

By: Furniss

To: Fees, Salaries and  
Administration;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3136  
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 35-1-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD TO PURCHASE CONTRACTS  
3 FOR AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 35-1-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:[JMR1]

7 35-1-7. The duties of the State Veterans Affairs Board shall  
8 be to assist former and present members of the Armed Forces of the  
9 United States, and their dependents, in securing any benefits or  
10 privileges under any federal or state law or regulation to which  
11 they are entitled and to advise the Governor and Legislature on  
12 veterans affairs. Moreover, veterans or their dependents shall be  
13 given their choice of organizations to represent them in instances  
14 where a case is appealed, and the board shall lend its full  
15 cooperation in connection therewith.

16 The board and its employees shall cooperate fully with all  
17 congressionally chartered veterans organizations within the state,  
18 including servicing the power of attorney of the congressionally  
19 chartered veterans organizations upon the request of the  
20 organizations to the State Veterans Affairs Board in the  
21 prosecution of all claims on behalf of veterans. However, all  
22 powers of attorney to the State Veterans Affairs Board shall be  
23 processed first, and thereafter, powers of attorney shall be  
24 processed for veterans organizations in the ratio that the  
25 membership of the organization bears to the total number of  
26 veterans residing in Mississippi.

27           The State Veterans Affairs Board is designated as the "state  
28 approving agency" for the State of Mississippi. It shall be the  
29 duty of the State Veterans Affairs Board to inspect, approve and  
30 supervise schools, institutions and establishments for war orphan  
31 and veteran training as provided in Section 1771, Chapter 35,  
32 Title 38, United States Code, and in any subsequent acts passed by  
33 the Congress of the United States for the purpose of education and  
34 training of war orphans or former and present members of the Armed  
35 Forces of the United States. The State Veterans Affairs Board is  
36 authorized to employ the needed personnel to perform the duties as  
37 outlined in Section 1771, Chapter 35, Title 38, United States  
38 Code, and in any subsequent acts as enacted by the Congress of the  
39 United States, and to enter into contract with the Department of  
40 Veterans Affairs for salary and travel reimbursement for personnel  
41 employed for this purpose.

42           The State Veterans Affairs Board shall operate all  
43 Mississippi state veterans homes when established as authorized by  
44 Sections 35-1-19 through 35-1-29.

45           The State Veterans Affairs Board is authorized to purchase  
46 contracts for automobile insurance.

47           The State Veterans Affairs Board is authorized to adopt such  
48 policies and to prescribe such rules and regulations as it may  
49 deem necessary for the proper administration of this chapter.  
50 However, such policies and regulations shall not be in conflict  
51 with any of the provisions of this chapter.

52           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
53 and after its passage.