

By: Representatives Carpenter, Foster,  
Stamps, Karriem

To: Military Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 1034

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 35-1-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, WHICH CREATES THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD AND PROVIDES  
3 FOR ITS COMPOSITION, FOR THE PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND  
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 35-1-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 brought forward as follows:

8 35-1-1. (1) (a) There is hereby created a State Veterans  
9 Affairs Board, which may also be referred to as the "Mississippi  
10 Veterans Affairs," to consist of seven (7) members, to be  
11 appointed by the Governor, one (1) from each congressional  
12 district as they existed on January 1, 1952, of the State of  
13 Mississippi. One (1) shall be appointed for one (1) year, another  
14 for two (2) years, another for three (3) years, another for four  
15 (4) years, another for five (5) years, another for six (6) years,  
16 and another for seven (7) years, thus staggered. At the end of  
17 such term for each of said seven (7) members, a successor shall be  
18 appointed for a term of seven (7) years, thus providing for seven  
19 (7) members, one (1) of whom shall be appointed each year. In the



20 event of death, resignation or removal of a member of the board,  
21 such person appointed to fill the vacancy shall be a legal  
22 resident of the congressional district in which the vacancy shall  
23 occur, and shall serve for the remainder of the term to which such  
24 member was appointed. Members of the board shall be veterans of  
25 any war or police action in which the Armed Forces of the United  
26 States have been, are, or shall be committed for action, who have  
27 been honorably discharged or honorably released.

28 (b) From and after May 14, 1992, terms of all members  
29 then serving on the State Veterans Affairs Board shall terminate,  
30 and the board shall be reconstituted as follows: The board shall  
31 consist of seven (7) members. All members shall be appointed by  
32 the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. One (1)  
33 member shall be appointed from each congressional district as such  
34 districts existed on March 1, 1992, and two (2) members shall be  
35 appointed from the state at large. Of the initial congressional  
36 district appointees to the board, one (1) shall serve for a term  
37 of one (1) year, one (1) for a term of two (2) years, one (1) for  
38 a term of three (3) years, one (1) for a term of four (4) years  
39 and one (1) for a term of five (5) years. Of the initial at-large  
40 appointees, one (1) (who shall be that person appointed in January  
41 1992 from the First Congressional District under the provisions of  
42 paragraph (a) of this subsection) shall serve for a term of three  
43 (3) years and one (1) (who shall be that person appointed in  
44 January 1992 from the Seventh Congressional District under the



45 provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection) shall serve for a  
46 term of five (5) years. All appointees after the initial  
47 appointees shall serve for terms of five (5) years each. In the  
48 event of death, resignation or removal of a member of the board,  
49 the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Governor, with  
50 the advice and consent of the Senate, from the congressional  
51 district in which the vacancy occurs, for the length of the  
52 unexpired term only. Members of the board shall be honorably  
53 discharged or released veterans of any war or police action in  
54 which the Armed Forces of the United States have been, are, or  
55 shall be committed for action. No state/department commander of  
56 any federally recognized veterans organization, no national  
57 officer of any federally recognized veterans organization and no  
58 member of the Mississippi Council of Veterans Organizations shall  
59 be eligible for appointment to the board until the expiration of a  
60 period of three (3) years after the termination of their service  
61 in such disqualifying positions.

62 (2) Members of the board shall annually elect as chairman  
63 one of their number and another member as vice chairman. Members  
64 of the board shall hold regular monthly meetings and such other  
65 meetings as may be called by the chairman or the vice chairman in  
66 his absence.

67 (3) Beginning July 1, 2019, any reference in this code to  
68 the State Veterans Affairs Board shall also mean the Mississippi  
69 Veterans Affairs.



70           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
71 and after July 1, 2023.

