

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. 1675: 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, 2007, and
10 ending June 30, 2008..... \$ 2,382,237.00.

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:

Personal Services:		
Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	2,052,157.00
Travel and Subsistence.....		80,000.00
Contractual Services.....		228,080.00
Commodities.....		17,000.00
Capital Outlay:		
Other Than Equipment.....		0.00
Equipment.....		5,000.00
Vehicles.....		0.00
Wireless Communication Devices.....		0.00
Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		0.00

27 Total..... \$ 2,382,237.00

28 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

29	Permanent:	Full Time.....	30
30		Part Time.....	0
31	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	0
32		Part Time.....	0

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

38 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of
39 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to
40 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal
41 Services" for Fiscal Year 2009 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2008
42 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions
43 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2008 budget by the
44 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the
45 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall
46 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all
47 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this
48 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure
49 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual
50 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations for "Personal
51 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds
52 and educational benchmarks. If, at the time the agency takes any
53 action to change "Personal Services", the State Personnel Board
54 determines that the agency has taken an action which would cause
55 the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year
56 2008 "Personal Services" appropriated level, when annualized, then
57 only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or
58 the appropriation requirement will be processed by the State

59 Personnel Board until such time as the requirements of this
60 provision are met. On January 1, 2008, the State Personnel Board
61 will make adjustments to the structure side of the compliance
62 report based on data provided by the Legislative Budget Office in
63 order for agencies to award educational benchmarks.

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

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

77 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
78 Public Utilities Staff shall maintain complete accounting and
79 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
80 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
81 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
82 2007. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
83 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2009 shall be submitted to
84 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
85 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
86 during the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request process.

87 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
88 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
89 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
90 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,

91 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
92 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
93 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
94 made without competitive bids.

95 **SECTION 5.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
96 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
97 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
98 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
99 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
100 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

101 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
102 and after July 1, 2007.

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

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 2008.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Stringer

X (SIGNED)
Gordon

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Gollott

X (SIGNED)
Denny

X (SIGNED)
Kirby