

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

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3018

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 2024.

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, 2023, and
10 ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 5,476,914.00.

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, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 3,141,619.00.



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 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

23 Permanent: 39

24 Time-Limited: 25

25 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
26 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
27 Services for Fiscal Year 2025 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2024 funds
28 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
29 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 budget by the Mississippi
30 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
31 personal services appropriation, which shall be published by the
32 State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel Board
33 shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs
34 based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the
35 agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for
36 Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed the data provided by the
37 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2024
38 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions
39 shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception
40 of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.

41 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
42 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or



43 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
44 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
45 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
46 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
47 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
48 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
49 appropriated level.

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53 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

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

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

64 **SECTION 4.** In addition to all other sums herein
65 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
66 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
67 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Veterans



68 Affairs Board, which is comprised of special source funds
69 collected by or otherwise available to the board, for the purpose
70 of defraying the expenses and paying salaries of the Mississippi
71 State Veterans Homes as established in Section 35-1-19 for the
72 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....
73 \$ 49,755,294.00.

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

77 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

78 Permanent: 195

79 Time Limited: 502

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

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

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

90 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
91 Executive Director of the State Veterans Affairs Board has the
92 authority to transfer spending authority between and within the



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

103 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
104 Sections 1 and 2 of this act, funds in the amount of Two Hundred
105 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the
106 cost of providing care to indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans
107 and the nonveteran surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if
108 the surviving spouse was a resident of a state veterans home at
109 the time of the veteran's death and who, subsequent to the
110 veteran's death, meets the indigent/low-income criteria
111 established by the State Veterans Affairs Board in the state
112 veterans homes. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
113 provision pertaining to use of indigent/low-income surviving
114 spouses be retroactive for any such period, prior to the effective
115 date of this act, that a current surviving spouse may have met the
116 criteria. This section and its provisions shall be known and
117 cited as the "Hilton R. '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 2023. It is further the intention of
128 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 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 2024 budget request process.

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

141 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
142 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the



143 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
144 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
145 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
146 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
147 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
148 made without competitive bids.

149 **SECTION 12.** With the funds appropriated herein, the
150 Mississippi State Veterans Affairs Board is authorized to make
151 payment for expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2021 as follows:

152 <u>Vendor</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
153 McKesson Medical-Surgical	2021	\$ 11,404.00
154 Halosil International	2021	\$ 1,495.12
155 Precision Healthcare Staffing	2021	\$ 136,024.81

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

162 **SECTION 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
163 and after July 1, 2023, and shall stand repealed from and after
164 June 30, 2023.

