

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, Williams,
Michel, Seymour, Tate

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3045

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD AND THE
3 MISSISSIPPI STATE VETERANS HOMES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
8 defraying the expenses and paying salaries of the State Veterans
9 Affairs Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
10 ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 5,495,804.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
13 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Veterans
14 Affairs Board which is comprised of special source funds collected
15 by or otherwise available to the board, for the support and
16 maintenance of said board for the fiscal year beginning
17 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 3,163,940.00.



18 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
19 Section 1 of this act and authorized for expenditure under the
20 provisions of Section 2 of this act, the following positions are
21 authorized:

22 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

23 Permanent: 38

24 Time-Limited: 26

25 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
26 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
27 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds
28 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
29 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi
30 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal
31 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall
32 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency
33 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the
34 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to
35 the personal services amount must be approved by the State
36 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation
37 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be
38 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate
39 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services
40 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved
41 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active
42 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's



43 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are
44 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,
45 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
46 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board
47 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any
48 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board
49 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in
50 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the
51 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the
52 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the
53 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel
54 Board.

55 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
56 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
57 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
58 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
59 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
60 the agency's projected cost for Fiscal Year 2025 exceeds the
61 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
62 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
63 essential for the agency.

64 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
65 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
66 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
67 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written



68 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
69 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
70 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
71 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
72 appropriated level.

73 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
74 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for
75 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are
76 withdrawn and no longer available.

77 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in
78 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A
79 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as
80 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

81 **SECTION 4.** In addition to all other sums herein
82 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
83 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
84 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
85 defraying the operating expenses and paying salaries of the
86 Mississippi State Veterans Homes as established in Section 35-1-19
87 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
88 June 30, 2025.....\$ 6,000,000.00.

89 **SECTION 5.** In addition to all other sums herein
90 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
91 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
92 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Veterans



93 Affairs Board, which is comprised of special source funds
94 collected by or otherwise available to the board, for the purpose
95 of defraying the expenses and paying salaries of the Mississippi
96 State Veterans Homes as established in Section 35-1-19 for the
97 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
98 \$ 56,664,547.00.

99 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
100 Section 4 of this act and authorized for expenditure under the
101 provision of Section 5 of this act, the following positions are
102 authorized:

103 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:
104 Permanent: 308
105 Time Limited: 389

106 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
107 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law.

108 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
109 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
110 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
111 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

112 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in
113 violation of Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A relating
114 to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as
115 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

116 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
117 Executive Director of the State Veterans Affairs Board has the



118 authority to transfer spending authority between and within the
119 budgets of the State Veterans Affairs Board and the Mississippi
120 State Veterans Homes, in an amount not to exceed twenty-five
121 percent (25%) of the authorized budgets in the aggregate. The
122 purpose of this authority is to use available cash reserves more
123 efficiently. It is further the intention of the Legislature that
124 the State Veterans Affairs Board shall submit written
125 justification for the transfer to the Legislative Budget Office
126 and the Department of Finance and Administration on or before the
127 fifteenth of the month prior to the effective date of the
128 transfer.

129 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
130 Sections 1 and 2 of this act, funds in the amount of Two Hundred
131 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the
132 cost of providing care to indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans
133 and the nonveteran surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if
134 the surviving spouse was a resident of a state veterans home at
135 the time of the veteran's death and who, subsequent to the
136 veteran's death, meets the indigent/low-income criteria
137 established by the State Veterans Affairs Board in the state
138 veterans homes. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
139 provision pertaining to use of indigent/low-income surviving
140 spouses be retroactive for any such period, prior to the effective
141 date of this act, that a current surviving spouse may have met the



142 criteria. This section and its provisions shall be known and
143 cited as the "Hilton R. 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997."

144 **SECTION 9.** The State Veterans Affairs Board shall have
145 continued authority for all actions related to the planning,
146 development, construction, and outfitting of the Mississippi
147 Veterans Memorial Cemeteries, pursuant to Section 35-1-41.

148 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
149 State Veterans Affairs Board shall maintain complete accounting
150 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
151 appropriated under the provisions of this act and that such
152 records shall be in the same format and level of details as
153 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of
154 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall
155 be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format
156 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail
157 provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

158 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
159 State Veterans Affairs Board and the Mississippi State Veterans
160 Homes are hereby authorized to escalate, budget and expend funds
161 from fund number 3373200000, in an amount not to exceed Five
162 Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), for the purpose of operating the
163 state veterans homes as authorized by law, in accordance with
164 rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and
165 Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of
166 federal funds.



167 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
168 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
169 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
170 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
171 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
172 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
173 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
174 made without competitive bids.

175 **SECTION 13.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
176 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
177 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Mississippi State
178 Veterans Affairs Board for the purpose of reauthorizing the
179 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in SB 3018,
180 2023 Regular Session, to defray operational expenses related to
181 stand-up operating costs at the Tradition State Veterans Home for
182 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
183 June 30, 2025.....\$ 3,200,000.00.

184 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
185 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
186 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
187 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
188 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
189 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

190 **SECTION 14.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
191 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the



192 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
193 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
194 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
195 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

196 **SECTION 15.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
197 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed from and after
198 June 30, 2024.

