

**House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 3143**

**TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:**

**THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**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, 2004, and ending  
9 June 30, 2005..... \$       1,355,025.00.

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, 2004, and  
16 ending June 30, 2005..... \$       26,822,997.00.

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

19       **AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:**

20	Permanent:	Full Time.....	80
21		Part Time.....	0
22	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	620
23		Part Time.....	100

24       With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of  
25 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to  
26 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal  
27 Services" for Fiscal Year 2006 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2005  
28 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions  
29 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2006 budget by the

30 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the  
31 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall  
32 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all  
33 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this  
34 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure  
35 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual  
36 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2005 appropriation for "Personal  
37 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds.  
38 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal  
39 Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency  
40 has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this  
41 projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2005 "Personal Services"  
42 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which  
43 reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation  
44 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until  
45 such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

46 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
47 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
48 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
49 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
50 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
51 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
52 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
53 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
54 appropriated level.

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

59 **SECTION 4.** The funds authorized herein shall be used to fund  
60 all operations of the agency with the following prohibitions:

61 (1) The agency shall not fill any current or future vacant  
62 positions;

63 (2) The agency shall not take any action to promote or  
64 otherwise award salary increases through reallocation,

65 reclassification, realignment, education benchmark, career ladder,  
66 or any other means to increase salaries of employees or positions  
67 except as allowed under the provisions set forth in House Bill No.  
68 1279, 2004 Regular Session;

69 (3) The agency shall not expend funds for out-of-state  
70 travel except as allowed under the provisions set forth in House  
71 Bill No. 1279, 2004 Regular Session;

72 (4) The agency shall not expend funds for the purchase of or  
73 contract for cellular phones, two-way radios or pagers, except for  
74 support of employees in the Department of Public Safety and the  
75 Bureau of Narcotics as recommended by Information Technology  
76 Services or as allowed under the provisions set forth in House  
77 Bill No. 1279, 2004 Regular Session;

78 (5) The agency shall not expend funds to publish or  
79 distribute any annual reports or other publications;

80 (6) The agency shall not expend funds for public relation  
81 activities regarding the functions, programs or services of the  
82 agency except as allowed under the provisions set forth in House  
83 Bill No. 1279, 2004 Regular Session;

84 (7) The agency shall not advertise the functions, programs  
85 or services of the agency except that the Mississippi Development  
86 Authority is authorized to expend funds for advertising to carry  
87 out the purposes of key programs administered by the authority;

88 (8) The agency shall not expend funds for staff development  
89 or training services;

90 (9) The agency shall not expend funds for the purchase of  
91 new or replacement equipment or furniture, excluding lease  
92 purchase payments on agreements in effect upon passage of this  
93 appropriation bill, except as allowed under the provisions set  
94 forth in House Bill No. 1279, 2004 Regular Session.

95 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none  
96 of the funds appropriated above shall be expended unless members  
97 of the Mississippi House of Representatives and Mississippi Senate  
98 are notified at least five (5) days prior to a public ceremony  
99 announcing the award of any grant in their district or any public

100 announcement or ceremony regarding the groundbreaking or opening  
101 of a facility, roadway or bridge for which the Legislature has  
102 made funds available. Any signage regarding any public event or  
103 any new facility, roadway or bridge shall include the following  
104 language: "Funds were made available for this project by the  
105 Mississippi State Legislature."

106       **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
107 Sections 1 and 2, funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty  
108 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the cost of  
109 providing care to indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans and the  
110 non-veteran surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if the  
111 surviving spouse was a resident of a state veterans home at the  
112 time of the veteran's death and who, subsequent to the veteran's  
113 death, meets the indigent/low-income criteria established by the  
114 State Veterans Affairs Board, in the state veterans homes. It is  
115 the intention of the Legislature that the provision pertaining to  
116 use of indigent/low-income surviving spouses be retroactive for  
117 any such period, prior to the effective date of this act, that a  
118 current surviving spouse may have met the criteria. This section  
119 and its provisions shall be known and cited as the "Hilton R.  
120 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997."

121       **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
122 Veterans Affairs Board shall maintain complete accounting and  
123 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
124 appropriated under the provisions of this act and that such  
125 records shall be in the same format and level of details as  
126 maintained for Fiscal Year 2004. It is further the intention of  
127 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2006 shall  
128 be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
129 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
130 provided during the Fiscal Year 2005 budget request process.

131       **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
132 Section 2, Six Hundred Sixty-seven Thousand Two Hundred Ninety  
133 Dollars (\$667,290.00) shall be derived from the Health Care

134 Expendable Fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses of state  
135 veterans homes.

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

142       **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
143 and after July 1, 2004.

HR05\SB3143A.J

Don Richardson  
Clerk of the House of Representatives