

By: Senator(s) Gordon, Thames, Huggins,  
Posey, Dearing, Hamilton, Simmons, Walls

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2953

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING  
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004.

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

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, 2003, and ending  
9 June 30, 2004..... \$ 1,322,546.00.

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, 2003, and  
16 ending June 30, 2004..... \$ 24,869,883.00.

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, 2003, and ending  
22 June 30, 2004..... \$ 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..	\$	15,368,232.00
30	Travel and Subsistence.....		100,000.00
31	Contractual Services.....		8,534,506.00
32	Commodities.....		2,339,935.00
33	Capital Outlay:		
34	Other Than Equipment.....		300,000.00
35	Equipment.....		249,756.00
36	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		<u>0.00</u>
37	Total.....	\$	26,892,429.00
38	FUNDING:		
39	General Funds.....	\$	1,322,546.00
40	Special Funds.....		<u>25,569,883.00</u>
41	Total.....	\$	26,892,429.00

42 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

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

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 2005 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2004  
51 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions  
52 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2005 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 2004 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 2004 "Personal Services"  
64 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which  
65 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 with  
69 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 are  
72 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this  
73 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

74 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
75 Section 1, and authorized for expenditure in Section 3, funds in  
76 the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are  
77 provided to defray the cost of providing care to  
78 indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans and the non-veteran  
79 surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if the surviving spouse  
80 was a resident of a state veterans home at the time of the  
81 veteran's death and who, subsequent to the veteran's death, meets  
82 the indigent/low-income criteria established by the State Veterans  
83 Affairs Board, in the state veterans homes. It is the intention  
84 of the Legislature that the provision pertaining to use of  
85 indigent/low-income surviving spouses be retroactive for any such  
86 period, prior to the effective date of this act, that a current  
87 surviving spouse may have met the criteria. This section and its  
88 provisions shall be known and cited as the "Hilton R. 'Jack' Vance  
89 Act of 1997."

90 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
91 Executive Director of the Veterans Affairs Board may authorize  
92 increases in major objects of expenditure in total amounts not to  
93 exceed ten percent (10%) of the appropriated amount of each major



94 object of expenditure, provided that other major objects of  
95 expenditure are decreased by the corresponding dollar amount.  
96 However, no transfers shall be authorized which increase the major  
97 object of expenditure "Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits."

98         **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none  
99 of the funds appropriated by this act shall be expended for  
100 increased charges for State and School Employees' Health Insurance  
101 Plan premium rates assessed by the Department of Finance and  
102 Administration in excess of the Fiscal Year 2003 premium rates for  
103 the health insurance plan.

104         **SECTION 8.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
105 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
106 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
107 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
108 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
109 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

110         **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
111 and after July 1, 2003.

