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

HOUSE BILL NO. 1610

1 2 3	STATE TREASURY FOR	AN APPROPRIATION FROM GENERAL FUNDS IN THE THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE AFF FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.
4	BE IT ENACTED	BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
5	SECTION 1. Th	e following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6	necessary, is appro	priated out of any money in the State General
7	Fund not otherwise	appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the
8	expenses of the Pub	lic Utilities Staff for the fiscal year
9	beginning July 1, 2	022, and ending June 30, 2023
10		\$ 2,101,016.00.
11	SECTION 2. Of	the funds appropriated under the provisions of
12	this act, the follo	wing positions are authorized:
13	AUTHORIZED POSITI	ONS:
14	Permanent:	Full Time 24
15		Part Time 0
16	Time-Limited:	Full Time 0
17		Part Time 0

L8	With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
L 9	responsibility to make certain that funds required for "Personal
20	Services" for Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2023
21	funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions
22	are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2023 budget by the
23	Mississippi Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the
24	agency's personal services appropriation, which shall be published
25	by the State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel
26	Board shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll
27	costs based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility
28	of the agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures
29	for Fiscal Year 2023 do not exceed the data provided by the
30	Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2023
31	projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions
32	shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception
33	of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.
34	Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
35	the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or
36	allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
37	Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
88	approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
39	Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
10	approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
11	without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
12	appropriated level.

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

- None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in violation of Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.
- Funds have been appropriated herein for the purpose of
 funding Project SEC2 minimum salaries for all employees covered
 under the Colonel Guy Groff/Neville Kenning Variable Compensation
 Plan. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that the
 funds are used to increase all employees' salaries up to the
 minimum level as determined by the State Personnel Board.
 - SECTION 3. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Public Utilities Staff shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2022. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2024 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2023 budget request process.

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

- SECTION 5. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
 actions contrary to this provision.
- SECTION 6. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.
- 88 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 89 and after July 1, 2022, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2022.