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To: Veterans and Military
Affairs;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2650

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES TO MISSISSIPPI
2 SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN WORLD WAR
3 II, AND TO THE SURVIVING SPOUSES OF SUCH SERVICEMEN AND
4 SERVICEWOMEN; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS THERETO; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 SECTION 1. (1) Bonuses shall be paid out of any funds
8 appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose to servicemen and
9 ex-servicemen and servicewomen and ex-servicewomen who served on
10 active duty in World War II, and who were citizens of the State of
11 Mississippi when inducted into active service and certain
12 surviving spouses of such servicemen and servicewomen, such
13 payments of bonuses to be in the amounts and subject to the
14 conditions set forth as follows:

15 (a) To each such serviceman or servicewoman who served
16 in World War II, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00);

17 (b) To the surviving spouse of each such serviceman or
18 servicewoman who died while serving in World War II or who died at
19 any time after having served in World War II as a result of
20 injuries or wounds received or disease contracted by him while in
21 World War II, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), provided
22 that no such bonus shall be paid to any surviving spouse who has

23 remarried.

24 (2) If there is no surviving serviceman or servicewoman or
25 surviving unremarried spouse, then no bonus shall be paid. In
26 addition, the Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) payment specified
27 herein shall be reduced by any other amount paid under the
28 provisions of this section.

29 (3) No such bonus shall be paid to any serviceman or
30 servicewoman who has been separated from service without an
31 honorable discharge or an honorable separation therefrom, nor to
32 the surviving spouse of such a serviceman or servicewoman.

33 (4) No such bonus shall be paid to any serviceman or
34 servicewoman, or to the surviving spouse of any such serviceman or
35 servicewoman, unless a claim therefor is filed in writing with the
36 Department of Veterans' Affairs on or before July 1, 2005.

37 (5) If any serviceman or servicewoman or surviving spouse
38 herein entitled to a bonus or payment has received a bonus or
39 gratuitous payment from any other state, territory, or
40 governmental authority, other than the government of the United
41 States, prior to making application hereunder, then the amount of
42 the bonus or gratuitous payment so received shall be deducted from
43 the amount provided herein to be paid to each such person.

44 (6) The bonuses and payments provided herein shall be
45 completely exempt from all liability for any debt, tax, or
46 obligation. This exemption cannot be waived. Such bonus or
47 payment shall be nonassignable and shall not be subject to pledge
48 or hypothecation in any manner whatsoever.

49 (7) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall have
50 responsibility for the administration of this section. The
51 executive director is authorized to promulgate rules and
52 regulations as necessary for the distribution of the bonuses and
53 for the proper administration of this section.

54 (8) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall estimate the
55 amount necessary to pay such claims and administer this section,
56 and shall include that amount as a separate item in its budget
57 request submitted for fiscal year 2001 and for each fiscal year
58 thereafter during the five-year time limit to make a claim for a
59 bonus.

60 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after July 1, 2000.