

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. 3166: 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, 2002, and ending
9 June 30, 2003..... \$ 2,429,586.00.

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, 2002, and
16 ending June 30, 2003..... \$ 22,332,671.00.

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, for the purpose
20 of defraying the expenses of the Veterans' Affairs Board for the
21 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30,
22 2003.....\$ 700,000.00.

23 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
24 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..	\$	18,543,582.00
30	Travel and Subsistence.....		70,000.00
31	Contractual Services.....		4,465,456.00
32	Commodities.....		1,946,735.00
33	Capital Outlay:		
34	Other Than Equipment.....		200,000.00
35	Equipment.....		235,910.00
36	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		<u>574.00</u>
37	Total.....	\$	25,462,257.00

38 FUNDING:

39	General Funds.....	\$	2,429,586.00
40	Special Funds.....		<u>23,032,671.00</u>
41	Total.....	\$	25,462,257.00

42 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

43	Permanent:	Full Time	80
44		Part Time	0
45	Time-Limited:	Full Time	620
46		Part Time	100

47 Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable Compensation
48 Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a pay increase
49 equal to fifty percent (50%) of the realignment component of the
50 Variable Compensation Plan or Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00),
51 whichever is greater, beginning on January 1, 2003.

52 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of
53 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to
54 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal
55 Services" for Fiscal Year 2004 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2003
56 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs, positions or
57 pay increases are added to the agency's budget by the Mississippi
58 Legislature. Based on data provided by the Legislative Budget
59 Office, the State Personnel Board shall, on July 1, 2002, publish
60 separate annual projection reports, based on July 1, 2002 data,
61 for the period of July 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, and

62 January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2003, that project the annual
63 cost to fully fund all appropriated positions in compliance with
64 the provisions of this act. It shall be the responsibility of the
65 agency head to ensure that no single personnel action increases
66 this projected cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2003 appropriation for
67 "Personal Services," as annualized on a semi-annual basis in
68 accordance with the provisions of this act. If, at the end of any
69 calendar month, the State Personnel Board determines that the
70 agency has taken action(s) which would cause the agency to exceed
71 this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2003 "Personal
72 Services" appropriated level, when annualized in compliance with
73 the provisions of this act, then only those actions which reduce
74 the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation requirement
75 will be processed by the State Personnel Board until such time as
76 the requirements of this provision are met.

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

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

83 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
84 Section 1, and authorized for expenditure in Section 3, funds in
85 the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
86 (\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the cost of providing care to
87 indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans and the non-veteran
88 surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if the surviving spouse
89 was a resident of a state veterans home at the time of the
90 veteran's death and who, subsequent to the veteran's death, meets
91 the indigent/low-income criteria established by the State Veterans
92 Affairs Board, in the state veterans homes. It is the intention
93 of the Legislature that the provision pertaining to use of
94 indigent/low-income surviving spouses be retroactive for any such
95 period, prior to the effective date of this act, that a current
96 surviving spouse may have met the criteria. This section and its
97 provisions shall be known and cited as the "Hilton R. 'Jack' Vance

98 Act of 1997."

99 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
100 Executive Director of the Veterans Affairs Board may authorize
101 increases in major objects of expenditure in total amounts not to
102 exceed ten percent (10%) of the appropriated amount of each major
103 object of expenditure, provided that other major objects of
104 expenditure are decreased by the corresponding dollar amount.
105 However, no transfers shall be authorized which increase the major
106 object of expenditure "Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits."

107 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
108 Section 2, One Hundred Twenty-one Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-nine
109 Dollars (\$121,289.00) shall be derived from the Budget Contingency
110 Fund created in Section 27-103-301, Mississippi Code of 1972.

111 **SECTION 8.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
112 necessary, is hereby reappropriated out of any money in the State
113 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Veterans Affairs
114 Board for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of State
115 General Funds authorized in Senate Bill No. 3126, 2001 Regular
116 Session, for the "Hilton R. 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997" to be used
117 for the purpose of hiring nursing staff at the four state
118 veterans' homes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and
119 ending June 30, 2003.....\$ 120,000.00.

120 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under the
121 provisions of this section, in no event shall the amount expended
122 exceed the unexpended balance as of June 30, 2002.

123 **SECTION 9.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
124 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
125 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
126 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
127 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
128 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

129 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
130 and after July 1, 2002.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X _____

Jack Gordon

X _____

Robert G. Huggins

X _____

Lynn Posey

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X _____

Charlie Capps, Jr.

X _____

Johnny W. Stringer

X _____

David Gibbs