

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:**

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

H. B. No. 396: Honorary high school diploma; award to WWII and Korean Conflict veterans.

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

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

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

11        SECTION 1. (1) The school board of a local school district  
12 may award an honorary high school diploma in a form prescribed and  
13 supplied to school districts by the State Board of Education to  
14 veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict who were unable  
15 to complete their education due to their military service. The  
16 honorary diploma is available to any honorably discharged veteran  
17 residing in Mississippi who was scheduled to graduate between 1941  
18 and 1955 but was inducted into military service before completing  
19 the necessary graduation requirements. Family members of deceased  
20 eligible veterans may apply for the diploma to be awarded  
21 posthumously.

22        (2) The State Board of Education and State Veterans Affairs  
23 Board jointly shall develop a uniform application for persons  
24 seeking a diploma under subsection (1) of this section. The  
25 application shall request no less than the following information:

26            (a) The veteran's name, social security number and date  
27 of birth;

28            (b) The last year the veteran was in school and the  
29 veteran's grade level during that year;

30            (c) The year the veteran left school to enter World War  
31 II or the Korean Conflict;

- 32           (d) The year the veteran would have graduated from high  
33 school;
- 34           (e) The name and location of the school attended;
- 35           (f) The date of the veteran's enlistment or draft;
- 36           (g) The veteran's service number;
- 37           (h) The veteran's date of honorable discharge;
- 38           (i) A copy of the veteran's DD-214 form, if available;
- 39 and
- 40           (j) Any other information deemed relevant by the State  
41 Board of Education or State Veterans Affairs Board.

42           The State Board of Education shall provide local school  
43 districts, county departments of human services and local veterans  
44 services offices with copies of the uniform application.

45           (3) A person may request an application from any local  
46 school district, county department of human services or local  
47 veterans services office. Completed applications for a diploma  
48 may be submitted to the veteran's local school district,  
49 regardless of whether or not the veteran attended school in that  
50 district. Upon verifying the information contained in the  
51 application, including verifying the veteran's military service  
52 information with the State Veterans Affairs Board, and determining  
53 the veteran's eligibility for the honorary high school diploma,  
54 the local school board may award the diploma to the veteran. The  
55 diploma shall indicate clearly that the recipient is a veteran of  
56 World War II or the Korean Conflict and that the diploma was  
57 issued at a later date due to the veteran's participation in the  
58 war. The State Department of Education and the State Veterans  
59 Affairs Board may work together to provide communities with  
60 information about hosting a diploma ceremony on or around Veterans  
61 Day. The diploma shall be provided to the veteran or, if the  
62 veteran is deceased, to the veteran's family.

63           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from

64 and after July 1, 2001.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO AWARD HONORARY  
2 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS TO WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN CONFLICT VETERANS  
3 WHO WERE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION DUE TO THEIR MILITARY  
4 SERVICE; TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND STATE  
5 VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD TO DEVELOP A UNIFORM APPLICATION FOR THE  
6 DIPLOMA; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND STATE  
7 VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD TO PROVIDE COMMUNITIES WITH INFORMATION ON  
8 HOSTING DIPLOMA CEREMONIES FOR AWARDDING DIPLOMAS TO VETERANS; AND  
9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph L. Warren

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Alice Harden

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ray Rogers

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy HydeSmith

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Montgomery

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom King