

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Veterans and Military  
Affairs; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2533

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES TO MISSISSIPPI  
2 SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN WORLD WAR  
3 II OR THE KOREAN WAR, AND TO THE SURVIVING SPOUSES OF SUCH  
4 SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS  
5 THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) Bonuses shall be paid out of any funds  
8 appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose to servicemen and  
9 ex-servicemen and servicewomen and ex-servicewomen who served on  
10 active duty in World War II or the Korean War, and who were  
11 citizens of the State of Mississippi when inducted into active  
12 service and certain surviving spouses of such servicemen and  
13 servicewomen, such payments of bonuses to be in the amounts and  
14 subject to the conditions set forth as follows:

15 (a) To each such serviceman or servicewoman who served  
16 in World War II or the Korean War, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars  
17 (\$500.00);

18 (b) To the surviving spouse of each such serviceman or  
19 servicewoman who died while serving in World War II or the Korean  
20 War, or who died at any time after having served in World War II  
21 or the Korean War as a result of injuries or wounds received or  
22 disease contracted by him while in World War II or the Korean War,  
23 the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), provided that no such  
24 bonus shall be paid to any surviving spouse who has remarried.

25 (2) If there is no surviving serviceman or servicewoman or  
26 surviving unremarried spouse, then no bonus shall be paid. In  
27 addition, the Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) payment specified

28 herein shall be reduced by any other amount paid under the  
29 provisions of this section.

30 (3) No such bonus shall be paid to any serviceman or  
31 servicewoman who has been separated from service without an  
32 honorable discharge or an honorable separation therefrom, nor to  
33 the surviving spouse of such a serviceman or servicewoman.

34 (4) No such bonus shall be paid to any serviceman or  
35 servicewoman, or to the surviving spouse of any such serviceman or  
36 servicewoman, unless a claim therefor is filed in writing with the  
37 Department of Veterans' Affairs on or before July 1, 2009.

38 (5) If any serviceman or servicewoman or surviving spouse  
39 herein entitled to a bonus or payment has received a bonus or  
40 gratuitous payment from any other state, territory or governmental  
41 authority, other than the government of the United States, prior  
42 to making application hereunder, then the amount of the bonus or  
43 gratuitous payment so received shall be deducted from the amount  
44 provided herein to be paid to each such person.

45 (6) The bonuses and payments provided herein shall be  
46 completely exempt from all liability for any debt, tax or  
47 obligation. This exemption cannot be waived. Such bonus or  
48 payment shall be nonassignable and shall not be subject to pledge  
49 or hypothecation in any manner whatsoever.

50 (7) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall have  
51 responsibility for the administration of this section. The  
52 executive director is authorized to promulgate rules and  
53 regulations as necessary for the distribution of the bonuses and  
54 for the proper administration of this section.

55 (8) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall estimate the  
56 amount necessary to pay such claims and administer this section,  
57 and shall include that amount as a separate item in its budget  
58 request submitted for fiscal year 2006 and for each fiscal year  
59 thereafter during the five-year time limit to make a claim for a  
60 bonus.

61           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
62 and after July 1, 2005.