

**House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2940**

**TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:**

**THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

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

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, 2020, and ending  
9 June 30, 2021.....\$           5,748,748.00.

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, 2020, and  
16 ending June 30, 2021.....\$           39,948,076.00.

17           **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
18 this act, the following positions are authorized:

19           AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

20           Permanent:           Full Time.....           75

21	Part Time.....	0
22	Time-Limited: Full Time.....	465
23	Part Time.....	71

24 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
25 responsibility to make certain that funds required to be  
26 appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2022 do not  
27 exceed Fiscal Year 2021 funds appropriated for that purpose,  
28 unless programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year  
29 2021 budget by the Mississippi Legislature. Based on data  
30 provided by the Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel  
31 Board shall determine and publish the projected annual cost to  
32 fully fund all appropriated positions in compliance with the  
33 provisions of this act. It shall be the responsibility of the  
34 agency head to ensure that no single personnel action increases  
35 this projected annual cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2021  
36 appropriations for "Personal Services" when annualized, with the  
37 exception of escalated funds and the award of benchmarks. If, at  
38 the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal  
39 Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency  
40 has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this  
41 projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2021 "Personal Services"  
42 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which  
43 reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation  
44 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until  
45 such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

46 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
47 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
48 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
49 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
50 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
51 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
52 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
53 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
54 appropriated level.

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

59 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in  
60 violation of Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A relating  
61 to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as  
62 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

63 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
64 Sections 1 and 2, funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty  
65 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the cost of  
66 providing care to indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans and the  
67 nonveteran surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if the  
68 surviving spouse was a resident of a state veterans home at the  
69 time of the veteran's death and who, subsequent to the veteran's  
70 death, meets the indigent/low-income criteria established by the  
71 State Veterans Affairs Board, in the state veterans homes. It is

72 the intention of the Legislature that the provision pertaining to  
73 use of indigent/low-income surviving spouses be retroactive for  
74 any such period, prior to the effective date of this act, that a  
75 current surviving spouse may have met the criteria. This section  
76 and its provisions shall be known and cited as the "Hilton R.  
77 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997."

78         **SECTION 5.** The Veterans Affairs Board shall have continued  
79 authority for all action related to planning, development,  
80 construction, and outfitting of the North Mississippi Veterans'  
81 Memorial Cemetery.

82         **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
83 Veterans Affairs Board shall maintain complete accounting and  
84 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
85 appropriated under the provisions of this act and that such  
86 records shall be in the same format and level of details as  
87 maintained for Fiscal Year 2020. It is further the intention of  
88 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 shall  
89 be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
90 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
91 provided during the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request process.

92         **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
93 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
94 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
95 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
96 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
97 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to

98 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
99 made without competitive bids.

100         **SECTION 8.** The Veterans Affairs Board shall have the  
101 authority to escalate and expend increased federal funds obtained  
102 by virtue of Public Law 109-461 (38 CFR Part 51).

103         **SECTION 9.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
104 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
105 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
106 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
107 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
108 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

109         **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
110 and after July 1, 2020, and shall stand repealed from and after  
111 June 30, 2020.

HR13\SB2940A.J

Andrew Ketchings  
Clerk of the House of Representatives