

**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. 1634: Appropriation; Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

**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 the State  
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the State Soil and  
8 Water Conservation Commission for the purpose of defraying the  
9 administrative expenses of the commission and carrying out the  
10 provisions of Section 69-27-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972,  
11 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30,  
12 2000 \$ 1,100,987.00.

13 SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
14 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special  
15 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Soil and  
16 Water Conservation Commission which is comprised of special source  
17 funds collected by or otherwise available to the commission, for  
18 the purpose of defraying the expenses of the commission for the  
19 fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000.....  
20 ..... \$ 1,296,274.00.

21 SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
22 Section 1 and Section 2, not more than the amounts set forth below  
23 shall be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of  
24 expenditure:

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

Personal Services:

Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	844,339.00
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28	Travel and Subsistence.....	73,231.00
29	Contractual Services.....	163,427.00
30	Commodities.....	77,800.00
31	Capital Outlay:	
32	Other Than Equipment.....	0.00
33	Equipment.....	129,399.00
34	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....	<u>1,109,065.00</u>
35	Total.....	\$ 2,397,261.00

36 FUNDING:

37	General Funds.....	\$ 1,100,987.00
38	Special Funds.....	<u>1,296,274.00</u>
39	Total.....	\$ 2,397,261.00

40 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

41	Permanent: Full Time. . . . .	18
42	Part Time. . . . .	0
43	Time-Limited: Full Time. . . . .	3
44	Part Time. . . . .	0

45 From the funds provided in the budget category "Personal  
46 Services: Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits," funds may be  
47 expended for the following purposes, in compliance with the  
48 policies established by the State Personnel Board and any  
49 conditions placed on such expenditures:

50 (a) The components of the Variable Compensation Plan  
51 shall be maintained within the constraints of the funds  
52 appropriated herein.

53 (b) Funds are provided to adjust the Variable  
54 Compensation Plan, including realignment, to ensure that all  
55 full-time employees with at least six (6) months of continuous  
56 current service, as of June 30, 1999, receive an increase of One  
57 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). Funds are provided to  
58 adjust critical job classes up to an additional One Thousand  
59 Dollars (\$1,000.00).

60 (c) If an employee is currently at or above the end  
61 salary for his or her job classification, then the increase shall  
62 be built into the employee's base salary. To be eligible for any

63 increase authorized in this section, employees may not have a  
64 current performance rating below "meets expectations" as of the  
65 effective date of the increase. Employees who subsequently  
66 receive a performance rating of "meets expectations" or above  
67 during Fiscal Year 2000 shall receive the salary increase  
68 effective the date of the rating.

69 It is the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds  
70 required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal  
71 Year 2001 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2000 funds appropriated for  
72 that purpose unless programs or positions are added to the  
73 agency's budget by the Mississippi Legislature.

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

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

80 SECTION 4. The State Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
81 is hereby authorized to retain all funds generated from the sale  
82 of equipment. Any funds made available from the sale of equipment  
83 shall be deposited into the special fund in the State Treasury to  
84 the credit of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and shall  
85 be used solely for the purpose of purchasing equipment.

86 SECTION 5. The State Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
87 is hereby authorized to receive, budget and expend any proceeds  
88 derived from the sale of bonds authorized in Section 69-27-331 et  
89 seq., Mississippi Code of 1972. All expenditures shall be in  
90 accordance with conditions provided in Section 69-27-331 et seq.,  
91 Mississippi Code of 1972.

92 SECTION 6. It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
93 Soil and Water Conservation Commission shall have the authority to  
94 escalate its budget and expend funds from any source not to exceed  
95 Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) in accordance  
96 with rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and  
97 Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of

98 federal funds.

99 SECTION 7. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, it is the  
100 intention of the Legislature that Fifty-five Thousand Dollars  
101 (\$55,000.00) be used for the purpose of funding a Beaver Control  
102 Cost Share program. The Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation  
103 Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations for the  
104 establishment and operation of the program on a fund matching  
105 basis with the county unit of government. Funds not expended or  
106 encumbered in a county may be transferred to another county during  
107 the fiscal year. Only those funds specifically appropriated for  
108 the Beaver Control Cost Share program shall be used in any such  
109 program.

110 SECTION 8. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
111 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
112 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
113 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
114 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
115 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

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

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

X  
Charlie Capps, Jr.

X  
Richard L. Livingston

X  
David L. Green

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

X  
Dick Hall

X  
Joseph Stogner

X  
Lynn Posey