

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Veterans and Military
Affairs

SENATE BILL NO. 2956

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, 2010.

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 2007 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, 2006.