



900 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

2012 POSITION PAPER

Voting Status of *Ex Officio* Members of the Board of Veterans Services

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*Delegate Christopher P.
Stolle*

*Jenny M. Holbert, Chair,
Joint Leadership Council
of Veterans Service
Organizations*

*David H. Holt, Chairman,
Veterans Services
Foundation*

*Paul E. Galanti,
Commissioner of
Veterans Services*

Adopted
August 10, 2011

Amended
January 9, 2012

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Strengthen the capacity of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) to fulfill the Powers and Duties set forth in the Code of Virginia by granting voting privileges to all *ex officio* members.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - The BVS is a policy board in the executive branch of state government and consists of 11 citizen members, appointed by the Governor; 5 legislative members; and 3 *ex officio* members.
 - The Commissioner of Veterans Services serves *ex officio* with full voting privileges.
 - The Chairmen of the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) and of the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations serve *ex officio* without voting privileges.
 - Under §2.2-2452, a majority of the Board members constitutes a quorum. Under current law, the BVS must actually have two quorums to conduct business – a quorum of all members, and a quorum of voting members.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - The BVS works closely with the VSF and JLC to support the delivery of veterans services in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - For example, the JLC might advance an issue to the BVS for study. After study, the BVS could return the issue to the JLC, pass it to the Commissioner for action, or advise that the VSF seek donated or other funding for the issue.
 - Because of the close interaction between the three boards and the critical linking role played by the BVS, the JLC and VSF should be fully represented on the BVS.
 - In situations like the BVS, Roberts Rules of Order recommends full participation by all board members, including *ex officio* members.
 - Granting voting privileges to all *ex officio* members is cost neutral, as these members already attend BVS meetings.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the General Assembly support the legislation, proposed by Governor McDonnell and patroned by Delegate Dudenhefer (HB730) and Senator Puller (SB297), to grant voting privileges to all *ex officio* members of the Board of Veterans Services.