

By: Representative Read

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 603

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 27-103-125, 27-103-139,  
 2 27-103-203, 27-103-211, 27-103-213 AND 27-103-303, MISSISSIPPI  
 3 CODE OF 1972, WHICH RELATE TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE BUDGET  
 4 PROCESS, FOR THE PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD  
 5 SECTIONS 57-119-9 AND 57-119-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH  
 6 RELATE TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE GULF COAST RESTORATION FUND, FOR  
 7 THE PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO DIRECT THE STATE FISCAL  
 8 OFFICER TO MAKE CERTAIN TRANSFERS TO THE CAPITAL EXPENSE FUND  
 9 DURING FISCAL YEAR 2024; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-103-125, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 12 brought forward as follows:

13 27-103-125. The proposed budget of each state agency shall  
 14 show the amounts required for operating expenses separately from  
 15 the amounts required for permanent improvements. The overall  
 16 budget shall show, separately by each source, the estimated amount  
 17 of general fund revenue and of special fund revenues of general  
 18 fund agencies. The total proposed expenditures in Part 1 of the  
 19 overall budget shall not exceed the amount of estimated revenues  
 20 that will be available in the general and special funds for  
 21 appropriation or use during the succeeding fiscal year, including



22 any balances other than unencumbered balances in general funds  
23 that will be on hand in the general and special funds at the close  
24 of the then current fiscal year. The total proposed expenditures  
25 from the State General Fund in Part 1 of the overall budget shall  
26 not exceed ninety-eight percent (98%) of the amount of general  
27 fund revenue estimate for the succeeding fiscal year. The general  
28 fund revenue estimate shall be the estimate jointly adopted by the  
29 Governor and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The  
30 Legislative Budget Office may recommend additional taxes or  
31 sources of revenue if in its judgment those additional funds are  
32 necessary to adequately support the functions of the state  
33 government.

34 **SECTION 2.** Section 27-103-139, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
35 brought forward as follows:

36 27-103-139. On or before November 15 preceding each regular  
37 session of the Legislature, except the first regular session of a  
38 new term of office, the Governor shall submit to the members of  
39 the Legislature, the Legislative Budget Office or the  
40 members-elect, as the case may be, and to the executive head of  
41 each state agency a balanced budget for the succeeding fiscal  
42 year. The budget submitted shall be prepared in a format that  
43 will include performance measurement data associated with the  
44 various programs operated by each agency. The total proposed  
45 expenditures in the balanced budget shall not exceed the amount of  
46 estimated revenues that will be available for appropriation or use



47 during the succeeding fiscal year, including any balances other  
48 than unencumbered balances in general funds that will be on hand  
49 at the close of the then current fiscal year, as determined by the  
50 revenue estimate jointly adopted by the Governor and the  
51 Legislative Budget Committee. The total proposed expenditures  
52 from the State General Fund in the balanced budget shall not  
53 exceed ninety-eight percent (98%) of the amount of general fund  
54 revenue estimate for the succeeding fiscal year. The general fund  
55 revenue estimate shall be the estimate jointly adopted by the  
56 Governor and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

57 The revenues used in preparing the balanced budget shall be  
58 only those revenues that will be available under the general laws  
59 of the state as they exist when the balanced budget is prepared,  
60 and shall not include any proposed revenues that would become  
61 available only after the enactment of new legislation. If the  
62 Governor has any recommendations for additional proposed  
63 expenditures or proposed revenues that are not included in his  
64 balanced budget, he shall submit those recommendations in a  
65 supplement that is separate from his balanced budget, and whenever  
66 the Governor recommends any such additional proposed expenditures,  
67 he also shall recommend proposed revenues that are sufficient to  
68 fund the additional proposed expenditures, providing specific  
69 details regarding the sources and the total amount of those  
70 proposed revenues.



71           The Governor may employ a budget officer for the purpose of  
72 receiving information from the State Fiscal Officer and preparing  
73 his recommendations on the budget. If the Governor determines  
74 that information received from the State Fiscal Officer is not  
75 sufficient to enable him to prepare his budget recommendations, he  
76 may request an appropriation from the Legislature to provide  
77 additional staff within the Governor's office for that purpose.  
78 At the first regular session after his election for Governor, the  
79 Governor shall submit any budget recommendations plus the required  
80 revenue source recommendations no later than January 31 of that  
81 year.

