

**Protect Alabama
Veterans!**

**Vote “NO” on
SB67/HB154**





State Board of Veteran Affairs (SBVA)

Origin

The Alabama State Board of Veterans Affairs (SBVA) was established in 1945 as a non-partisan, a-political organization to oversee the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA).

Board

The board is made up of representatives from veterans' organizations.

The SBVA, chaired by the Alabama Governor, selects (hires/fires) the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Duties

The SBVA is responsible for and has the authority to make rules and policies that direct veterans' affairs in Alabama and oversees the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Current SBVA Members



3 Seats



3 Seats



3 Seats



2 Seats



1 Seat



1 Seat



1 Seat



1 Seat



1 Seat

Gov. Ivey Wants a New SBVA

Gov. Ivey has a bill (SB67/HB154) moving through the Alabama legislature that will give her sole authority to appoint the Commissioner of the Dept of Veterans Affairs as well as to completely restructure the SBVA and remove all its power.



Governor's Bill Removes Direct Representation From the SBVA



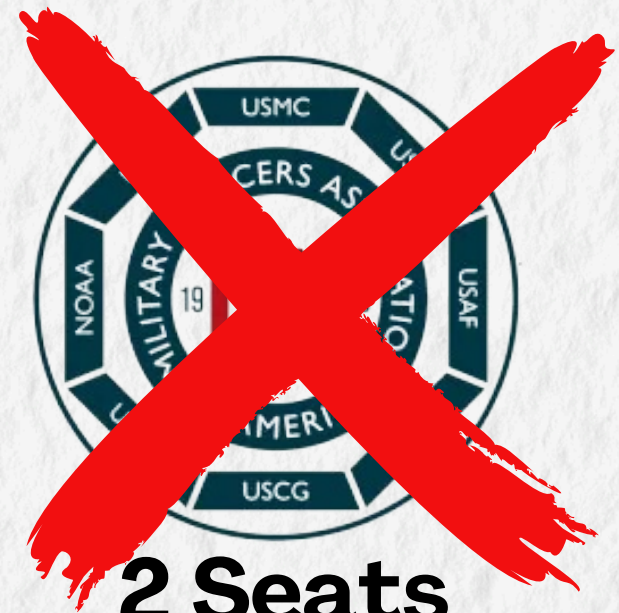
~~3~~ Seats
Now 1 seat



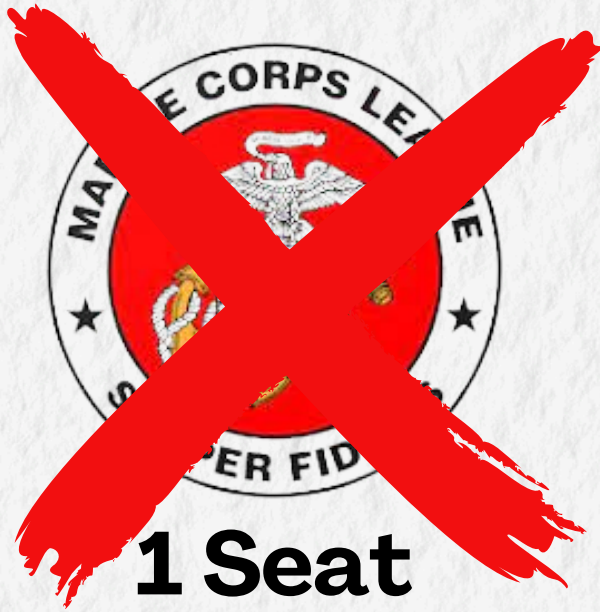
~~3~~ Seats
Now 1 seat



~~3~~ Seats
Now 1 seat



2 Seats



1 Seat



1 Seat



1 Seat



1 Seat



1 Seat

New SBVA Members



**Governor
9 Seats**



**House
Minority Leader
1 seat**



**Senate
Minority Leader
1 seat**



**1 Seat
Appointed by Lt.
Gov from this
org's 3 nominees**



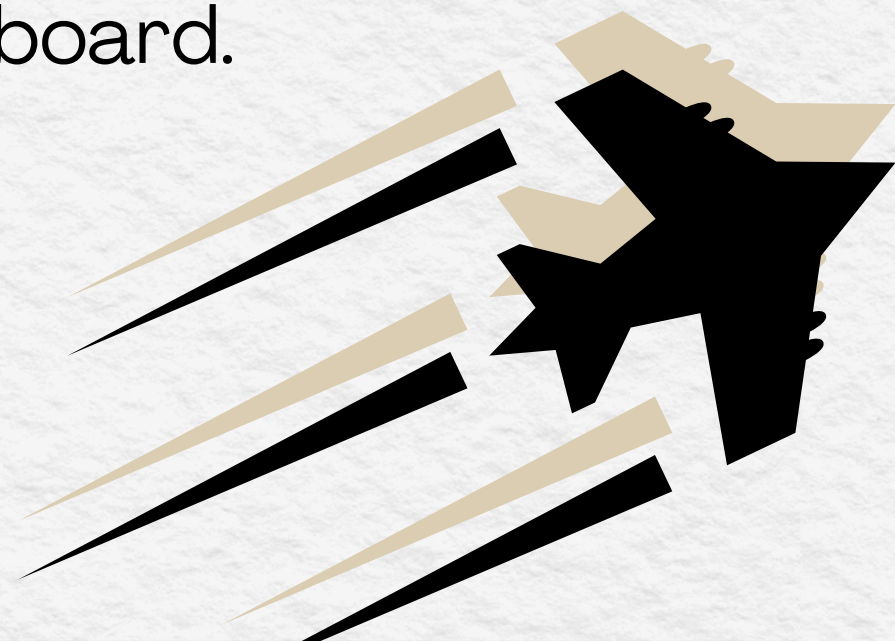
**1 Seat
Appointed by
Speaker of the
House from this
org's 3 nominees**



**1 Seat
Appointed by Senate
Pro Tem from this
org's 3 nominees**

Governor's Bill Removes SBVA's Power and Authority

The Governor's bill strips the SBVA's authority and responsibility to make rules and policies to govern veterans' affairs. The SBVA would serve only as an "advisory" board.



All oversight and permission previously held by the SBVA to hold the Commissioner accountable has been removed.

