

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COMFORT INN, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 30 – MAY 1, 2022**

Resolution No. 1132

Submitted by William Whitmoyer
Legislative Committee Chairman

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has awarded monetary bonuses to Veterans of this Commonwealth for their service in combat zones since the Spanish American War; and

WHEREAS, The last Bonus paid by the Commonwealth was for veterans who served during Gulf War 1 for the armed campaign in 1990-1991, and

WHEREAS, The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including combat zones in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom—OIF) and Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom—OEF), as well as others, is the longest war in the History of the United States, lasting over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has not yet established a bonus payment for Veterans who have served in combat zones of the Global War on Terror (GWOT), since 2001; and

WHEREAS, Those Pennsylvania Veterans of active duty military, National Guard, and Reserves, whose Home of Record (HOR) upon entry into military service is/was within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have served with distinction and have earned the honor, recognition, and support provided by such a bonus; and

WHEREAS, The Nationally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) in Pennsylvania, such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and others, have a well-established relationship with Veterans at a community level, and many well-trained, dedicated Veterans Service Officers and are willing, able and could be ready to administer such a bonus program after the policies are established; and

WHEREAS, The administration of a Veterans' bonus program by these VSOs would save administrative costs for the Commonwealth, avoid duplication of efforts and wasted funding, as well as provide an outreach opportunity for these organizations to better serve Veterans in also obtaining other services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania in regular meeting assembled at the Comfort Inn RIDC Park, Pittsburgh, PA, April 29 to May 1, 2022, urges the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to develop legislation that would codify a monetary bonus program for Pennsylvania Veterans who served in combat zones of the Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom

(OEF) in Afghanistan, to be administered by Nationally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) within the Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania urges the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to then expeditiously pass such legislation and present it to the Governor for signature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania urges the Governor of Pennsylvania to then expediently enact this legislation by signature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all members of both chambers of the Emergency Preparedness and Veterans Affairs Committees, to a Prime Sponsor in both the House and Senate, and all members of the Pennsylvania Joint Government Commission, and the leadership of the member organizations of the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Pennsylvania Governor.

APPROVED REJECTED _____ REFERRED _____ CONSOLIDATED _____ FILED _____