

By: Representatives Read, Martinson,  
Broomfield, Brown, Davis, Denny, Huddleston,  
Middleton, Miles, Weathersby

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1603

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE  
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE  
3 PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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, 2006, and  
10 ending June 30, 2007..... \$ 1,864,877.00.

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:

17	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	1,547,297.00
18	Travel and Subsistence.....		67,500.00
19	Contractual Services.....		228,080.00
20	Commodities.....		17,000.00
21	Capital Outlay:		
22	Other Than Equipment.....		0.00
23	Equipment.....		5,000.00
24	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		0.00
25	Total.....	\$	1,864,877.00

26 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

27 Permanent: Full Time..... 26

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

31 For the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2006, funds are  
32 provided herein to adjust the annual compensation of each employee  
33 who has been employed for twelve (12) months or longer by an  
34 amount equal to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), effective on  
35 July 1, 2006.

36 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of  
37 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to  
38 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal  
39 Services" for Fiscal Year 2008 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2007  
40 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions  
41 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2008 budget by the  
42 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the  
43 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall  
44 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all  
45 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this  
46 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure  
47 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual  
48 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2007 appropriation for "Personal  
49 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds.  
50 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal  
51 Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency  
52 has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this  
53 projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2007 "Personal Services"  
54 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which  
55 reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation  
56 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until  
57 such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

58 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
59 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
60 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State

61 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
62 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
63 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
64 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
65 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
66 appropriated level.

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

71 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
72 Public Utilities Staff shall maintain complete accounting and  
73 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
74 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
75 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
76 2006. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
77 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2008 shall be submitted to  
78 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
79 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
80 during the Fiscal Year 2007 budget request process.

81 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
82 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
83 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
84 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
85 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
86 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
87 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
88 made without competitive bids.

89 **SECTION 5.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
90 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
91 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
92 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal

93 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
94 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

95         **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
96 and after July 1, 2006.