

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1821: Appropriation; Veterans' Home Purchase Board.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- 1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
8 Treasury to the credit of the Veterans' Home Purchase Board's
9 revolving fund, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
10 Veterans' Home Purchase Board and making new home loans as
11 authorized by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
12 ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 84,682,355.00.

13 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
14 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

15 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16 Permanent: 19

17 Time-Limited: 0

18 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
19 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal



20 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds
21 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
22 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi
23 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
24 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
25 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
26 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
27 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024
28 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
29 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
30 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
31 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
32 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
33 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
34 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

35 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
36 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
37 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
38 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
39 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
40 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
41 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
42 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
43 essential for the agency.



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

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

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

61 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
62 Veterans' Home Purchase Board shall maintain complete accounting
63 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
64 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
65 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
66 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
67 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
68 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of



69 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
70 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

71 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
72 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
73 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
74 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
75 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
76 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
77 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
78 made without competitive bids.

79 **SECTION 5.** The funds herein appropriated shall be expended
80 in compliance with Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972,
81 that no state agency shall incur obligations or indebtedness in
82 excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers,
83 either personally or upon their official bonds, shall be held
84 responsible for actions contrary to this provision.

85 **SECTION 6.** The Veterans' Home Purchase Board is hereby
86 authorized to escalate, budget and expend funds from any source,
87 not to exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00), for the
88 purpose of making new home loans as authorized by law, in
89 accordance with rules and regulations of the Department of Finance
90 and Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of
91 federal funds.

92 **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
93 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the



94 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
95 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
96 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
97 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

98 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
99 and after July 1, 2024.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 VETERANS' HOME PURCHASE BOARD AND MAKING NEW HOME LOANS AS
4 AUTHORIZED BY LAW FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Mims

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Turner-Ford

X (SIGNED)
Faulkner

X (SIGNED)
Barnett

