

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. 1625: Appropriation; Insurance Department.

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:

5 SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in any special
7 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi
8 Department of Insurance which is comprised of special source funds
9 collected by or otherwise available to the department, for the
10 purpose of defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal
11 year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000..... \$

12 SECTION 2. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
13 Section 1 not more than the amounts set forth below shall be
14 expended for the respective major objects or purposes of
15 expenditure:

16 **MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:**

17 Personal Services:

18 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	4,460,928.00
19 Travel and Subsistence.....		326,277.00
20 Contractual Services.....		1,537,549.00
21 Commodities.....		205,398.00
22 Capital Outlay:		
23 Other Than Equipment.....		0.00
24 Equipment.....		221,538.00
25 Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		<u>0.00</u>
26 Total.....	\$	6,751,690.00

27 **AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:**

28	Permanent:	Full Time.	112
29		Part Time.	0
30	Time-Limited:	Full Time.	0
31		Part Time.	0

32 From the funds provided in the budget category "Personal
33 Services: Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits," funds may be
34 expended for the following purposes, in compliance with the
35 policies established by the State Personnel Board and any
36 conditions placed on such expenditures:

37 (a) The components of the Variable Compensation Plan
38 shall be maintained within the constraints of the funds
39 appropriated herein.

40 (b) Funds are provided to adjust the Variable
41 Compensation Plan, including realignment, to ensure that all
42 full-time employees with at least six (6) months of continuous
43 current service, as of June 30, 1999, receive an increase of One
44 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). Funds are provided to
45 adjust critical job classes up to an additional One Thousand
46 Dollars (\$1,000.00).

47 (c) If an employee is currently at or above the end
48 salary for his or her job classification, then the increase shall
49 be built into the employee's base salary. To be eligible for any
50 increase authorized in this section, employees may not have a
51 current performance rating below "meets expectations" as of the
52 effective date of the increase. Employees who subsequently
53 receive a performance rating of "meets expectations" or above
54 during Fiscal Year 2000 shall receive the salary increase
55 effective the date of the rating.

56 It is the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds
57 required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal
58 Year 2001 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2000 funds appropriated for
59 that purpose unless programs or positions are added to the
60 agency's budget by the Mississippi Legislature.

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

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

67 SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
68 Section 1, and authorized for expenditure in Section 2,
69 Twenty-four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-six Dollars (\$24,896.00)
70 is provided for the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards
71 and Certification Board.

72 SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
73 Mississippi Department of Insurance be allowed to escalate its
74 budget and expend funds not to exceed Two Million Dollars
75 (\$2,000,000.00) from the special fund in the State Treasury to the
76 credit of the Rural Fire Truck Fund for the administration of the
77 Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program. This escalation
78 shall be done in accordance with rules and regulations of the
79 Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent
80 with the escalation of federal funds.

81 Notwithstanding the amount authorized in this section, in no
82 event shall the amount escalated exceed the unexpended balance as
83 of June 30, 1999, or change the purpose for which the funds were
84 originally authorized in Section 17-23-1, Mississippi Code of
85 1972.

86 SECTION 5. The Legislature provides Fifteen Thousand Nine
87 Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$15,975.00) in additional salary
88 adjustments for unique job classifications to take to start step.

89 SECTION 6. Funds are provided in this act for the
90 reallocation of a Branch Director I to a Branch Director II not to
91 exceed Four Thousand Ninety-six Dollars (\$4,096.00).

92 SECTION 7. Funds are provided in this act for the
93 reclassification of four (4) Consumer Service Specialist I to
94 Consumer Service Specialist II not to exceed Twelve Thousand Seven
95 Hundred Twenty-one Dollars (\$12,721.00).

96 SECTION 8. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
97 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the

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

102 SECTION 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from
103 and after July 1, 1999.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

X
Charlie Capps, Jr.

X
Percy W. Watson

X
Mary Ann Stevens

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

X
Dick Hall

X
Bob M. Dearing

X
Dean Kirby