

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:**

**We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:**

S.B. No. 3162: Appropriation; Veterans Affairs Bd.

**We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:**

**1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.**

**2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

4 SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
5 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
6 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of  
7 defraying the expenses and paying salaries of the Veterans Affairs  
8 Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending  
9 June 30, 2000..... \$ 2,037,953.00.

10 SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
11 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special  
12 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Veterans Affairs  
13 Board which is comprised of special source funds collected by or  
14 otherwise available to the board, for the support and maintenance  
15 of said board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and  
16 ending June 30, 2000..... \$ 19,922,165.00.

17 SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
18 Sections 1 and 2, not more than the amounts set forth below shall  
19 be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of  
20 expenditure:

**MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:**

**Personal Services:**

23 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits.. \$ 2,620,513.00  
24 Travel and Subsistence..... 70,000.00  
25 Contractual Services..... 18,145,783.00  
26 Commodities..... 738,822.00

**Capital Outlay:**

28	Other Than Equipment.....	200,000.00
29	Equipment.....	185,000.00
30	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....	<u>0.00</u>
31	Total.....	\$ 21,960,118.00

32 FUNDING:

33	General Funds.....	\$ 2,037,953.00
34	Special Funds.....	<u>19,922,165.00</u>
35	Total.....	\$ 21,960,118.00

36 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

37	Permanent: Full Time. . . . .	85
38	Part Time. . . . .	0
39	Time-Limited: Full Time. . . . .	0
40	Part Time. . . . .	0

41 From the funds provided in the budget category "Personal  
42 Services: Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits," funds may be  
43 expended for the following purposes, in compliance with the  
44 policies established by the State Personnel Board and any  
45 conditions placed on such expenditures:

46 (a) The components of the Variable Compensation Plan  
47 shall be maintained within the constraints of the funds  
48 appropriated herein.

49 (b) Funds are provided to adjust the Variable  
50 Compensation Plan, including realignment, to ensure that all  
51 full-time employees with at least six (6) months of continuous  
52 current service, as of June 30, 1999, receive an increase of One  
53 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). Funds are provided to  
54 adjust critical job classes up to an additional One Thousand  
55 Dollars (\$1,000.00).

56 (c) If an employee is currently at or above the end  
57 salary for his or her job classification, then the increase shall  
58 be built into the employee's base salary. To be eligible for any  
59 increase authorized in this section, employees may not have a  
60 current performance rating below "meets expectations" as of the  
61 effective date of the increase. Employees who subsequently  
62 receive a performance rating of "meets expectations" or above

63 during Fiscal Year 2000 shall receive the salary increase  
64 effective the date of the rating.

65 It is the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds  
66 required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal  
67 Year 2001 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2000 funds appropriated for  
68 that purpose unless programs or positions are added to the  
69 agency's budget by the Mississippi Legislature.

70 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
71 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law.

72 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
73 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are  
74 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this  
75 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

76 SECTION 4. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
77 Section 1, and authorized for expenditure in Section 3, funds in  
78 the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are  
79 provided to defray the cost of providing care to indigent/low-  
80 income Mississippi veterans in the state veterans homes. This  
81 section and its provisions shall be known and cited as the "Hilton  
82 R. 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997."

83 SECTION 5. Funds are provided in this act to reallocate PIN  
84 35 from Secretary to Administrative Assistant II at an annualized  
85 cost not to exceed Three Thousand Seven Hundred Two Dollars  
86 (\$3,702.00); PIN 37 from Secretary to Administrative Assistant II  
87 at an annualized cost not to exceed Three Thousand Eight Hundred  
88 Seven Dollars (\$3,807.00); PIN 39 from Secretary to  
89 Administrative Assistant II at an annualized cost not to exceed  
90 Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-four Dollars (\$3,354.00); and  
91 PIN 41 from Secretary to Administrative Assistant II at an  
92 annualized cost not to exceed Four Thousand Two Hundred  
93 Seventy-six Dollars (\$4,276.00).

94 SECTION 6. Funds are provided in this act for six (6) new  
95 positions to be established as follows: One (1) Administrative  
96 Assistant II, four (4) Nurse Practitioners, and one (1) WAN  
97 Administrator.

98 SECTION 7. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
99 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
100 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
101 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
102 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
103 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

104 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
105 and after July 1, 1999.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

X  
Dick Hall

X  
Lynn Posey

X  
Charlie Ross

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

X  
Charlie Capps, Jr.

X  
Johnny W. Stringer

X  
Walter L. Robinson, Jr.