

By: Senator(s) Seymour, Tate

To: Veterans and Military
Affairs; Government Structure

SENATE BILL NO. 2390

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 35-1-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD TO
3 REFLECT THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS EXISTING AT THE TIME OF THE
4 APPOINTMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 35-1-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 35-1-1. (1) (a) There is hereby created a State Veterans
9 Affairs Board, which may also be referred to as the "Mississippi
10 Veterans Affairs," to consist of seven (7) members, to be
11 appointed by the Governor, one (1) from each congressional
12 district as they existed on January 1, 1952, of the State of
13 Mississippi. One (1) shall be appointed for one (1) year, another
14 for two (2) years, another for three (3) years, another for four
15 (4) years, another for five (5) years, another for six (6) years,
16 and another for seven (7) years, thus staggered. At the end of
17 such term for each of said seven (7) members, a successor shall be
18 appointed for a term of seven (7) years, thus providing for seven
19 (7) members, one (1) of whom shall be appointed each year. In the



20 event of death, resignation or removal of a member of the board,
21 such person appointed to fill the vacancy shall be a legal
22 resident of the congressional district in which the vacancy shall
23 occur, and shall serve for the remainder of the term to which such
24 member was appointed. Members of the board shall be veterans of
25 any war or police action in which the Armed Forces of the United
26 States have been, are, or shall be committed for action, who have
27 been honorably discharged or honorably released.

28 (b) * * * From and after July 1, 2024, terms of all
29 members then serving on the State Veterans Affairs Board shall
30 terminate, and the board shall be reconstituted as follows: The
31 board shall consist of seven (7) members. All members shall be
32 appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the
33 Senate. One (1) member shall be appointed from each congressional
34 district as such districts exist at the time of the appointment,
35 and the remaining members shall be appointed from the state at
36 large. Of the initial congressional district appointees to the
37 board, one (1) shall serve for a term of one (1) year, one (1) for
38 a term of two (2) years, one (1) for a term of three (3) years and
39 one (1) for a term of four (4) years. Of the initial at-large
40 appointees, one (1) shall serve for a term of three (3) years, one
41 (1) shall serve for a term of four (4) years and one (1) shall
42 serve for a term of five (5) years.

43 If the number of congressional districts changes, terms of
44 all members then serving on the State Veterans Affairs Board shall



45 terminate on the next July 1 after the change, and the provisions
46 of this paragraph shall apply to the new appointments. The terms
47 of the initial congressional district appointees shall begin at
48 one (1) year and increase by one (1) year for each additional
49 congressional district appointee. The terms of the initial
50 at-large appointees, if any, shall begin with three (3) years and
51 increase by one (1) year for each additional at-large appointee.

52 All appointees, after the initial appointees, shall serve for
53 terms of five (5) years each. In the event of death, resignation
54 or removal of a member of the board, the vacancy shall be filled
55 by appointment of the Governor, with the advice and consent of the
56 Senate, from the congressional district in which the vacancy
57 occurs, for the length of the unexpired term only.

58 Members of the board shall be honorably discharged or
59 released veterans of any war or police action in which the Armed
60 Forces of the United States have been, are or shall be committed
61 for action. No state/department commander of any federally
62 recognized veterans organization, no national officer of any
63 federally recognized veterans organization and no member of the
64 Mississippi Council of Veterans Organizations shall be eligible
65 for appointment to the board until the expiration of a period of
66 three (3) years after the termination of their service in such
67 disqualifying positions.

68 (2) Members of the board shall annually elect as chairman
69 one (1) of their * * * members and another member as vice



70 chairman. Members of the board shall hold regular monthly
71 meetings and such other meetings as may be called by the chairman
72 or the vice chairman in his absence.

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

76 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
77 and after July 1, 2024.

