

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Senate Bill No. 3040

BY: Committee

**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, 2025, and
10 ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 5,672,001.00.

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



by or otherwise available to the board, for the support and maintenance of said board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 3,188,408.00.

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

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 40

Time-Limited: 25

With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee



40 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
41 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

42 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
43 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
44 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
45 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do
46 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
47 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the
48 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
49 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
50 essential for the agency.

51 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
52 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
53 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
54 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
55 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
56 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
57 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
58 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
59 appropriated level.

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



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

68 **SECTION 4.** In addition to all other sums herein
69 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
70 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
71 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
72 defraying the operating expenses and paying salaries of the
73 Mississippi State Veterans Homes as established in Section 35-1-19
74 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
75 June 30, 2026.....\$ 6,357,359.00.

76 **SECTION 5.** In addition to all other sums herein
77 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
78 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
79 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Veterans
80 Affairs Board, which is comprised of special source funds
81 collected by or otherwise available to the board, for the purpose
82 of defraying the expenses and paying salaries of the Mississippi
83 State Veterans Homes as established in Section 35-1-19 for the
84 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
85 \$ 48,527,060.00.

86 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
87 Section 4 of this act and authorized for expenditure under the



provision of Section 5 of this act, the following positions are authorized:

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 265

Time Limited: 317

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

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

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

SECTION 7. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Executive Director of the State Veterans Affairs Board has the authority to transfer spending authority between and within the budgets of the State Veterans Affairs Board and the Mississippi State Veterans Homes, in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the authorized budgets in the aggregate. The purpose of this authority is to use available cash reserves more efficiently. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the State Veterans Affairs Board shall submit written justification for the transfer to the Legislative Budget Office



and the Department of Finance and Administration on or before the
fifteenth of the month prior to the effective date of the
transfer.

SECTION 8. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
Sections 1 and 2 of this act, funds in the amount of Two Hundred
Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) are provided to defray the
cost of providing care to indigent/low-income Mississippi veterans
and the nonveteran surviving spouses of Mississippi veterans if
the surviving spouse was a resident of a state veterans home at
the time of the veteran's death and who, subsequent to the
veteran's death, meets the indigent/low-income criteria
established by the State Veterans Affairs Board in the state
veterans homes. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
provision pertaining to use of indigent/low-income surviving
spouses be retroactive for any such period, prior to the effective
date of this act, that a current surviving spouse may have met the
criteria. This section and its provisions shall be known and
cited as the "Hilton R. 'Jack' Vance Act of 1997."

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

SECTION 10. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
State Veterans Affairs Board shall maintain complete accounting
and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds



138 appropriated under the provisions of this act and that such
139 records shall be in the same format and level of details as
140 maintained for Fiscal Year 2025. It is further the intention of
141 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall
142 be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format
143 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail
144 provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

145 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
146 State Veterans Affairs Board and the Mississippi State Veterans
147 Homes are hereby authorized to escalate, budget and expend funds
148 from fund number 3373200000, in an amount not to exceed Five
149 Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), for the purpose of operating the
150 state veterans homes as authorized by law, in accordance with
151 rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and
152 Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of
153 federal funds.

154 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
155 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
156 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
157 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
158 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
159 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
160 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
161 made without competitive bids.



162 **SECTION 13.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
163 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
164 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
165 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
166 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
167 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

168 **SECTION 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
169 and after July 1, 2025.

