

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

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

S. B. No. 3046: Appropriation; Employment Security Comm.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House 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 Mississippi Employment Security
8 Commission or its successor, for the purpose of defraying the
9 expenses incurred by said commission for the fiscal year beginning
10 July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007..... \$ 189,346,133.00.

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..	\$ 49,492,655.00
Travel and Subsistence.....	1,759,416.00
Contractual Services.....	55,764,392.00
Commodities.....	2,995,507.00
21 Capital Outlay:	
Other Than Equipment.....	1,035,000.00
Equipment.....	6,774,153.00
Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....	<u>71,525,010.00</u>
Total.....	\$ 189,346,133.00

26 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

27	Permanent:	Full Time.....	811
28		Part Time.....	365
29	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	0
30		Part Time.....	0

31 Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable Compensation
32 Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a pay increase
33 equal to the realignment component of the Variable Compensation
34 Plan or Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00), whichever is greater,
35 with not more than one-half (1/2) to be awarded on July 1, 2006,
36 with the remainder to be awarded on January 1, 2007.

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

59 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
60 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or
61 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
62 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
63 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
64 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
65 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
66 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
67 appropriated level.

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

72 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
73 Section 1, the following sum shall be derived from money in the
74 Unemployment Trust Fund, made available to this state under
75 Section 903(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended, to the
76 Department of Employment Security to be deposited in the
77 Employment Security Administration Fund and used by the Department
78 of Employment Security for the following purposes:

79 1. Payment of various One-Stop Administration expenses that
80 support the service delivery of employment and workforce
81 information services. This includes, but is not limited to, the
82 following activities:

- 83 a. Staff for delivery of reemployment services to UI
84 claimants, including group job search assistance
85 and staff-assisted referrals to jobs.
- 86 b. Equipment and resources for resource rooms.
- 87 c. Payment for rent, utilities, and maintenance of
88 facilities, including common spaces such as
89 resource rooms, reception areas, conference areas,
90 etc.

- 91 d. Payment of shared costs for operation of local One-
- 92 Stop Career Centers, including payment for One-
- 93 Stop operators.
- 94 e. Purchase of computer equipment, network equipment,
- 95 telecommunications equipment, application
- 96 development, and other technology resources.
- 97 f. Training, technical assistance, and professional
- 98 development of staff who deliver employment and
- 99 workforce information services.
- 100 g. Access Improvement costs for individuals with
- 101 disabilities, including remodeling or retrofitting
- 102 One-Stop Career Centers and purchasing appropriate
- 103 software, hardware, furniture and supplies.

104 2. Administration of the Unemployment Compensation (UC) law
 105 and its public employment service (ES) offices. This includes,
 106 but is not limited to, the following uses:

- 107 a. ES and UI automation. This includes purchases,
- 108 modifications, or automation of computer related
- 109 systems and related costs.
- 110 b. UI and ES Performance Improvement costs.
- 111 c. Fraud and Abuse Reduction costs.
- 112 d. UI Claims Filing and Payment Methods Improvement
- 113 costs.
- 114 e. Under the direction of the Office of Building,
- 115 Grounds and Real Property Management to acquire
- 116 lands and construct buildings thereon or improve
- 117 existing buildings to be used as offices.

118 The funds in this section are authorized for the fiscal year
 119 beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007.....
 120\$ 53,000,000.00.

121 The funds authorized in this Section shall be requisitioned
 122 by the Department of Employment Security from the Unemployment

123 Trust Fund maintained by the Secretary of the Treasury of the
124 United States as needed for the payment of obligations incurred
125 under this appropriation, and such monies shall be deposited in
126 the Employment Security Administration Fund in accordance with the
127 provisions of Section 71-5-457, Mississippi Code of 1972.

128 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, a total of
129 One Million Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$1,035,000.00) is
130 provided for the purpose of constructing and/or lease purchasing a
131 new headquarters facility for the Mississippi Employment Security
132 Commission, and paying for any costs associated with the
133 construction of facilities. The funds authorized in this section
134 shall be under the direction of the Bureau of Building, Grounds
135 and Real Property Management.

136 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
137 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
138 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
139 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
140 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
141 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
142 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
143 made without competitive bids.

144 **SECTION 6.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
145 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
146 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
147 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
148 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the

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

150 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

151 and after July 1, 2006.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Gordon

X (SIGNED)
Gollott

X (SIGNED)
Moffatt

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Stringer

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Brown