

**House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 3018**

**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:**

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 29, 2023.

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

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.

HR13\SB3018A.J

Andrew Ketchings  
Clerk of the House of Representatives