

By: Representatives Read, Mims, Arnold,
Bounds, Clark, Clarke, Criswell, Currie,
Eubanks, Hines, Hood, Sanford, Watson, Young,
Foster

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1714
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
2 REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

4 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
5 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
6 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of
7 Rehabilitation Services for the fiscal year beginning
8 July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021.....\$ 24,801,175.00.

9 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
10 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
11 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of
12 Rehabilitation Services which is comprised of special source funds
13 collected by or otherwise available to the department for the
14 support of the various offices of the department, for the purpose
15 of defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year
16 beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021.....
17\$ 211,309,657.00.



18 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
19 Section 2, Three Million Six Hundred Eighty-one Thousand Eight
20 Hundred Two Dollars (\$3,681,802.00) shall be derived from the
21 Health Care Expendable Fund created in Section 43-13-407,
22 Mississippi Code of 1972. The above funds shall be allocated as
23 follows:

24 Fully match all available federal
25 funds.....\$ 2,782,590.00.
26 Independent Living Program which
27 includes the State Attendant
28 Care Program.....\$ 854,903.00.
29 Deaf and hard of hearing.....\$ 44,309.00.

30 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
31 Sections 1, 2 and 3, the following positions are authorized:

32 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

33 Permanent:	Full Time.....	950
34	Part Time.....	8
35 Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	205
36	Part Time.....	1

37 The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind shall
38 remain accredited by using not more than Five Hundred Dollars
39 (\$500.00) of the funds appropriated along with matching funds for
40 payment of fees to an accreditation agency recommended by the
41 Rehabilitation Services Administration.



42 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
43 responsibility to make certain that funds required to be
44 appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2022 do not
45 exceed Fiscal Year 2021 funds appropriated for that purpose unless
46 programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2021
47 budget by the Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by
48 the Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall
49 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all
50 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this
51 act. Absent a special situation or circumstance approved by the
52 State Personnel Board, or unless otherwise authorized by this act,
53 no state agency shall take any action to promote or otherwise
54 award salary increases through reallocation, reclassification, or
55 realignment. If the State Personnel Board determines a special
56 situation or circumstance exists and approves an action, then the
57 agency and the State Personnel Board shall provide a monthly
58 report of each action approved by the State Personnel Board to the
59 chairmen of the Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency
60 Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives and the
61 chairmen of the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House
62 of Representatives. It shall be the responsibility of the agency
63 head to ensure that no single personnel action increases this
64 projected annual cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations
65 for "Personal Services" when annualized, with the exception of
66 escalated funds and the award of benchmarks. If, at the time the



67 agency takes any action to change "Personal Services," the State
68 Personnel Board determines that the agency has taken an action
69 which would cause the agency to exceed this projected annual cost
70 or the Fiscal Year 2021 "Personal Services" appropriated level,
71 when annualized, then only those actions which reduce the
72 projected annual cost and/or the appropriation requirement will be
73 processed by the State Personnel Board until such time as the
74 requirements of this provision are met.

75 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
76 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or
77 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
78 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
79 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
80 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
81 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
82 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
83 appropriated level.

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

88 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in
89 violation of Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A relating
90 to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as
91 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.



92 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
93 Department of Rehabilitation Services shall maintain complete
94 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all
95 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be
96 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal
97 Year 2020. It is further the intention of the Legislature that
98 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 shall be
99 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format
100 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail
101 provided during the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request process.

102 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated herein, the Mississippi
103 Department of Rehabilitation Services through the Office of
104 Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind is authorized to expend an
105 amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00)
106 for the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) News line service
107 to allow blind and visually impaired persons to access newspapers
108 through toll-free telephone calls.

109 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
110 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
111 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
112 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
113 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
114 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
115 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
116 made without competitive bids.



117 **SECTION 8.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
 118 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
 119 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
 120 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
 121 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
 122 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
 123 performance measures provided below:

124	FY2021
125 <u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
126 Disability Determination Services	
127 Dispositions (Number of)	90,000
128 Processing Time (Days)	113
129 Special Disability Programs	
130 Clients Served (Number of)	3,200
131 Percentage Change in Persons Receiving	
132 HCBW Services Compared to Waiting List	
133 (%)	56.00
134 Ratio of Cost to HCBW Services per	
135 Person Compared to an Institutional	
136 Setting	38.00
137 Support Services	
138 Percentage of Total Budget (%)	2.00
139 Spinal Cord & Head Injury Program	
140 Clients Served (Number of)	1,047
141 Percentage Change in Number of Spinal	



142	Cord & Brain Injuries per Year (%)	3.00
143	Vocational Rehabilitation	
144	Clients Served (Number of)	10,683
145	Clients Rehabilitated (Number of)	3,050
146	Percentage Change of Persons Employed	
147	Compared to Total Persons Served (%)	55.80
148	Persons Employed with Pay Rate Greater	
149	Than Federal or State Minimum Wage	3,048
150	Persons with Significant Disabilities	
151	Leaving VR with Competitive, Self, or	
152	Bep Employment, Wage = or > Than Minimum	1,525
153	Voc Rehabilitation For The Blind	
154	Blind & Visually Impaired Served (Persons)	1,617
155	Persons Rehabilitated (Number of)	352
156	Independent Living (Number Served)	855
157	Percentage Change in Persons Employed	
158	Compared to Total Persons Served (%)	15.00

159 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
160 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
161 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
162 Committee for Fiscal Year 2022.

163 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, it is the
164 intention of the Legislature that One Million Five Hundred
165 Sixty-three Thousand Thirty-nine Dollars (\$1,563,039.00) shall be



166 allocated to the Spinal Cord & Head Injury Trust supported from
167 General Fund court assessments.

168 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, One
169 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) is provided for the support of the
170 Independent Living Home and Community Based Waiver programs along
171 with any additional funds that may be appropriated to these
172 programs.

173 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
174 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
175 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
176 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
177 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
178 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
179 actions contrary to this provision.

180 **SECTION 12.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
181 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
182 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
183 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
184 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
185 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

186 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
187 and after July 1, 2020.

