

By: Representatives Read, Bounds, Arnold,  
Beckett, Cockerham, Eure, Hale, Mangold,  
Oliver, Turner, Young, Stamps

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1608

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM GENERAL FUNDS IN THE  
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE  
3 STATE OIL AND GAS BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in  
7 the State Treasury to the credit of the State Oil and Gas Board  
8 which is comprised of special source funds collected by or  
9 otherwise available to the department, for the purpose of  
10 defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year  
11 beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.....  
12 .....\$ 2,356,959.00.

13 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
14 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

15 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

16	Permanent:	Full Time.....	32
17		Part Time.....	0
18	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	0



19 Part Time..... 0

20 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
21 responsibility to make certain that funds required for "Personal  
22 Services" for Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2023  
23 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions  
24 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2023 budget by the  
25 Mississippi Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the  
26 agency's personal services appropriation, which shall be published  
27 by the State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel  
28 Board shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll  
29 costs based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility  
30 of the agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures  
31 for Fiscal Year 2023 do not exceed the data provided by the  
32 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2023  
33 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions  
34 shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception  
35 of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.

36 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
37 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
38 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
39 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
40 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
41 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
42 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions



43 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
44 appropriated level.

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

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

53 Funds have been appropriated herein for the purpose of  
54 funding Project SEC2 minimum salaries for all employees covered  
55 under the Colonel Guy Groff/Neville Kenning Variable Compensation  
56 Plan. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that the  
57 funds are used to increase all employees' salaries up to the  
58 minimum level as determined by the State Personnel Board.

59 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
60 State Oil and Gas Board shall maintain complete accounting and  
61 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
62 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
63 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
64 2022. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
65 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2024 shall be submitted to  
66 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of



67 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
68 during the Fiscal Year 2023 budget request process.

69         **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
70 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
71 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
72 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
73 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
74 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
75 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
76 made without competitive bids.

77         **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
78 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
79 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
80 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
81 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
82 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
83 actions contrary to this provision.

84         **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
85 and after July 1, 2022, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2022.