The Commissioner alone will be able to make decisions relating to Alabama Veterans affairs without SBVA approval. Removal of this accountability is dangerous and does not serve the veteran community well.

URGENCY

The bill was sold to the public as “The Governor wants authority to hire/fire the Commissioner.”

Most veterans have no idea that this bill would also strip Alabama veterans’ service organizations of their direct nominations (and their representation) on the SBVA. Member would become purely political appointments

Veterans were not told that the SBVA would lose all rule-making responsibility to address and direct veterans’ issues and that the SBVA would become “advisory only”.

Veterans were not told that the newly appointed Commissioner would no longer be held responsible by the new SBVA. They did not understand that the Commissioner would be free to make all decisions regarding veterans’ issues without accountability, permission or oversight.





Suggested Compromise

Given the extensive amendments to the bill, we propose introducing a substitute bill. This new bill would enable the Governor to directly appoint the Commissioner, chosen from three nominees which are presented to her by the SBVA.

The Governor can make the Department of Veterans Affairs a cabinet level position at any time. She does not need a law to do that.

Alabama veterans organizations would then remain front and center of the SBVA not only in their representation on the board but also in their responsibilities and duties to direct veterans' affairs and oversee the Commissioner.

ACT NOW!

The legislation is moving fast!

Please use our smartlink below to contact your Alabama House Representative and your Senator and ask them to vote “NO” on the Governor’s bill to restructure the State Board of Veterans Affairs. (SB67/HB154)

You can use the pre-written message or draft your own.

<https://www.votervoice.net/AlabamaEagle/Campaigns/121826/Respond>

