

AL MILITARY VETS WILL LOSE THEIR VOICE!

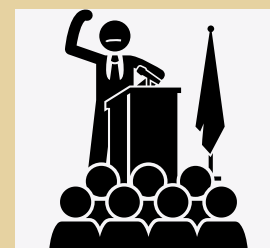
UNDER CURRENT LAW

Nine service orgs make direct appointments to the State Board of Veterans Affairs (SBVA). (i.e. “Vets choosing vets”)



UNDER NEW LAW

Only three organizations will have a direct nomination to the SBVA. The remaining 11 seats will be political appointments made by politicians.



BILL REMOVES ACCOUNTABILITY/TRANSPARENCY

UNDER CURRENT LAW:

- The SBVA (made up of members from the nine orgs above) has the authority and responsibility to make policies and rules that govern veterans' affairs in AL.
- The Commissioner is directly accountable to the board for all decisions.

UNDER NEW LAW:

- The SBVA is stripped of all rule-making authority and is now only an “advisory” board.
- The Commissioner (political appointee) will make decisions effecting veterans without SBVA board oversight, permission or accountability.

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.**

CALL TO ACTION

- **Please use our smartlink to contact your senator and representative 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>

