

By: Representatives Stevens, Frierson,  
Clarke

To: Military Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 675

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 35-1-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD BY  
3 PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF THREE NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD WITH  
4 EXPERIENCE IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION  
5 AND NURSING; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF SUCH NEW  
6 MEMBERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

10 35-1-1. (1) (a) There is hereby created a State Veterans  
11 Affairs Board, to consist of seven (7) members, to be appointed by  
12 the Governor, one (1) from each congressional district as they  
13 existed on January 1, 1952, of the State of Mississippi. One (1)  
14 shall be appointed for one (1) year, another for two (2) years,  
15 another for three (3) years, another for four (4) years, another  
16 for five (5) years, another for six (6) years, and another for  
17 seven (7) years, thus staggered. At the end of such term for each  
18 of said seven (7) members, a successor shall be appointed for a  
19 term of seven (7) years, thus providing for seven (7) members, one  
20 (1) of whom shall be appointed each year. In the event of death,  
21 resignation or removal of a member of the board, such person  
22 appointed to fill the vacancy shall be a legal resident of the  
23 congressional district in which the vacancy shall occur, and shall  
24 serve for the remainder of the term to which such member was  
25 appointed. Members of the board shall be veterans of any war or  
26 police action in which the Armed Forces of the United States have  
27 been, are, or shall be committed for action, who have been  
28 honorably discharged or honorably released.

29           (b) From and after May 14, 1992, terms of all members  
30 then serving on the State Veterans Affairs Board shall terminate,  
31 and the board shall be reconstituted as follows: The board shall  
32 consist of seven (7) members. All members shall be appointed by  
33 the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. One (1)  
34 member shall be appointed from each congressional district as such  
35 districts existed on March 1, 1992, and two (2) members shall be  
36 appointed from the state at large. Of the initial congressional  
37 district appointees to the board, one (1) shall serve for a term  
38 of one (1) year, one (1) for a term of two (2) years, one (1) for  
39 a term of three (3) years, one (1) for a term of four (4) years  
40 and one (1) for a term of five (5) years. Of the initial at-large  
41 appointees, one (1) (who shall be that person appointed in January  
42 1992 from the First Congressional District under the provisions of  
43 paragraph (a) of this subsection) shall serve for a term of three  
44 (3) years and one (1) (who shall be that person appointed in  
45 January 1992 from the Seventh Congressional District under the  
46 provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection) shall serve for a  
47 term of five (5) years. All appointees after the initial  
48 appointees shall serve for terms of five (5) years each. In the  
49 event of death, resignation or removal of a member of the board,  
50 the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Governor, with  
51 the advice and consent of the Senate, from the congressional  
52 district in which the vacancy occurs, for the length of the  
53 unexpired term only. Members of the board shall be honorably  
54 discharged or released veterans of any war or police action in  
55 which the Armed Forces of the United States have been, are, or  
56 shall be committed for action. No state/department commander of  
57 any federally recognized veterans organization, no national  
58 officer of any federally recognized veterans organization and no  
59 member of the Mississippi Council of Veterans Organizations shall  
60 be eligible for appointment to the board until the expiration of a

61 period of three (3) years after the termination of their service  
62 in such disqualifying positions.

63 (c) From and after July 1, 2004, in addition to the  
64 members of the board provided for in paragraph (b) of this  
65 subsection (1), there shall be three (3) additional members of the  
66 board who shall have the following qualifications:

67 (i) One (1) member shall be a financial manager  
68 with a license or certification as a certified public accountant,  
69 a certified managerial accountant, or a certified financial  
70 analyst, with at least five (5) years of experience directly  
71 related to finance and/or management;

72 (ii) One (1) member shall be a licensed nursing  
73 home administrator with at least seven (7) years of experience in  
74 the management of nursing homes; and

75 (iii) One (1) member shall be a registered nurse  
76 with at least ten (10) years of experience in nursing.

77 The members provided for in this paragraph (c) shall be  
78 appointed by the Governor from the state at large, with the advice  
79 and consent of the Senate. The initial term of office for the  
80 member who is a registered nurse shall be for one (1) year, the  
81 initial term of office for the member who is a licensed nursing  
82 home administrator shall be for two (2) years, and the initial  
83 term of office for the member who is a financial manager shall be  
84 for three (3) years. After the expiration of the initial terms,  
85 all subsequent appointments under this paragraph (c) shall be made  
86 for terms of five (5) years from the expiration of the previous  
87 term. Members of the board appointed under this paragraph (c) may  
88 remain in office until their successors are appointed and  
89 qualified. In the event of death, resignation or removal of a  
90 member of the board, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of  
91 the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, with the  
92 appropriate experience requirements, for the length of the  
93 unexpired term only. No members provided for in this paragraph

94 (c) shall be required to be a veteran of any war or police action  
95 but shall have their qualifications certified by the State  
96 Personnel Board prior to confirmation by the Senate. No state  
97 department commander of any federally recognized veterans'  
98 organization, no national officer of any federally recognized  
99 veterans' organization, and no member of the Mississippi Council  
100 of Veterans Organizations shall be eligible for appointment to the  
101 board positions established by this paragraph (c) until the  
102 expiration of a period of three (3) years after the termination of  
103 their service in such disqualifying positions.

104 (2) Members of the board shall annually elect as chairman  
105 one of their number and another member as vice chairman. Members  
106 of the board shall hold regular monthly meetings and such other  
107 meetings as may be called by the chairman or the vice chairman in  
108 his absence.

109 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
110 and after July 1, 2004.