

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. 3165: Appropriation; MS Workers Compensation 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 Workers' Compensation
 8 Commission, for the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred by
 9 said commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, and
 10 ending June 30, 2008..... \$ 6,319,675.00.

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..	\$ 4,350,706.00
18	Travel and Subsistence.....	165,000.00
19	Contractual Services.....	1,308,669.00
20	Commodities.....	89,200.00
21	Capital Outlay:	
22	Other Than Equipment.....	0.00
23	Equipment.....	46,650.00
24	Vehicles.....	0.00
25	Wireless Communication Devices.....	4,450.00
26	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....	<u>355,000.00</u>

27 Total..... \$ 6,319,675.00

28 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

29	Permanent:	Full Time.....	70
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 with
78 the funds appropriated in Section 1 and authorized for expenditure
79 in Section 2, the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission
80 shall enter into a contract with the industrial private sector for
81 the purpose of implementing a safety education and training
82 program.

83 **SECTION 4.** With the funds provided herein, it is the intent
84 of the Legislature that the Workers' Compensation Commission may
85 transfer a sum or sums not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars
86 (\$200,000.00) from the Administrative Expense Fund to the Second
87 Injury Fund.

88 **SECTION 5.** With the funds provided herein, it is the intent
89 of the Legislature that the Workers' Compensation Commission may
90 transfer a sum or sums not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand

91 Dollars (\$150,000.00) from the Administrative Expense Fund to the
92 Insurance Integrity Enforcement Bureau within the Office of the
93 Attorney General.

94 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
95 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
96 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
97 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
98 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
99 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
100 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
101 made without competitive bids.

102 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
103 salary of the Workers' Compensation Commission members shall be
104 equal and the salary of the Commission Chairman shall exceed these
105 salaries as approved by the State Personnel Board.

106 **SECTION 8.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
107 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
108 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
109 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
110 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
111 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

112 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
113 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 OF SPECIAL FUNDS TO DEFRAY THE
2 EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION FOR
3 FISCAL YEAR 2008.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Gordon

X (SIGNED)
Gollott

X (SIGNED)
Little

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Stringer

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Huddleston