

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

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

S. B. No. 3126: 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
8 Affairs Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and
9 ending June 30, 2002..... \$ 2,955,095.00.

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, 2001, and
16 ending June 30, 2002..... \$ 20,786,211.00.

17 SECTION 3. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
18 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Health
19 Care Expendable Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Veterans
20 Affairs Board for the support of the Mississippi State Veterans
21 Homes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending
22 June 30, 2002..... \$ 700,000.00.

23 SECTION 4. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
24 of Sections 1, 2 and 3, not more than the amounts set forth below
25 shall be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of
26 expenditure:

27 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

28 Personal Services:

29 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits. \$ 6,717,836.00
30 Travel and Subsistence..... 58,000.00
31 Contractual Services..... 15,443,565.00
32 Commodities..... 1,785,995.00

33 Capital Outlay:

34 Other Than Equipment..... 200,000.00

35	Equipment.....	235,910.00
36	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....	<u>0.00</u>
37	Total.....	\$ 24,441,306.00

38 FUNDING:

39	General Funds.....	\$ 2,955,095.00
40	Special Funds.....	<u>21,486,211.00</u>
41	Total.....	\$ 24,441,306.00

42 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

43	Permanent:	Full Time	79
44		Part Time	0
45	Time-Limited:	Full Time	154
46		Part Time	25

47 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of
48 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to
49 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal
50 Services" for Fiscal Year 2003 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2002
51 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions
52 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2003 budget by the
53 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the
54 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall
55 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all
56 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this

57 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure
58 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual
59 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2002 appropriation for "Personal
60 Services" when annualized. If, at the end of any calendar month,
61 the State Personnel Board determines that the agency has taken
62 action(s) which would cause the agency to exceed this projected
63 annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2002 "Personal Services"
64 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions
65 which reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation
66 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until
67 such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

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

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

74 SECTION 5. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
75 of Section 1, and authorized for expenditure in Section 3, funds
76 in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars

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\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the cost of providing care to
5 indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans and the non-veteran surviving
6 spouses of Mississippi veterans if the surviving spouse was a resident of a
7 state veterans home at the time of the veteran's death and who, subsequent
8 to the veteran's death, meets the indigent/low-income criteria established by
9 the State Veterans Affairs Board, in the state veterans homes. It is the
10 intention of the Legislature that the provision pertaining to use of
11 indigent/low-income surviving spouses be retroactive for any such period,
12 prior to the effective date of this act, that a current surviving spouse may
13 have met the criteria. This section and its provisions shall be known and
14 cited as the "Hilton R. 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997."

15 SECTION 6. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Executive
16 Director of the Veterans Affairs Board may authorize increases in major
17 objects of expenditure in total amounts not to exceed five percent (5%) of
18 the appropriated amount of each major object of expenditure, provided that
19 other major objects of expenditure are decreased by the corresponding
20 dollar amount. However, no transfers shall be authorized which increase
21 the major object of expenditure "Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits."

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

28 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after
29 July 1, 2001.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X_____

X_____

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Jack Gordon

Charlie Capps, Jr.

X_____

X_____

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Robert G. Huggins

Johnny W. Stringer

X_____

X_____

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Lynn Posey

David Gibbs

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