

**House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 3045**

**TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:**

**THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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 29, 2024.

HR13\SB3045A.J



Andrew Ketchings  
Clerk of the House of Representatives