

# WHAT SB67 DOES:

- Allows the nine military service orgs to remain on the State Board of Veterans Affairs (SBVA)
- Strips the SBVA of all rule-making authority which had "the force and effect of law" (See examples on the back.)
- Renders SBVA "Advisory only"
- Gives the Governor sole-authority to appoint the Commissioner of Dept. of Veterans Affairs (ADVA)
- Removes SBVA oversight & accountability of the Commissioner. (Now a political appointment)



### SB67 PASSED THE SENATE 2.18.25



## SB67 REMOVES ALL RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY & RENDERS THE STATE BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS "ADVISORY-ONLY"

The SBVA is composed of members from nine military service organizations who currently not only appoint and oversee the commissioner, but they also have rule-making authority that has "force and effect of law".

#### **AUTHORITY/OVERSIGHT IS REMOVED BY SB67 (SOME EXAMPLES BELOW)**

#### Qualifications & Rulemaking:

- NO LONGER appoints the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs. (p.8 line 201)
- NO LONGER set qualifications for the commissioner, officers, & employees. (p.4 lines100-103)
- NO LONGER adopt rules governing the department's functions—including the selection and appointment of commissioners, assistant commissioners, district managers, and veteran service officers. (p.4 lines 103-105)

#### Veterans Cemeteries & Contracting:

- NO LONGER approves the establishing and operation of state veterans' cemeteries through the department. (p.4 line 110 and p.6 line 156 "in consultation")
- NO LONGER approves contracts with eligible veterans' organizations to deliver services and process claims (all contracts used to require board approval). (p.7 lines 179-180)

#### Commissioner Authority & Board Oversight:

- Commissioner NO LONGER operates under board authority and NO LONGER must secure board approval for key actions such as:
  - entering reciprocal agreements with other states (p.8 line 225)
  - making appointments (p. 9 lines 226-227, p. 12 lines 313-316)
  - engaging in promotional activities (p. 9. lines 237-243)
  - approving the annual budget (p.9 lines 245-251)
  - publishing the department's annual report (p.9 lines 251-255, p.20 lines 544-549)

#### Service Offices & Districts:

- NO LONGER approves the Commissioner's appointment for a veteran service officer for each county and NO LONGER determines their need for one. (p.13 lines 337-339)
- NO LONGER establishes service areas and districts (with corresponding district managers)
  (p.13 lines 353-355)
- NO LONGER sets up additional service offices staffed by designated personnel as needed. (p.13 line 263)

#### **State Veterans Homes:**

- NO LONGER approves the Commissioner's appointment for an executive director and on-site directors for each state veterans' home. (p.16 line446-449)
- NO LONGER establishes procedures for admission/discharge from state Veterans home and NO LONGER admits/discharges veterans to state homes (p.19 lines 530-536)