

**RESOLUTION**  
**The American Legion Department of South Dakota**  
**One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota**  
**June 21, 22, 23, 2024**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-01

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA DUES

ORIGIN: INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Page 1 of 2

**WHEREAS**, The Department of South Dakota American Legion is dedicated to the well-being and advancement of veterans, active-duty military personnel, their families and communities plus state and nation through its four chartered pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth, and

**WHEREAS**, The Department of South Dakota American Legion requires funds to ensure long-term sustainability and effective execution of its programs, activities, and operations inherent in its four pillars, and

**WHEREAS**, said funding is sourced by membership dues submitted to the Department of South Dakota American Legion Headquarters, and

**WHEREAS**, said membership dues have remained unchanged and have not been increased to keep pace with the last decade's inflation factors, and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the U.S. Inflation Calculator, since 2014 the buying power of a single dollar to present day 2024, of said programs and activities, its cost elements have increased an average of 31.1 percent, and

**WHEREAS**, the inherent built in National American Legion membership program milestones, and Department of South Dakota American Legion Constitutional and fiscal year timing implementation delays, any Department dues increase can only be implemented effective 1 July 2025, and

**WHEREAS**, The National American Legion has already recognized the impact of inflation, anticipated the milestone delays, and during the National American Legion 2023 National Convention raised the National American Legion Dues by \$5.00 to be effective 1 July 2024, and

**WHEREAS**, The National Headquarters has changed payable dates for each year and allowed for multi-year membership, and

**WHEREAS**, a decade of unchanged Department Constitution ARTICLE VI DUES Section 2 DUES – DISPOSITION, which reads “Each Post shall pay annually to the headquarters of the Department of South Dakota the sum of \$15.00 plus the amount of National dues assessed each fiscal year for each of its individual members, which said sum shall be distributed as follows:” and,

**WHEREAS**, “Department Dues assessed approximately a decade ago of \$15.00 per member, and its buying power then versus now as affected by inflation rounded to the nearest whole dollar substantiates an increase to \$20.00 dues per member, an increase of \$5.00 per member, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, at The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, hereby amend The Department of South Dakota American Legion's Constitution & By-laws ARTICLE VI DUES, Section 2. DUES – DISPOSITION. to read “Each Post shall pay annually to the headquarters of the Department of South Dakota the sum of \$20.00

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**plus the amount of National dues assessed each fiscal year for each of its individual members, which said sum shall be distributed as follows:” and be it further**

**RESOLVED, The Constitution and By-laws of the American Legion Department of South Dakota, ARTICLE VI, Section 3, be revised as follows “PAYABLE DATE. Annual dues shall be payable July 1st of each year, for the succeeding calendar year.”; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, that said increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00 of the Department of South Dakota American Legion Dues shall be effective 1 July 2025 for the subsequent years, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, Increased dues revenue generated by this adjustment shall be allocated towards supporting essential programs, services, and administrative functions of the American Legion Department of South Dakota; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the Adjutant of the American Legion Department of South Dakota shall take necessary actions to update membership materials, including membership applications and renewal forms, to reflect the new dues structure.**

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This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant:

Post:

Other authorized source: **Internal Affairs Commission**

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

**BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY**

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Recommend Approval       Recommend Approval as Amended       Recommend Consolidation

Rejected

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

# EXSUM

RESOLUTION NO. 24-03

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE

ORIGIN: C.P. VAN DELIST, POST 22, DISTRICT 2, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Page 1 of 3

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In its resolution, The American Legion advocates for the recognition and appropriate awarding of academic credit or certification for military service.

The American Legion recognizes the dedication of the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide top-notch training and education to military personnel, often equivalent to or exceeding civilian standards. This resolution emphasizes that American Council on Education (ACE) already evaluates military training and calls for collaboration between post-secondary institutions, the DoD, and relevant agencies to establish a comprehensive framework for assessing military training and experience for civilian postsecondary credit and/or certification.

