

**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. 1643: Appropriation; Rehabilitation Services - Consolidated.

**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:**

4           SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
5 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
6 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of  
7 Rehabilitation Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
8 1999, and ending June 30, 2000..... \$       9,134,207.00.

9           SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
10 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in any special  
11 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of  
12 Rehabilitation Services which is comprised of special source funds  
13 collected by or otherwise available to the department for the  
14 support of the various offices of the department, for the purpose  
15 of defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year  
16 beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000.....  
17 ..... \$       86,208,105.00.

18           SECTION 3. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
19 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
20 Treasury to the credit of the Health Care Expendable Fund, created  
21 under House Bill No. 519, 1999 Regular Session, for the purpose of  
22 defraying the expenses of the Department of Rehabilitation  
23 Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending  
24 June 30, 2000..... \$       2,200,000.00.

The above funds shall be allocated as follows:

Fully match all available federal

27 funds.....\$1,160,479.00

28 Independent Living Program which

29 includes the State Attendant

30 Care Program.....\$ 900,000.00

31 Independent Living Program...\$ 39,901.00

32 Deaf and hard of hearing.....\$ 87,587.00

33 Funding positions and

34 reallocations.....\$ 8,708.00

35 Older blind grant.....\$ 3,325.00

36 SECTION 4. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
37 Sections 1, 2 and 3, not more than the amounts set forth below  
38 shall be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of  
39 expenditure:

40 OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

41 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

42 Personal Services:

43 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits.. \$ 20,198,146.00

44 Travel and Subsistence..... 627,438.00

45 Contractual Services..... 3,365,309.00

46 Commodities..... 284,351.00

47 Capital Outlay:

48 Other Than Equipment..... 0.00

49 Equipment..... 440,573.00

50 Subsidies, Loans and Grants..... 22,842,024.00

51 Total..... \$ 47,757,841.00

52 FUNDING:

53 General Funds..... \$ 7,723,491.00

54 Special Funds..... 40,034,350.00

55 Total..... \$ 47,757,841.00

56 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

57 Permanent: Full Time. . . . . 462

58 Part Time. . . . . 11

59 Time-Limited: Full Time. . . . . 103

60 Part Time. . . . . 5

61 OFFICE OF DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

62 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

63 Personal Services:

64	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	12,715,521.00
65	Travel and Subsistence.....		199,390.00
66	Contractual Services.....		9,051,964.00
67	Commodities.....		523,390.00
68	Capital Outlay:		
69	Other Than Equipment.....		0.00
70	Equipment.....		1,600,500.00
71	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		<u>8,343,868.00</u>
72	Total.....	\$	32,434,633.00

73 FUNDING:

74	General Funds.....	\$	0.00
75	Special Funds.....		<u>32,434,633.00</u>
76	Total.....	\$	32,434,633.00

77 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

78	Permanent:	Full Time. . . . .	298
79		Part Time. . . . .	20
80	Time-Limited:	Full Time. . . . .	38
81		Part Time. . . . .	0

82 OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

83 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

84 Personal Services:

85	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	3,417,618.00
86	Travel and Subsistence.....		139,422.00
87	Contractual Services.....		774,584.00
88	Commodities.....		79,874.00
89	Capital Outlay:		
90	Other Than Equipment.....		15,000.00
91	Equipment.....		237,794.00
92	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		<u>5,339,313.00</u>
93	Total.....	\$	10,003,605.00

94 FUNDING:

95	General Funds.....	\$	1,410,716.00
96	Special Funds.....		<u>8,592,889.00</u>

97 Total..... \$ 10,003,605.00

98 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

99	Permanent:	Full Time. . . . .	85
100		Part Time. . . . .	3
101	Time-Limited:	Full Time. . . . .	7
102		Part Time. . . . .	4

103 The office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind shall  
104 remain accredited by using not more than Five Hundred Dollars  
105 (\$500.00) of the funds appropriated along with matching funds for  
106 payment of fees to an accreditation agency recommended by the  
107 Rehabilitation Services Administration.

108 OFFICE OF SUPPORT SERVICES

109 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

110 Personal Services:

111	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	1,458,297.00
112	Travel and Subsistence.....		50,500.00
113	Contractual Services.....		455,297.00
114	Commodities.....		37,860.00
115	Capital Outlay:		
116	Other Than Equipment.....		0.00
117	Equipment.....		32,095.00
118	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		<u>0.00</u>
119	Total.....	\$	2,034,049.00

120 FUNDING:

121	General Funds.....	\$	0.00
122	Special Funds.....		<u>2,034,049.00</u>
123	Total.....	\$	2,034,049.00

124 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

125	Permanent:	Full Time. . . . .	28
126		Part Time. . . . .	0
127	Time-Limited:	Full Time. . . . .	0
128		Part Time. . . . .	0

129 SPINAL CORD AND HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

130 FUNDING:

131	General Funds.....	\$	0.00
-----	--------------------	----	------

132           Special Funds..... 5,312,184.00  
 133           Total..... \$       5,312,184.00

134    AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

135	Permanent:	Full Time. . . . .	1
136		Part Time. . . . .	0
137	Time-Limited:	Full Time. . . . .	0
138		Part Time. . . . .	0

139           From the funds herein appropriated, the Department of  
 140 Rehabilitation Services may cooperate with other state or federal  
 141 agencies in setting up and executing programs for vocational  
 142 rehabilitation for eligible disabled and/or handicapped  
 143 individuals throughout the state.

