

**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. 1658: Appropriation; Pearl River Basin Development District.

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 authorized and approved for expenditure out  
7 of any funds which are received by or otherwise become available  
8 to the Pearl River Basin Development 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 ..... \$       1,859,380.00.

12       **SECTION 2.** Of the funds approved for expenditure under the  
13 provisions of Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

**AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:**

15	Permanent:	Full Time.....	12
16		Part Time.....	3
17	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	0
18		Part Time.....	0

19 Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable Compensation  
20 Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a pay increase  
21 equal to the realignment component of the Variable Compensation  
22 Plan or One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00), whichever  
23 is greater, to be awarded on July 1, 2007.

24 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of  
25 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to

26 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal  
27 Services" for Fiscal Year 2009 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2008  
28 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions  
29 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2008 budget by the  
30 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the  
31 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall  
32 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all  
33 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this  
34 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure  
35 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual  
36 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations for "Personal  
37 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds  
38 and educational benchmarks. If, at the time the agency takes any  
39 action to change "Personal Services", the State Personnel Board  
40 determines that the agency has taken an action which would cause  
41 the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year  
42 2008 "Personal Services" appropriated level, when annualized, then  
43 only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or  
44 the appropriation requirement will be processed by the State  
45 Personnel Board until such time as the requirements of this  
46 provision are met. On January 1, 2008, the State Personnel Board  
47 will make adjustments to the structure side of the compliance  
48 report based on data provided by the Legislative Budget Office in  
49 order for agencies to award educational benchmarks.

50 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
51 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
52 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
53 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
54 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
55 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
56 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions

57 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
58 appropriated level.

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

63 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
64 Pearl River Basin Development District shall maintain complete  
65 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all  
66 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be  
67 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal  
68 Year 2007. It is further the intention of the Legislature that  
69 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2009 shall be  
70 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
71 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
72 provided during the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request process.

73 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
74 Director of the Pearl River Basin Development District shall be  
75 authorized to escalate, budget and expend funds from any source,  
76 not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00), for the  
77 purpose of maintaining the Lower Pearl Restoration Project in  
78 accordance with the Project Cooperation Agreement with the United  
79 States Army Corps of Engineers and to maintain the South Jackson  
80 Clearing Project in an area along the Pearl River in Hinds County  
81 and Rankin County, in accordance with rules and regulations of the  
82 Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent  
83 with the escalation of federal funds.

84 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
85 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
86 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
87 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
88 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind

89 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
90 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
91 made without competitive bids.

92 **SECTION 6.** The funds herein approved for expenditure, except  
93 and less an amount approved by the State Fiscal Officer which  
94 shall be sufficient to cover disbursements for current operations,  
95 shall be deposited at interest with any official depository of the  
96 state at a rate of interest numerically not less than one percent  
97 (1%) below the bank discount rate on United States Treasury bills  
98 of comparable maturity as determined by the State Treasurer.

99 **SECTION 7.** The money herein approved for expenditure shall  
100 be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper person, officer  
101 or officers, in the manner provided by law or in accordance with  
102 the provisions of a valid trust indenture.

103 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
104 and after July 1, 2007.

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

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE PEARL RIVER BASIN  
3 DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Stringer

X (SIGNED)  
Gordon

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Gollott

X (SIGNED)  
Middleton

X (SIGNED)  
Thames