The Legion compels Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation requiring post-secondary institutions that accept federal funding to adopt policies recognizing the educational value of military education, training, and experience. Additionally, it calls for transparent procedures from all postsecondary institutions for evaluating military training and experience and granting credit where appropriate based on established ACE standards. The American Legion underscores that federal funds, already invested in military training, should not be duplicated in programs like Tuition Assistance or the GI Bill, and advocates for a system that facilitates the transition of servicemembers into post-secondary education and civilian careers while addressing critical skills shortages in the workforce.

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SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE

ORIGIN: C.P. VAN DELIST, POST 22, DISTRICT 2, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 2 of 3

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to the well-being and advancement of veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are in need of academic post-military degree, certification and credentialing universally recognizable by employers for employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) spares no expense to provide servicemembers with some of the best training and education in the nation paid for by federal budgets of the United States in various technical, leadership, and academic fields; and

WHEREAS, Military service often involves extensive training and education that is equivalent to or exceeds the standards of civilian colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, The American Council on Education (ACE) has evaluated most training of military occupations using Joint Services Transcripts and provides “recommendations and validated competencies” for awarding post-secondary credit for such training; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 2,800 institutions of higher learning signed the Department of Defense Voluntary Education Partnership (DoDVEP) Memorandum of Understanding formerly Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) agreement, to provide educational opportunities to servicemembers who, because they frequently moved from place to place, had trouble completing college degrees; and

WHEREAS, DoDVEP functions in cooperation with higher education associations to expand and improve voluntary post-secondary education opportunities for servicemembers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, There are many high demand technical career fields in critical shortage of qualified employees in the civilian workforce that require training, education and certification; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing and providing standard credit for military service can facilitate the transition of servicemembers into postsecondary education, civilian careers, and promote lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, Such recognition can contribute to the attainment of educational goals and further professional development among veterans and recognition can contribute to fulfilling the critical skills and employment shortages in the civilian sector of employment; and

WHEREAS, Federal taxpayers spend more than \$150 billion a year on federal financial aid, \$30 billion on GI Bill benefits, and \$1 billion on military tuition assistance, while students, states, and employers spend billions more, servicemembers are still required to take courses that have been recommended by ACE for credit; and

WHEREAS, The DoD has already paid for the training of its personnel for their military occupations and the taxpayers of the United States should not be burdened by paying for the training again in the form of the Tuition Assistance, GI Bill or any federally funded training programs; and

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WHEREAS, DoD Tuition Assistance, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education or any form of the GI Bill requires this evaluation, and a fully completed degree or certificate plan to ensure compliance with DoD and VA regulations; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, at The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, That the American Legion supports the establishment of a standardized system to recognize and appropriately award academic credit or certification for military service based on American Council on Education recommendations of evaluation of the Joint Services Transcript System standards; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the American Legion urges all post-secondary institutions to work collaboratively with the Department of Defense and relevant military agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive framework for assessing military training and experience for college credit; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the American Legion calls upon Congress to enact legislation that requires all post-secondary institutions that accept federal government funding to adopt policies recognizing the educational value of military service and provide appropriate postsecondary credit in accordance with American Council on Education recommendations and validated competencies; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the American Legion encourages all post-secondary institutions to establish clear and transparent procedures for evaluating military training and experience, granting credit where appropriate, and ensuring that veterans receive fair and equitable treatment in the pursuit of higher education; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 12, Fall 2014, "Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel" and National Convention 2016, Resolution No. 322, "Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel" be superseded and rescinded.**

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This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant:

Post:

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

**BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY**

Recommend Approval                       Recommend Approval as Amended                       Recommend Consolidation                       Rejected

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**  
**The American Legion Department of South Dakota**  
**One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota**  
**June 21, 22, 23, 2024**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-04  
SUBJECT: SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE  
ORIGIN: POTTER POST # 3 CHAMBERLAIN, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Page 1 of 1

**WHEREAS**, The South Dakota Veterans Council (SDVC) plays a very important role in the Legislative process in South Dakota advocating for veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, For the SDVC to remain effective in this process it must establish long term goals and become visionary; and

**WHEREAS**, All of the Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) on the SDVC have a three person voting seat on the council; and

**WHEREAS**, The South Dakota American Legion (SDAL) is structured that the current Department Commander, and the Department Adjutant have a seat at the table and the Department Commander appoints one other Legionnaire and those three are the voting representatives of the SDAL, this occurs annually; and

**WHEREAS**, The Department Commander changes each year, and the appointed member could change each year it is not conducive to building and maintaining the vision of the SDVC; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, By the American Legion Department of South Dakota in annual convention assembled, June 20-23, 2024, in Pierre, SD, That the member at large appointed by the Commander serve on the SDVC for a term of three years; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That at the end of the initial three year term the current Department Commander may appoint that same member at large to serve an additional three-year term, for a maximum total of six years consecutively representing the SDAL.

