

**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. 2953: 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, 2003, and ending  
9 June 30, 2004..... \$       1,327,489.00.

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..... \$       25,862,869.00.

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.** With the funds appropriated under the provisions  
24 of Sections 1, 2 and 3, the following positions are authorized:

25           AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

26	Permanent:	Full Time	80
27		Part Time	0
28	Time-Limited:	Full Time	620
29		Part Time	100

30 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of  
31 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to  
32 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal  
33 Services" for Fiscal Year 2005 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2004  
34 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions  
35 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2005 budget by the  
36 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the  
37 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall  
38 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all  
39 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this  
40 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure  
41 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual  
42 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2004 appropriation for "Personal  
43 Services" when annualized. If, at the end of any calendar month,  
44 the State Personnel Board determines that the agency has taken  
45 action(s) which would cause the agency to exceed this projected  
46 annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2004 "Personal Services"  
47 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which  
48 reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation  
49 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until  
50 such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

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

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56 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

57 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
58 Section 1, and authorized for expenditure in Section 3, funds in  
59 the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are  
60 provided to defray the cost of providing care to  
61 indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans and the non-veteran

62 surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if the surviving spouse  
63 was a resident of a state veterans home at the time of the  
64 veteran's death and who, subsequent to the veteran's death, meets  
65 the indigent/low-income criteria established by the State Veterans  
66 Affairs Board, in the state veterans homes. It is the intention  
67 of the Legislature that the provision pertaining to use of  
68 indigent/low-income surviving spouses be retroactive for any such  
69 period, prior to the effective date of this act, that a current  
70 surviving spouse may have met the criteria. This section and its  
71 provisions shall be known and cited as the "Hilton R. 'Jack' Vance  
72 Act of 1997."

73 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
74 Executive Director of the Veterans Affairs Board may authorize  
75 increases in major objects of expenditure in total amounts not to  
76 exceed ten percent (10%) of the appropriated amount of each major  
77 object of expenditure, provided that other major objects of  
78 expenditure are decreased by the corresponding dollar amount.  
79 However, no transfers shall be authorized which increase the major  
80 object of expenditure "Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits."

81 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
82 Section 2, Nine Hundred Forty-five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-  
83 five Dollars (\$945,765.00) shall be derived from the Budget  
84 Contingency Fund created in Section 27-103-301, Mississippi Code  
85 of 1972.

86 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
87 Veterans Affairs Board shall maintain complete accounting and  
88 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
89 appropriated under the provisions of this act and that such  
90 records shall be in the same format and level of details as  
91 maintained for Fiscal Year 2003. It is further the intention of  
92 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2005 shall  
93 be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
94 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
95 provided during the Fiscal Year 2004 budget request process.

96 **SECTION 9.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
97 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the

98 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
99 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
100 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
101 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

102       **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
103 and after July 1, 2003.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

Jack Gordon

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

Charlie Capps, Jr.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

Robert G. Huggins

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

Johnny W. Stringer

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

Lynn Posey

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

David Gibbs