

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1034

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE 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:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 35-1-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:
10 35-1-1. (1) (a) There is hereby created a State Veterans
11 Affairs Board, which may also be referred to as the "Mississippi
12 Veterans Affairs," to consist of seven (7) members, to be
13 appointed by the Governor, one (1) from each congressional
14 district as they existed on January 1, 1952, of the State of
15 Mississippi. One (1) shall be appointed for one (1) year, another
16 for two (2) years, another for three (3) years, another for four
17 (4) years, another for five (5) years, another for six (6) years,
18 and another for seven (7) years, thus staggered. At the end of
19 such term for each of said seven (7) members, a successor shall be
20 appointed for a term of seven (7) years, thus providing for seven
21 (7) members, one (1) of whom shall be appointed each year. In the
22 event of death, resignation or removal of a member of the board,
23 such person appointed to fill the vacancy shall be a legal
24 resident of the congressional district in which the vacancy shall

25 occur, and shall serve for the remainder of the term to which such
26 member was appointed. Members of the board shall be veterans of
27 any war or police action in which the Armed Forces of the United
28 States have been, are, or shall be committed for action, who have
29 been honorably discharged or honorably released.

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

51 the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Governor, with
52 the advice and consent of the Senate, from the congressional
53 district in which the vacancy occurs, for the length of the
54 unexpired term only. Members of the board shall be honorably
55 discharged or released veterans of any war or police action in
56 which the Armed Forces of the United States have been, are, or
57 shall be committed for action. No state/department commander of
58 any federally recognized veterans organization, no national
59 officer of any federally recognized veterans organization and no
60 member of the Mississippi Council of Veterans Organizations shall
61 be eligible for appointment to the board until the expiration of a
62 period of three (3) years after the termination of their service
63 in such disqualifying positions.

64 (c) From and after July 1, 2023, the State Veterans
65 Affairs Board shall consist of seven (7) members, to be appointed
66 by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. There
67 shall be one (1) member appointed from each of the four (4)
68 congressional districts created in Section 23-15-1037 and three
69 (3) members shall be appointed from the state at large. Members
70 -serving on or before July 1, 2023, will continue to serve in
71 accordance with their term and when such a member's term ends, the
72 seat will be filled by appointment of the Governor, with the
73 advice and consent of the Senate, from the appropriate
74 congressional district or from the state at large, as the case may
75 be. All members appointed after July 1, 2023, shall serve for
76 terms of five (5) years each. In the event of death, resignation

77 or removal of a member of the board, the vacancy shall be filled
78 by appointment of the Governor, with the advice and consent of the
79 Senate, from the congressional district in which the vacancy
80 occurs or from the state at large, as the case may be, for the
81 length of the unexpired term only. Members of the board shall be
82 honorably discharged or honorably released veterans of any war or
83 police action in which the Armed Forces of the United States have
84 been, are, or shall be committed for action.

85 (2) Members of the board shall annually elect as chairman
86 one (1) of their * * * members and another member as vice
87 chairman. Members of the board shall hold regular monthly
88 meetings and such other meetings as may be called by the chairman
89 or the vice chairman in his absence.

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

93 **SECTION 2.** Section 35-1-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
94 amended as follows:

95 35-1-3. The Governor shall appoint an Executive Director of
96 the State Veterans Affairs Board with the advice and consent of
97 the Senate, * * * to serve at the will and pleasure of the
98 Governor * * *. * * * The Executive Director * * * shall also
99 serve as Executive Secretary of the State Veterans Affairs
100 Board * * *. The State Veterans Affairs Board shall appoint a
101 deputy director, individuals to manage each of the agency's major
102 functional areas and individuals to manage each of the state

103 veterans homes. The executive director and deputy director shall
104 be a currently serving member or honorably discharged or honorably
105 released veteran of any active or reserve component branch of the
106 Armed Forces of the United States. The board may establish
107 additional minimum qualifications for agency positions.

108 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
109 and after its passage.

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

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 35-1-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD; TO
3 AMEND SECTION 35-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT
4 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD SHALL
5 BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE
6 SENATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

SS36\HB1034A.J

Eugene S. Clarke
Secretary of the Senate