

By: Senator(s) Tate

To: Government Structure;  
Veterans and Military Affairs

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2514

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 35-1-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD; AND  
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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



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

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



44 provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection) shall serve for a  
45 term of five (5) years. All appointees after the initial  
46 appointees shall serve for terms of five (5) years each. In the  
47 event of death, resignation or removal of a member of the board,  
48 the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Governor, with  
49 the advice and consent of the Senate, from the Congressional  
50 district in which the vacancy occurs, for the length of the  
51 unexpired term only. Members of the board shall be honorably  
52 discharged or released veterans of any war or police action in  
53 which the Armed Forces of the United States have been, are, or  
54 shall be committed for action. No state/department commander of  
55 any federally recognized veterans organization, no national  
56 officer of any federally recognized veterans organization and no  
57 member of the Mississippi Council of Veterans Organizations shall  
58 be eligible for appointment to the board until the expiration of a  
59 period of three (3) years after the termination of their service  
60 in such disqualifying positions.

61 (c) From and after July 1, 2024, the State Veterans  
62 Affairs Board shall be continued and reconstituted as follows:  
63 the State Veterans Affairs Board shall consist of seven (7)  
64 members, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
65 consent of the Senate. One (1) member shall be appointed from  
66 each of the current Congressional districts at the time of the  
67 appointment, and the remainder of the members shall be appointed  
68 from the state at large. Members serving on or before July 1,



69 2024, will continue to serve in accordance with their term and  
70 when such a member's term ends, the seat will be filled by  
71 appointment of the Governor, with the advice and consent of the  
72 Senate, from the appropriate Congressional district or the state  
73 at large, as the case may be. All members appointed after July 1,  
74 2024, shall serve for terms of five (5) years each. In the event  
75 of death, resignation or removal of a member of the board, the  
76 vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Governor, with the  
77 advice and consent of the Senate, from the Congressional district  
78 or the state at large in which the vacancy occurs, as the case may  
79 be, for the length of the unexpired term only. Members of the  
80 board shall be honorably discharged or released veterans of any  
81 war or police action in which the Armed Forces of the United  
82 States have been, are or shall be committed for action.

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

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

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

