

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1655: Appropriation; Veterans' Home Purchase Board.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- 1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
8 Treasury to the credit of the Veterans' Home Purchase Board's
9 revolving fund, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
10 Veterans' Home Purchase Board and making new home loans as
11 authorized by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, and
12 ending June 30, 2008..... \$ 46,019,959.00.

13 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
14 Section 1, not more than the amounts set forth below shall be
15 expended for the respective major objects or purposes of
16 expenditure:

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

Personal Services:

19	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	854,179.00
20	Travel and Subsistence.....		27,970.00
21	Contractual Services.....		324,150.00
22	Commodities.....		47,400.00

Capital Outlay:

24	Other Than Equipment.....		0.00
25	Equipment.....		34,500.00
26	Vehicles.....		0.00
27	Wireless Communication Devices.....		0.00

28 Subsidies, Loans and Grants..... 44,731,760.00
 29 Total..... \$ 46,019,959.00

30 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

31 Permanent: Full Time..... 16
 32 Part Time..... 0
 33 Time-Limited: Full Time..... 0
 34 Part Time..... 0

35 Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable Compensation
 36 Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a pay increase
 37 equal to the realignment component of the Variable Compensation
 38 Plan or One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00), whichever
 39 is greater, to be awarded on July 1, 2007.

40 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of
 41 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to
 42 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal
 43 Services" for Fiscal Year 2009 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2008
 44 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions
 45 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2008 budget by the
 46 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the
 47 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall
 48 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all
 49 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this
 50 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure
 51 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual
 52 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations for "Personal
 53 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds
 54 and educational benchmarks. If, at the time the agency takes any
 55 action to change "Personal Services", the State Personnel Board
 56 determines that the agency has taken an action which would cause
 57 the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year
 58 2008 "Personal Services" appropriated level, when annualized, then
 59 only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or

60 the appropriation requirement will be processed by the State
61 Personnel Board until such time as the requirements of this
62 provision are met. On January 1, 2008, the State Personnel Board
63 will make adjustments to the structure side of the compliance
64 report based on data provided by the Legislative Budget Office in
65 order for agencies to award educational benchmarks.

66 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
67 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or
68 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
69 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
70 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
71 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
72 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
73 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
74 appropriated level.

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

79 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
80 Veterans' Home Purchase Board shall maintain complete accounting
81 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
82 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
83 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
84 2007. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
85 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2009 shall be submitted to
86 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
87 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
88 during the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request process.

89 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum
90 of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00), or so much thereof as

91 may be available, shall come from the issuance and sale of revenue
92 bonds authorized by Chapter 501, Laws of 1985.

93 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
94 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
95 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
96 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
97 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
98 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
99 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
100 made without competitive bids.

101 **SECTION 6.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
102 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
103 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
104 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
105 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
106 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

107 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
108 and after July 1, 2007.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 VETERANS' HOME PURCHASE BOARD AND MAKING NEW HOME LOANS AS
4 AUTHORIZED BY LAW FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Stringer

X (SIGNED)
Gordon

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Gollott

X (SIGNED)
Huddleston

X (SIGNED)
Little