144           From the funds provided in the budget category "Personal  
 145 Services: Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits," funds may be  
 146 expended for the following purposes, in compliance with the  
 147 policies established by the State Personnel Board and any  
 148 conditions placed on such expenditures:

149           (a) The components of the Variable Compensation Plan  
 150 shall be maintained within the constraints of the funds  
 151 appropriated herein.

152           (b) Funds are provided to adjust the Variable  
 153 Compensation Plan, including realignment, to ensure that all  
 154 full-time employees with at least six (6) months of continuous  
 155 current service, as of June 30, 1999, receive an increase of One  
 156 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). Funds are provided to  
 157 adjust critical job classes up to an additional One Thousand  
 158 Dollars (\$1,000.00).

159           (c) If an employee is currently at or above the end  
 160 salary for his or her job classification, then the increase shall  
 161 be built into the employee's base salary. To be eligible for any  
 162 increase authorized in this section, employees may not have a  
 163 current performance rating below "meets expectations" as of the  
 164 effective date of the increase. Employees who subsequently  
 165 receive a performance rating of "meets expectations" or above  
 166 during Fiscal Year 2000 shall receive the salary increase

167 effective the date of the rating.

168 It is the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds  
169 required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal  
170 Year 2001 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2000 funds appropriated for  
171 that purpose unless programs or positions are added to the  
172 agency's budget by the Mississippi Legislature.

173 It is the intention of the Legislature that the Executive  
174 Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services may transfer  
175 between the various offices authorized herein both funds and  
176 positions not to exceed five percent (5%) of the receiving office  
177 in addition to any other transfers or escalations made in  
178 accordance with Section 27-104-17 (3), Mississippi Code of 1972,  
179 Annotated. The Executive Director of the Department of  
180 Rehabilitation Services shall submit written justification for the  
181 transfer to the Legislative Budget Office and the Department of  
182 Finance and Administration on or before the fifteenth of the month  
183 prior to the effective date of the transfer. It is further the  
184 intention of the Legislature that any transfers made under the  
185 provisions of this paragraph shall be of an emergency nature and  
186 that in no case shall the transfers be made which substantially  
187 alter the legislative intent for the various offices as set forth  
188 in the original appropriations made under this act.

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

193 SECTION 5. In addition to all other sums herein  
194 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
195 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any funds which are  
196 received by or otherwise become available to the Mississippi  
197 Department of Rehabilitation Services to provide funding for  
198 construction grants and establishment grants for the fiscal year  
199 beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000.....  
200 ..... \$ 4,000,000.00.

201 SECTION 6. It shall be unlawful for any officer, employee or

202 other person whatsoever to use or permit or authorize the use of  
203 any automobile or any other motor vehicle owned by the State of  
204 Mississippi or any department, agency or institution thereof for  
205 any purpose other than upon the official business of the State of  
206 Mississippi or any agency, department or institution thereof.

207 It is the intent of the Legislature that motor vehicles  
208 authorized to be owned and operated by this agency shall comply  
209 with Sections 25-1-77 through 25-1-93, Mississippi Code of 1972.

210 SECTION 7. Funds are provided in this act in the amount of  
211 One Million One Hundred Thirty-nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars  
212 (\$1,139,200.00) to defray the annualized cost of agency specific  
213 realignments or reallocations for the following fourteen (14) job  
214 classes and two (2) reallocations within the Department of  
215 Rehabilitation Services. The realignments or reallocations  
216 referenced within this section are applicable only to the  
217 Department of Rehabilitation Services and said adjustments shall  
218 not be construed to apply to any other positions under the purview  
219 of the State Personnel Board.

220 DRS-Disability Examiner I, OCCU 0785  
221 DRS-Disability Examiner II, OCCU 0586  
222 DRS-Disability Examiner III, C11CU 1885  
223 DRS-Disability Examiner Sr., OCCU 3906  
224 DRS-Program Coordinator, OCCU 1879  
225 DRS-Counselor I, OCCU 0585  
226 DRS-Counselor II, OCCU 0786  
227 DRS-Counselor III, OCCU 1539  
228 DRS-Counselor Senior, OCCU 4125  
229 DRS-Counselor Deaf, OCCU 4154  
230 DRS-Evaluator I, GCCU 0229  
231 DRS-Evaluator II, GCCU 0784  
232 DRS-Evaluator III, OCCU 1884  
233 DRS-Evaluator Senior, OCCU 4124  
234 1 Property Officer I to Property Officer III  
235 1 Nurse II to Nurse III

236 SECTION 8. In addition to all other sums heretofore

237 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
238 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
239 Treasury to the credit of the Department of Rehabilitation  
240 Services which is comprised of special source funds collected by  
241 or otherwise available to the department for the support of the  
242 department, from and after passage and through June 30, 1999.....  
243 ..... \$ 25,000.00.

244 This additional appropriation is provided for additional  
245 travel for Disability Determination Service hearing officers.

246 SECTION 9. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
247 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
248 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
249 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
250 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
251 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

252 SECTION 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
253 and after July 1, 1999, except Section 8 which shall be in force  
254 from and after passage.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

X  
Charlie Capps, Jr.

X  
Dick Hall

X  
Bobby Moody

X  
Billy Thames

X  
Raymond Comans

X  
Ron Farris