

By: Senator(s) Furniss

To: Veterans and Military
Affairs

SENATE BILL NO. 2517

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 35-7-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CORRECT THE LOCATION REFERENCE TO THE OFFICE OF THE VETERANS' HOME
3 PURCHASE BOARD WHEREBY APPLICATIONS ARE PROCESSED; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 35-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 35-7-15. Any person deeming himself a veteran, and desiring
9 to benefit under the provisions of this chapter, shall submit to
10 the board information, in such form as may be prescribed, that
11 will enable the board to determine his eligibility and
12 qualifications. The board may make such further inquiries and
13 investigations as it deems proper and necessary in order to
14 determine such eligibility and qualifications. Applicant priority
15 for processing shall be in accordance with the order in which the
16 fully completed application forms are received and verified as
17 eligible for consideration in the board's Pearl, Mississippi,
18 office. Once accepted, the qualified and eligible applicant will
19 retain his priority as on a waiting list until the time that funds
20 are available to fully process his application, or until it is
21 ascertained that the applicant is no longer eligible or qualified
22 for the loan, or until the applicant withdraws himself from
23 consideration. The board may suspend the taking of applications
24 from time to time based on availability of funds. The board shall
25 not maintain applications which are projected to exceed one (1)
26 year before final processing. In each instance of suspension, the
27 board will project a date in the future when applications will be



28 again accepted in order that persons inquiring for application may
29 know to do so after such date.

30 Veterans who are otherwise qualified and who have a service
31 connected, permanent disability, as verified by the Veterans'
32 Administration or a branch of the United States Armed Forces,
33 rating fifty percent (50%) or greater, will receive priority over
34 other applicants waiting for consideration. Veterans who have not
35 purchased a single family, permanent home since their honorable
36 discharge from active duty and have not owned a single family
37 residence in the State of Mississippi while serving in the armed
38 services may be given priority over other veterans waiting to make
39 application. This priority will be second only to those veterans
40 given priority due to a service-connected disability of fifty
41 percent (50%) or greater. Such returning veterans must meet all
42 other eligibility and qualification criteria, including
43 Mississippi residence requirements. This priority will apply only
44 during the first five (5) years following the veteran's discharge
45 and will apply to veterans who served in Vietnam regardless of
46 time since discharge.

47 The board shall establish rules and procedures to provide a
48 waiting system, limitations on waiting, and the priority
49 preference given to disabled and other special veteran groups when
50 the number of veterans desiring to apply for a purchase at any
51 time exceeds the funds available in the revolving fund for
52 purchases or the number of applications that can be reasonably
53 processed.

54 It is the intent of the Legislature that access to the
55 revolving fund be available on an equitable basis to all eligible
56 veterans throughout the state. The board is, therefore,
57 authorized to travel, conduct and attend meetings, advertise and
58 announce through public service and commercial media, prepare and
59 distribute audio/visual and printed publications, and otherwise
60 announce and promote among veterans the provisions of this law.



61 The board shall monitor application and purchase distribution
62 throughout the state based upon available information concerning
63 veteran population in certain geographic units such as districts,
64 counties and major metropolitan areas, and is authorized to halt,
65 limit or place temporary moratoriums on further purchase
66 applications from areas determined by the board to have excess
67 purchases in relation to the veteran population of that area. At
68 the same time, the board shall have the authority to employ
69 discriminatory announcement and promotion activities in areas
70 determined to have a shortage of purchases. The board shall not
71 set quotas or other inflexible limits on any geographic unit nor
72 shall the board solicit purchase applications from any veteran,
73 group of veterans or geographic unit.

74 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
75 and after July 1, 2003.

