

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:**

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

H. B. No. 1719: Appropriation; Public Utilities Staff.

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 Treasury to the credit of the Public Utilities Staff Regulation  
8 Fund, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Public  
9 Utilities Staff for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004, and  
10 ending June 30, 2005 ..... \$        2,125,307.00.

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

15        MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

16        Personal Services:

Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits ..	\$	1,752,577.00
Travel and Subsistence.....		85,000.00
Contractual Services .....		251,730.00
Commodities.....		26,000.00
 Capital Outlay:		
Other Than Equipment .....		0.00
Equipment .....		10,000.00
Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		<u>0.00</u>
Total.....	\$	2,125,307.00

26        AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

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

31 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of  
32 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to  
33 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal  
34 Services" for Fiscal Year 2006 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2005  
35 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions  
36 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2006 budget by the  
37 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the  
38 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall  
39 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all  
40 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this  
41 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure  
42 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual  
43 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2005 appropriation for "Personal  
44 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds.  
45 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal  
46 Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency  
47 has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this  
48 projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2005 "Personal Services"  
49 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which  
50 reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation  
51 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until  
52 such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

53 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
54 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
55 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
56 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written

57 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
58 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
59 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
60 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
61 appropriated level.

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

66 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
67 Public Utilities Staff shall maintain complete accounting and  
68 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
69 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
70 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
71 2004. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
72 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2006 shall be submitted to  
73 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
74 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
75 during the Fiscal Year 2005 budget request process.

76 **SECTION 4.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
77 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
78 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
79 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
80 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the

81 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

82           **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

83 and after July 1, 2004.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Johnny W. Stringer

X (SIGNED)  
John Read

X (SIGNED)  
Bill Denny

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Jack Gordon

X (SIGNED)  
Tommy A. Gollott

X (SIGNED)  
Dean Kirby