

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, DeLano, Butler  
(38th), Moran, Seymour

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3020

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING  
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD AND THE  
3 MISSISSIPPI STATE VETERANS HOMES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of  
8 defraying the expenses and paying salaries of the State Veterans  
9 Affairs Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and  
10 ending June 30, 2023 ..... \$ 5,253,409.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special  
13 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Veterans  
14 Affairs Board which is comprised of special source funds collected  
15 by or otherwise available to the board, for the support and  
16 maintenance of said board for the fiscal year beginning  
17 July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023 ..... \$ 2,172,448.00.



18           **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
19 Section 1 of this act and authorized for expenditure under the  
20 provisions of Section 2 of this act, the following positions are  
21 authorized:

22	Permanent:	Full Time .....	32
23		Part Time .....	0
24	Time-Limited:	Full Time .....	29
25		Part Time .....	0

26           With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
27 responsibility to make certain that funds required for "Personal  
28 Services" for Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2023  
29 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions  
30 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2023 budget by the  
31 Mississippi Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the  
32 agency's personal services appropriation, which shall be published  
33 by the State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel  
34 Board shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll  
35 costs based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility  
36 of the agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures  
37 for Fiscal Year 2023 do not exceed the data provided by the  
38 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2023  
39 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions  
40 shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception  
41 of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.



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

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

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

59 Funds have been appropriated herein for the purpose of  
60 funding Project SEC2 minimum salaries for all employees covered  
61 under the Colonel Guy Groff/Neville Kenning Variable Compensation  
62 Plan. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that the  
63 funds are used to increase all employees' salaries up to the  
64 minimum level as determined by the State Personnel Board.

65 **SECTION 4.** In addition to all other sums herein  
66 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be



67 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special  
68 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Veterans  
69 Affairs Board, which is comprised of special source funds  
70 collected by or otherwise available to the board, for the purpose  
71 of defraying the expenses and paying salaries of the Mississippi  
72 State Veterans Homes as established in Section 35-1-19 for the  
73 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023 .....

74 .....	\$ 46,243,661.00.
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75 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds authorized for expenditure under the  
76 provision of Section 4 of this act, the following positions are  
77 authorized:

78	Permanent:	Full Time .....	53
79		Part Time .....	0
80	Time Limited:	Full Time .....	511
81		Part Time .....	76

82 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
83 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law.

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



92           **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
93 Executive Director of the State Veteran Affairs Board has the  
94 authority to transfer spending authority between and within  
95 budgets, in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of  
96 the authorized budgets in the aggregate. The purpose of this  
97 authority is to use available cash reserves more efficiently. It  
98 is further the intention of the Legislature that the State Veteran  
99 Affairs Board shall submit written justification for the transfer  
100 to the Legislative Budget Office and the Department of Finance and  
101 Administration on or before the fifteenth of the month prior to  
102 the effective date of the transfer.

103           **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
104 Sections 1 and 2, funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty  
105 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the cost of  
106 providing care to indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans and the  
107 nonveteran surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if the  
108 surviving spouse was a resident of a state veterans home at the  
109 time of the veteran's death and who, subsequent to the veteran's  
110 death, meets the indigent/low-income criteria established by the  
111 State Veterans Affairs Board in the state veterans homes. It is  
112 the intention of the Legislature that the provision pertaining to  
113 use of indigent/low-income surviving spouses be retroactive for  
114 any such period, prior to the effective date of this act, that a  
115 current surviving spouse may have met the criteria. This section



116 and its provisions shall be known and cited as the "Hilton R.  
117 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997."

118         **SECTION 8.** The State Veterans Affairs Board shall have  
119 continued authority for all actions related to the planning,  
120 development, construction, and outfitting of the Mississippi  
121 Veterans Memorial Cemeteries, pursuant to Section 35-1-41.

122         **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
123 State Veterans Affairs Board shall maintain complete accounting  
124 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
125 appropriated under the provisions of this act and that such  
126 records shall be in the same format and level of details as  
127 maintained for Fiscal Year 2022. It is further the intention of  
128 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2024 shall  
129 be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
130 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
131 provided during the Fiscal Year 2023 budget request process.

132         **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
133 State Veterans Affairs Board is hereby authorized to escalate,  
134 budget and expend funds from fund number 3373200000, in an amount  
135 not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), for the  
136 purpose of operating the state veterans homes as authorized by  
137 law, in accordance with rules and regulations of the Department of  
138 Finance and Administration in a manner consistent with the  
139 escalation of federal funds.



140           **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
141 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
142 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
143 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
144 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
145 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
146 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
147 made without competitive bids.

148           **SECTION 12.** The State Veterans Affairs Board shall have the  
149 authority to escalate and expend increased federal funds obtained  
150 by virtue of Public Law 109-461 (38 CFR Part 51).

151           **SECTION 13.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
152 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
153 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
154 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
155 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
156 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

157           **SECTION 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
158 and after July 1, 2022, and shall stand repealed from and after  
159 June 30, 2022.

