at Department Convention, July 14th-16th, 2022, in Binghamton, New York, enthusiastically approves this resolution and recommends it be forwarded to the National Organization for consideration at the National Convention, August 26th-September 1st, 2022, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

<p>American Legion Department of New York</p> <p>FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE</p> <p>Approved _____ Rejected _____</p> <p>Approved with Amendments <u> X </u></p> <p>Consolidated with _____</p> <p>Referred to Standing Committee on _____</p> <hr/> <p><u>Received and Recorded: July 14th, 2022</u></p> <p><u>Other Action:</u></p> <p><u>Signature: R. Michael Suter</u> (Chairman)</p>
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Adjutant Signature

Department Adjutant

Title

Below section to be completed when resolution is submitted from another authorized source.

R. Michael Suter, Chairman

Name

Department Resolutions Committee

Title