REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:

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

H. B. No. 1657: Appropriation; Pat Harrison Waterway District.

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

- 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 authorized and approved for expenditure out		
7	of any funds which are received by or otherwise become available		
8	to the Pat Harrison Waterway District, for the purpose of		
9	defraying the expenses of the district for the fiscal year		
10	beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008		
11	\$ 8,476,809.00.		
12	SECTION 2. Of the funds approved for expenditure under the		
13	provisions of Section 1, not more than the amounts set forth below		
14	shall be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of		
15	expenditure:		
16	MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:		
17	Personal Services:		
18	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits \$ 3,315,423.00		
19	Travel and Subsistence		
20	Contractual Services		
21	Commodities		
22	Capital Outlay:		
23	Other Than Equipment		
24	Equipment		
25	Vehicles		
26	Wireless Communication Devices 0.00		
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27	Subsidies, Loans and Grants		
28	Total\$ 8,476,809.00		
29	AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:		
30	Permanent: Full Time 67		
31	Part Time 56		
32	Time-Limited: Full Time 0		
33	Part Time 0		
34	Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable Compensation		
35	Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a pay increase		
36	equal to the realignment component of the Variable Compensation		
37	Plan or One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00), whichever		
38	is greater, to be awarded on July 1, 2007.		
39	With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of		
40	the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to		
41	make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal		
42	Services" for Fiscal Year 2009 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2008		
43	funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions		
44	are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2008 budget by the		
45	Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the		
46	Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall		
47	determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all		
48	appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this		
49	act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure		
50	that no single personnel action increases this projected annual		
51	cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations for "Personal		
52	Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds		
53	and educational benchmarks. If, at the time the agency takes any		
54	action to change "Personal Services", the State Personnel Board		
55	determines that the agency has taken an action which would cause		
56	the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year		
57	2008 "Personal Services" appropriated level, when annualized, then		
58	only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or		

- 59 the appropriation requirement will be processed by the State
- 60 Personnel Board until such time as the requirements of this
- 61 provision are met. On January 1, 2008, the State Personnel Board
- 62 will make adjustments to the structure side of the compliance
- 63 report based on data provided by the Legislative Budget Office in
- 64 order for agencies to award educational benchmarks.
- Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
- 66 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or
- 67 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
- 68 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
- 69 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
- 70 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
- 71 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
- 72 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
- 73 appropriated level.
- No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
- 75 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
- 76 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
- 77 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.
- 78 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
- 79 Pat Harrison Waterway District shall maintain complete accounting
- 80 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
- 81 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
- 82 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
- 83 2007. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
- 84 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2009 shall be submitted to
- 85 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
- 86 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
- 87 during the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request process.
- 88 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
- 89 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
- 90 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things

- 91 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
- 92 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
- shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to 93
- 94 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
- 95 made without competitive bids.
- 96 SECTION 5. The funds herein approved for expenditure, except
- and less an amount approved by the State Fiscal Officer which 97
- shall be sufficient to cover disbursements for current operations, 98
- shall be deposited at interest with any official depository of the 99
- 100 state at a rate of interest numerically not less than one percent
- 101 (1%) below the bank discount rate on United States Treasury bills
- of comparable maturity as determined by the State Treasurer. 102
- 103 SECTION 6. The money herein approved for expenditure shall
- 104 be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper person, officer
- 105 or officers, in the manner provided by law.
- 106 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 107 and after July 1, 2007.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE 2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE PAT HARRISON WATERWAY DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE	CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Stringer	Gordon
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Read	Gollott
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Davis	Thames