

**Adopted  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 1034**

**BY: Committee**

**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.

