

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

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1612
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR
3 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 State General
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of
8 Rehabilitation Services for the fiscal year beginning
9 July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.....\$ 30,532,240.00.

10 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
11 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
12 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of
13 Rehabilitation Services which is comprised of special source funds
14 collected by or otherwise available to the department for the
15 support of the various offices of the department, for the purpose
16 of defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year
17 beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.....
18\$ 215,854,381.00.



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

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

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

33 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

34	Permanent:	964
35	Time-Limited:	207

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

41 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
42 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
43 Services for Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2023 funds



44 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
45 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2023 budget by the Mississippi
46 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
47 personal services appropriation, which shall be published by the
48 State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel Board
49 shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs
50 based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the
51 agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for
52 Fiscal Year 2023 do not exceed the data provided by the
53 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2023
54 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions
55 shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception
56 of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.

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

66 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
67 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are



68 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
69 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

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

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

80 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
81 Department of Rehabilitation Services shall maintain complete
82 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all
83 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be
84 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal
85 Year 2022. It is further the intention of the Legislature that
86 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2024 shall be
87 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format
88 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail
89 provided during the Fiscal Year 2023 budget request process.

90 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated herein, the Mississippi
91 Department of Rehabilitation Services through the Office of
92 Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind is authorized to expend an



93 amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00)
94 for the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) News line service
95 to allow blind and visually impaired persons to access newspapers
96 through toll-free telephone calls.

97 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
98 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
99 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
100 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
101 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
102 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
103 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
104 made without competitive bids.

105 **SECTION 8.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
106 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
107 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
108 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
109 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
110 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
111 performance measures provided below:

	FY2023
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
114 Disability Determination Services	
115 Number of Dispositions	90,000
116 Processing Time (Days)	115
117 Voc Rehabilitation For The Blind	



118	Blind & Visually Impaired Served (Persons)	2,000
119	Number of Persons Rehabilitated	275
120	Independent Living (Number Served)	735
121	Percent Change in Persons Employed	
122	Compared to Total Persons Served	13.00
123	Vocational Rehabilitation	
124	Number of Clients Served	15,000
125	Number of Clients Rehabilitated	2,525
126	Percent Change of Persons Employed	
127	Compared to Total Persons Served	16.00
128	Persons Employed with Pay Rate Greater	
129	Than Federal or State Minimum Wage	2,415
130	Persons with Significant Disabilities	
131	Leaving VR with Competitive, Self, or	
132	BEP Employment, Wage = or > Than Minimum	1,125
133	Spinal Cord & Head Injury Program	
134	Number of Clients Served	1,000
135	Percent Change in Number of Spinal Cord	
136	& Brain Injuries per Year	3.00
137	Special Disability Programs	
138	Number of Clients Served	3,000
139	Percent Change in Persons Receiving HCBW	
140	Services Compared to Waiting List	56.00
141	Ratio of Cost to HCBW Services per	
142	Person Compared to an Institutional	



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

173 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
174 and after July 1, 2022.