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Adjutant:///ORIGINAL SIGNED\\

Post: 3

Other authorized source:

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- Recommend Approval       Recommend Approval as Amended       Recommend Consolidation       Rejected  
 Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**  
**The American Legion Department of South Dakota**  
**One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota**  
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RESOLUTION NO. 24-05

SUBJECT: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9 OF MILBANK, SD TO HOST THE STATE A, THE STATE B AND THE JUNIOR LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL IN MILBANK, SD.

ORIGIN: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9, MILBANK, SD

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

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**WHEREAS**, Milbank is the Birthplace of American Legion Baseball, July 17, 1925 by action of the South Dakota American Legion at the Department State Convention in Milbank, SD 1925; and

**WHEREAS**, A Baseball Granite Monument recognizing Milbank as the Birthplace of American Legion Baseball is visibly located and displayed along Highway 12 near the entrance to the Grant County Veterans Park. The monument was erected by Birch-Miller Post 9 American Legion on the 25th Anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, American Legion Baseball is one of the premiere youth programs of the American Legion; and

**WHEREAS**; The American Legion Baseball program has been successful for ninety seven (99) years and has enabled thousands of American youth to participate in the American sport; and

**WHEREAS**; Due to the loss of what was Legion Field properties to the Milbank School District, a new state of the art baseball complex named Legion Field Birthplace of American Legion Baseball is being constructed with plans for multiple fields to accommodate all levels of baseball with the main field completed for playing in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**; Birch-Miller Post 9 has hosted over the years numerous American Legion Baseball Tournaments, including but not limited to, Regional, State, Central Plains Division II Tournaments, American Legion All Start as well as our own Arnold Larsen Invitational Tournament which is held the first weekend in June; and

**WHEREAS**, American Legion Baseball Teams from as far away as Las Vegas, Kansas City, Missouri and Viroqua, WI have played in Milbank, SD the Birthplace of American Legion Baseball; and

**WHEREAS**, Milbank is capable of handling such tournaments with four motels including most recent Grand Stay Motel, several eating establishments, tennis courts, golf course and Unity Square fitness center with swimming pool; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, at The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, that in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of The Birthplace of American Legion Baseball that the State B Senior and Junior Legion State Baseball Tournaments be held at the newly constructed Legion Field Complex in Milbank, SD Birthplace of American Legion Baseball in 2025 with final dates to be determined prior to the 2025 baseball season; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That Convention Resolution No. 22-14 “That in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Birthplace of American Legion Baseball that the State A, State B and Junior Legion A and B State Baseball Tournaments be held at the newly constructed Legion Field Complex in Milbank, SD Birthplace of American Legion Baseball in 2025 with final dates to be determined prior to the 2025 baseball season” be superseded and rescinded.

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ORIGIN: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9, MILBANK, SD

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON \_\_\_\_\_

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Adjutant:///Original Signed\\\      Post: BIRCH-MILLER POST 9

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

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- Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

# EXSUM

RESOLUTION NO. 24-06

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION REGARDING PROPERTY RIGHTS.

ORIGIN: NATHAN HOFFMAN, POST 78, DISTRICT 4, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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In its resolution, The American Legion advocates for the fair and just treatment of landowners provided under the Constitution of the United States of America.

The American Legion recognizes the value and importance of the Constitution, which is the Supreme Law of the Land and by our Pre-amble, are sworn to uphold and protect it.

The American Legion compels Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation defining consistent due process to protect our citizens from un-just practices regarding Eminent Domain Laws. Additionally, it calls for transparent communication regarding any and all requests for the use of Eminent Domain including disclosing any foreign interests involved with the application.

