

By: Representative Carpenter

To: Military Affairs;
Accountability, Efficiency,
Transparency

HOUSE BILL NO. 1630

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE EMPLOYERS IN THIS STATE WITH MORE THAN
2 FIFTY FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES TO DISPLAY A POSTER CREATED
3 AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD REGARDING
4 VARIOUS BENEFITS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO VETERANS; TO BRING
5 FORWARD SECTION 35-1-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES
6 FOR GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD,
7 FOR THE PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) Every employer in this state with more than
10 fifty (50) full-time equivalent employees shall display the poster
11 created and distributed under subsection (2) of this section in a
12 conspicuous place accessible to employees in the workplace.

13 (2) The State Veterans Affairs Board shall create and
14 distribute to employers in this state with more than fifty (50)
15 full-time equivalent employees a veterans benefits and services
16 poster. The poster shall include information regarding at least
17 the following services available to veterans:

18 (a) Contact and Internet website information for the
19 State Board of Veterans Affairs services and the boards veteran's
20 programs;



21 (b) Substance abuse and mental health treatment;
22 (c) Educational, workforce, and training resources;
23 (d) Tax benefits;
24 (e) Mississippi veterans driver's license information
25 and any non-driver identification card information;
26 (f) Eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits
27 under state and/or federal law;
28 (g) Legal services; and
29 (h) Contact information for the United States
30 Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Crisis Line.

31 **SECTION 2.** Section 35-1-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
32 brought forward as follows:

33 35-1-7. (1) The duties of the State Veterans Affairs Board
34 shall be to assist former and present members of the Armed Forces
35 of the United States, and their dependents, in securing any
36 benefits or privileges under any federal or state law or
37 regulation to which they are entitled and to advise the Governor
38 and Legislature on veterans affairs. Moreover, veterans or their
39 dependents shall be given their choice of organizations to
40 represent them in instances where a case is appealed, and the
41 board shall lend its full cooperation in connection therewith.

42 (2) The board and its employees shall cooperate fully with
43 all congressionally chartered veterans organizations within the
44 state, including servicing the power of attorney of the
45 congressionally chartered veterans organizations upon the request



46 of the organizations to the State Veterans Affairs Board in the
47 prosecution of all claims on behalf of veterans. However, all
48 powers of attorney to the State Veterans Affairs Board shall be
49 processed first, and thereafter, powers of attorney shall be
50 processed for veterans organizations in the ratio that the
51 membership of the organization bears to the total number of
52 veterans residing in Mississippi.

53 (3) The State Veterans Affairs Board is designated as the
54 "state approving agency" for the State of Mississippi. It shall
55 be the duty of the State Veterans Affairs Board to inspect,
56 approve and supervise schools, institutions and establishments for
57 war orphan and veteran training as provided in Section 1771,
58 Chapter 35, Title 38, United States Code, and in any subsequent
59 acts passed by the Congress of the United States for the purpose
60 of education and training of war orphans or former and present
61 members of the Armed Forces of the United States. The State
62 Veterans Affairs Board is authorized to employ the needed
63 personnel to perform the duties as outlined in Section 1771,
64 Chapter 35, Title 38, United States Code, and in any subsequent
65 acts as enacted by the Congress of the United States, and to enter
66 into contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs for salary
67 and travel reimbursement for personnel employed for this purpose.

68 (4) The State Veterans Affairs Board shall operate all
69 Mississippi state veterans homes when established as authorized by
70 Sections 35-1-19 through 35-1-29.



71 (5) The powers of the State Veterans Affairs Board in
72 relation to operating the State Veterans Homes shall specifically
73 include, but not be limited to, the following authority:

74 (a) To expend, upon appropriation by the Legislature,
75 any revenue generated by the State Veterans Homes in support of
76 the State Veterans Homes;

77 (b) To enter into loan or scholarship agreements with
78 employees or students to provide educational assistance where such
79 student or employee agrees to work for a stipulated period of time
80 for the board. Under this agreement the employee will agree to
81 commit to up to three (3) years but no less than one (1) year, to
82 be determined by the employment position and the amount of student
83 debt; provided, however, no State General Fund monies shall be
84 used for such purposes and the majority of funds for such purposes
85 shall be provided through programs established by the Mississippi
86 Department of Health, the United States Department of Health and
87 Human Services, and the United States Department of Veterans
88 Affairs; and

89 (c) To sell or otherwise dispose of any chattel
90 property of the State Veterans Affairs Board used in operation of
91 the State Veterans Homes where such disposition is consistent with
92 the homes' purposes or where such property is deemed by the board
93 or its designee to be surplus or otherwise unneeded. The State
94 Veterans Affairs Board shall develop and submit an annual report
95 to the Legislature on any such sale or disposition and shall



96 ensure that the proceeds shall be used to defray the operation of
97 the State Veterans Homes.

98 (6) The State Veterans Affairs Board is authorized to adopt
99 such policies and to prescribe such rules and regulations as it
100 may deem necessary for the proper administration of this chapter.
101 However, such policies and regulations shall not be in conflict
102 with any of the provisions of this chapter.

103 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
104 and after July 1, 2024.

