

By: Senator(s) Gordon, Little, Frazier,  
Davis, Flowers, Jackson (32nd), Turner

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3041

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING  
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.

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

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, 2006, and ending  
9 June 30, 2007..... \$ 2,939,184.00.

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, 2006, and  
16 ending June 30, 2007..... \$ 24,233,095.00.

17 SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
18 Sections 1 and 2, not more than the amounts set forth below shall  
19 be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of  
20 expenditure:

21 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

22 Personal Services:  
23 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits.. \$ 12,464,813.00  
24 Travel and Subsistence..... 70,971.00  
25 Contractual Services..... 12,625,827.00  
26 Commodities..... 1,864,168.00  
27 Capital Outlay:

28	Other Than Equipment.....	0.00
29	Equipment.....	96,500.00
30	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....	<u>50,000.00</u>
31	Total.....	\$ 27,172,279.00

32 FUNDING:

33	General Funds.....	\$ 2,939,184.00
34	Special Funds.....	<u>24,233,095.00</u>
35	Total.....	\$ 27,172,279.00

36 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

37	Permanent: Full Time.....	67
38	Part Time.....	0
39	Time-Limited: Full Time.....	317
40	Part Time.....	32

41 Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable Compensation  
42 Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a pay increase  
43 equal to the realignment component of the Variable Compensation  
44 Plan or Twelve Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00), whichever is greater,  
45 beginning on July 1, 2006.

46 Pursuant to policies established by the State Personnel  
47 Board, agency heads may, on a case by case basis and within funds  
48 available, recommend equity salary adjustments to Fiscal Year 2006  
49 agency appropriation acts where application of limitations result  
50 in awarding one employee a salary increase greater than another  
51 employee within the same agency, with the same job classification  
52 series and greater longevity.

53 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of  
54 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to  
55 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal  
56 Services" for Fiscal Year 2008 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2007  
57 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions  
58 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2008 budget by the  
59 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the  
60 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall

61 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all  
62 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this  
63 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure  
64 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual  
65 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2007 appropriation for "Personal  
66 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds.  
67 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal  
68 Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency  
69 has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this  
70 projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2007 "Personal Services"  
71 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which  
72 reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation  
73 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until  
74 such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

75 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
76 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
77 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
78 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
79 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
80 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
81 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
82 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
83 appropriated level.

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

88 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
89 Sections 1 and 2, funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty  
90 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the cost of  
91 providing care to indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans and the  
92 non-veteran surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if the  
93 surviving spouse was a resident of a state veterans home at the

94 time of the veteran's death and who, subsequent to the veteran's  
95 death, meets the indigent/low-income criteria established by the  
96 State Veterans Affairs Board, in the state veterans homes. It is  
97 the intention of the Legislature that the provision pertaining to  
98 use of indigent/low-income surviving spouses be retroactive for  
99 any such period, prior to the effective date of this act, that a  
100 current surviving spouse may have met the criteria. This section  
101 and its provisions shall be known and cited as the "Hilton R.  
102 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997."

103       **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
104 Section 2, Four Hundred Eighty-seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty  
105 Dollars (\$487,750.00) shall be derived from the Health Care  
106 Expendable Fund created in Section 43-13-407, Mississippi Code of  
107 1972, for the support and maintenance of the Veterans' Affairs  
108 Board.

109       **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
110 Executive Director of the Veterans' Affairs Board may authorize  
111 increases in any major objects of expenditures in total amounts  
112 not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the appropriated amount  
113 of each major object of expenditure, provided that other major  
114 objects of expenditure are decreased by a corresponding dollar  
115 amount. However, no transfers shall be authorized which increase  
116 the major object of expenditure "Salaries, Wages and Fringe  
117 Benefits."

118       **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
119 Veterans Affairs Board shall maintain complete accounting and  
120 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
121 appropriated under the provisions of this act and that such  
122 records shall be in the same format and level of details as  
123 maintained for Fiscal Year 2006. It is further the intention of  
124 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2008 shall  
125 be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format

126 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
127 provided during the Fiscal Year 2007 budget request process.

128       **SECTION 8.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
129 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
130 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
131 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
132 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
133 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

134       **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
135 and after July 1, 2006.