

By: Senator(s) King

To: Veterans and Military  
Affairs; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2139

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD TO  
2 ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A MISSISSIPPI VETERANS CEMETERY,  
3 WHICH SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE "MISSISSIPPI VETERANS MEMORIAL  
4 CEMETERY"; TO PROVIDE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INTERMENT; TO  
5 PROVIDE THAT THE CEMETERY SHALL BE UNDER THE CONTROL AND  
6 ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD; TO AUTHORIZE  
7 THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD TO RECEIVE FEDERAL AID AND ANY  
8 GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS, BEQUESTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS TO ESTABLISH,  
9 OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A VETERANS CEMETERY; AND FOR RELATED  
10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Veterans Affairs Board is  
13 authorized to establish, operate and maintain a Mississippi  
14 veterans cemetery in this state, which shall be known as the  
15 "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery."

16 (2) The State Veterans Affairs Board has the primary  
17 responsibility for verifying eligibility for interment in the  
18 veterans cemetery. Eligibility criteria for interment in the  
19 cemetery is the same as required for interment in a national  
20 cemetery as provided by federal law and rules and regulations  
21 applicable thereto. However, to be eligible for interment a  
22 veteran must have been a legal resident of the State of  
23 Mississippi for two (2) years immediately prior to his death.

24 (3) The cemetery shall be under the control and  
25 administration of the State Veterans Affairs Board.

26 (4) Applications for interment in the cemetery shall be  
27 processed in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by  
28 the State Veterans Affairs Board.

29 (5) The State Veterans Affairs Board is designated as the  
30 agency of this state to receive federal aid under Title 38 USC, as  
31 amended, and is authorized to receive funds from the United States

32 Department of Veterans Affairs or any other agency of the United  
33 States authorized to grant or expend funds to assist a state in  
34 establishing, operating and maintaining a veterans cemetery. The  
35 board is authorized to receive gifts, contributions, bequests and  
36 individual reimbursements from any source, the receipt of which  
37 shall not exclude any other source of revenue. All funds received  
38 by the board pursuant to this subsection shall be expended to  
39 establish, operate and maintain a veterans cemetery in this state.  
40 The State Veterans Affairs Board is authorized to employ such  
41 personnel as it may deem necessary to carry out its duties and  
42 responsibilities under this section.

43       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
44 and after July 1, 2005.