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RESOLUTION NO. 24-06

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION REGARDING PROPERTY RIGHTS.

ORIGIN: NATHAN HOFFMAN, POST 78, DISTRICT 4, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

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**WHEREAS**, property rights have come into question within our own state and nationally due to Eminent Domain laws, and

**WHEREAS**, Roy S. Hickman Post 78 of the Department of South Dakota by our Preamble is dedicated to the preservation of the Constitution of the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution have been violated in regards to "The right of the people to be secure in their person, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches" and "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of the citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person to life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.", and

**WHEREAS**, these Amendments have been violated in the disguise of Eminent domain to be used for private gain or profit.

**RESOLVED**, at The American Legion Department of South Dakota Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, that the American Legion supports the rights of property owners; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, the American Legion urges that Eminent Domain be used only for the good of all citizens and be approved through proper channels that do not violate our National Constitution; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, the American Legion calls upon Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation that fairly and justly defines due process under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution that allows for protection of property owners from private entities applying for the use of Eminent Domain

**RESOLVED**, the American Legion encourages any projects with any foreign ownership or interests receive increased scrutiny by the State of South Dakota and the United States Government when requesting the use of Eminent Domain.

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This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant:

Post:

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

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Recommend Approval       Recommend Approval as Amended       Recommend Consolidation       Rejected

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**  
**The American Legion Department of South Dakota**  
**One-Hundred and Fifth Department Convention, Pierre, South Dakota**  
**June 21, 22, 23, 2024**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-07

SUBJECT: IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLNESS CARE FOR VETERANS *“An Ounce Of Prevention Is Worth A Pound Of Cure”*

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

ORIGIN: VETERAN AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Page 1 of 2

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WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to advocating for the comprehensive well-being of veterans, ensuring they receive the care and support they deserve; and

WHEREAS, Veterans often face unique health challenges stemming from their service, requiring specialized care and support to maintain their physical and mental well-being; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that eight of the ten leading causes of death among Veterans are directly related to physical and mental well-being whose risk is lowered through diet and exercise; and

WHEREAS, Access to regular exercise and fitness activities plays a crucial role in promoting the overall health and wellness of veterans, aiding in physical rehabilitation, mental health management, and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans face barriers to accessing affordable fitness facilities and programs, hindering their ability to engage in regular physical activity and maintain a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a responsibility to provide comprehensive healthcare services to veterans, including proactive measures to promote health and wellness beyond traditional medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) already has in place Whole Health and Well-being Programs, designed to equip Veterans with tools for skill building and self-care that provide access to well-being services to support health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, Providing access to gym memberships and fitness programs under established Whole Health and Well-being Programs can significantly enhance Veterans ability to engage in regular physical activity, manage chronic conditions, and improve overall health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Studies have demonstrated the positive impact of regular exercise on veterans' physical and mental health, reducing the risk of chronic diseases, alleviating symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression, and promoting social interaction and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Offering gym memberships as part of VA healthcare benefits aligns with the VA's mission to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care that addresses the holistic needs of veterans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, The American Legion Department of South Dakota at Department Convention June 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD, request The American Legion call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs to prioritize and enhance health and wellness care for veterans by including gym memberships as a covered benefit under VA healthcare services; and, be it further**

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SUBJECT: IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLNESS CARE FOR VETERANS *“An Ounce Of Prevention Is Worth A Pound Of Cure”*

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

ORIGIN: VETERAN AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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**RESOLVED, That the American Legion advocates for the integration of fitness and wellness programs into VA healthcare facilities, providing on-site resources and support for veterans to engage in regular physical activity and receive personalized wellness guidance; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the American Legion calls upon Congress and the Administration to allocate adequate funding and resources to support the implementation of this initiative, recognizing its importance in promoting the health and well-being of our nation's veterans; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant of The American Legion for consideration at the 105th Annual National Convention of The American Legion to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23-29, 2024.**

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This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Post but with Department action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant:

Post:

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Department Constitution and By-Laws)

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- Recommend Approval       Recommend Approval as Amended       Recommend Consolidation       Rejected  
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 Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chairman or Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_