

By: Senator(s) Carmichael, Mettetal, King

To: Veterans and Military
Affairs; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2461

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI MILITARY HOME MODIFICATION
2 GRANT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS
3 BOARD; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS
4 NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE ACT; TO PROVIDE THAT
5 GRANTS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO SERVICEMEN LIVING IN THE STATE OF
6 MISSISSIPPI WHO WERE WOUNDED DURING OPERATION IRAQI
7 FREEDOM/OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AND WHO NEED TO MODIFY THEIR
8 HOME OR APARTMENT UNIT; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND FROM WHICH GRANTS
9 IN THE PROGRAM SHALL BE DISBURSED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Mississippi
12 Military Home Modification Grant Program to be administered by the
13 State Veterans' Affairs Board. The board shall promulgate such
14 rules and regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry
15 out the purposes of this act.

16 (2) All applications for grants shall be submitted in
17 accordance with the provisions of grant procedures, criteria and
18 standards developed and made public by the board. The board shall
19 develop regulations, procedures and application forms consistent
20 with this act to govern how grants will be awarded.

21 (3) Grants shall be eligible to servicemen living in the
22 State of Mississippi who were wounded during Operation Iraqi
23 Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom and who need to modify their
24 home or apartment unit. The applicant shall provide evidence that
25 he was injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring
26 Freedom.

27 (4) Properties eligible for grants include homes and
28 apartments located within the State of Mississippi. Modifications
29 shall be recommended and approved by an attending physician,
30 hospital rehabilitation officer or veteran's affairs officer

31 before grant can be awarded. Funds can be used to widen doorways,
32 raise toilet heights, lower counters and add ramps, grab bars,
33 tubcuts, visual smoke detectors, shower chairs, handheld shower
34 fixtures and any other modifications recommended by an attending
35 physician, hospital rehabilitation officer or veteran's affairs
36 officer.

37 (5) The maximum award available for each dwelling unit shall
38 be Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00). When the work has been
39 completed, the grant funds shall be paid to the merchant or
40 contractor and shall not be dispersed directly to the serviceman.

41 (6) The board may accept and expend grants and private
42 donations from any source, including federal, state, public and
43 private entities, to assist it to carry out the purposes of this
44 act.

45 (7) There is created a special fund in the State Treasury to
46 be known as the Military Home Modification Grant Fund from which
47 grants in this program shall be disbursed. Unexpended amounts
48 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse
49 into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in
50 the fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.

51 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2006.