

By: Furniss

To: Veterans and Military  
Affairs

## SENATE BILL NO. 3142

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE PRIORITY IN EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR  
2 UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES VETERANS; TO REQUIRE THE STATE AUDITOR  
3 TO DEVELOP MEASURES OF SERVICE FOR VETERANS THAT WILL SERVE AS  
4 INDICATORS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO  
5 REQUIRE THE STATE AUDITOR TO ANNUALLY SUBMIT A REPORT DETAILING  
6 COVERED PROVIDERS' COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND  
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) **Purpose.** The Legislature finds and declares  
10 that veterans in Mississippi represent a strong, productive part  
11 of the workforce of this state and are disadvantaged in their  
12 pursuit of civilian employment through their delayed entry into  
13 the civilian labor market and that it is only proper and in the  
14 public interest and public welfare, that such veterans receive the  
15 maximum of employment and training opportunities, with priority  
16 given to the needs of disabled veterans and other targeted  
17 veterans through existing programs, coordination and merger of  
18 programs and implementation of new programs.

19 (2) **Veterans defined.** For the purpose of this act,  
20 "veteran" means a person who served on active duty (other than for  
21 training) in any component of the United States Armed Forces for a  
22 period of one hundred eighty (180) days or more, unless released  
23 earlier because of service-connected disability, and who was  
24 discharged or released from the Armed Forces under honorable  
25 conditions.

26 (3) **Priority defined.** For the purposes of this act,  
27 "priority for veterans" means that eligible veterans who register  
28 or otherwise apply for services will be extended the opportunity

29 to participate or otherwise receive the services of the covered  
30 providers before the providers extend the opportunity and services  
31 to other registered applicants.

32 (4) **Priority employment directed.** The State Workforce  
33 Investment Board will establish procedures to provide eligible  
34 veterans with priority services set forth in the provision of the  
35 programs and services which are within their jurisdiction.

36 (5) **Services defined.** Priority over nonveterans in the  
37 provisions of employment, training and other services provided by  
38 the Workforce Investment Act. Services are those activities or  
39 efforts including, but not limited to, assessment, registration,  
40 case management, referral to supportive services, which are  
41 directed to help customers.

42 (6) **Service providers.** The partners established by the  
43 State and Local Workforce Investment Boards who actually provide  
44 the services to program participants.

45 (7) **Implementation and performance measures.** The State  
46 Auditor shall:

47 (a) Develop measures of service for veterans that will  
48 serve as indicators of compliance with the provisions of this act  
49 by all covered service providers.

50 (b) Annually publish and submit to the Governor, the  
51 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro  
52 Tempore of the Senate, beginning not later than July 1, 2000, a  
53 report detailing covered providers' compliance with the provisions  
54 of this act.

55 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
56 and after its passage.