82           **SECTION 3.** Section 27-103-203, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
83 brought forward as follows:

84           27-103-203. (1) There is created in the State Treasury a  
85 special fund, separate and apart from any other fund, to be  
86 designated the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund.

87           (2) The Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund shall not be  
88 considered as a surplus or available funds when adopting a  
89 balanced budget as required by law. The State Treasurer shall  
90 invest all sums in the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund not  
91 needed for the purposes provided for in this section in  
92 certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements and other  
93 securities as authorized in Section 27-105-33(d) or Section  
94 7-9-103, as the State Treasurer may determine to yield the highest  
95 market rate available. If the Ayers Settlement Fund is created



96 under Section 37-101-27(5), the first Five Million Dollars  
97 (\$5,000,000.00) of interest earned on those sums each fiscal year  
98 shall be deposited into that fund until a total of Seventy Million  
99 Dollars (\$70,000,000.00) has been deposited into the fund. The  
100 interest, or the remaining interest if the Ayers Settlement Fund  
101 is created, that is earned on those sums shall be deposited in the  
102 Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund until the balance of  
103 principal and interest in the fund reaches ten percent (10%) of  
104 the total General Fund appropriations for the current fiscal year,  
105 and all interest earned in excess of amounts necessary to maintain  
106 the ten percent (10%) fund balance requirement shall be deposited  
107 by the State Treasurer into the State General Fund.

108 (3) The Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund, except for  
109 Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) and the amount of the  
110 interest and income earned on the principal of the Ayers Endowment  
111 Trust created by Section 37-101-27, shall be used by the State  
112 Treasurer for cash flow needs throughout the year when the  
113 Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration  
114 certifies that in his opinion there will be cash flow deficiencies  
115 in the State General Fund. No borrowing of monies from other  
116 special funds for such purposes as authorized by Section 31-17-101  
117 et seq., shall be made as long as an unencumbered balance in  
118 excess of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) and the  
119 interest and income earned on the principal of the Ayers Endowment  
120 Trust created by Section 37-101-27 remains in the fund. The State



121 Treasurer shall reimburse the fund for all sums borrowed for those  
122 purposes from General Fund revenues collected during the fiscal  
123 year in which those funds are used. The State Treasurer shall  
124 immediately notify the Legislative Budget Office and the State  
125 Department of Finance and Administration of each transfer into and  
126 out of the fund. Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) in the  
127 Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund shall remain available for  
128 exclusive use of the Ayers Endowment Trust created by Section  
129 37-101-27. If the Ayers Settlement Fund is created under Section  
130 37-101-27(5), beginning when a total of Fifty-five Million Dollars  
131 (\$55,000,000.00) has been deposited into the fund, for each annual  
132 deposit of interest to that fund under subsection (2) of this  
133 section, the Ayers Endowment Trust created under Section  
134 37-101-27(1) shall be reduced by an equal amount annually until  
135 the Ayers Endowment Trust reaches Zero Dollars (\$0.00), at which  
136 time any requirements concerning the Ayers Endowment Trust in this  
137 section shall be null and void.

138 (4) The Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund, except for  
139 Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000.00), shall also be used for the  
140 purpose of covering any projected deficits that may occur in the  
141 General Fund at the end of a fiscal year as a result of revenue  
142 shortfalls. If the Governor determines that a deficit in revenues  
143 from all sources may occur, it shall be the duty of the Executive  
144 Director of the Department of Finance and Administration to  
145 transfer such funds as necessary to the General Fund to alleviate



146 the deficit in accordance with Sections 27-104-13 and 31-17-123;  
147 however, not more than Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) may  
148 be transferred from the fund for that purpose in any one (1)  
149 fiscal year.

150 (5) The Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund also shall  
151 be used to provide funds for the Disaster Assistance Trust Fund  
152 when those funds are immediately needed to provide for disaster  
153 assistance under Sections 33-15-301 through 33-15-317. Any  
154 transfer of funds from the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund  
155 to the Disaster Assistance Trust Fund shall be made in accordance  
156 with the provisions of subsection (5) of Section 33-15-307.

157 (6) The Department of Finance and Administration shall  
158 immediately send notice of any transfers made, or other action  
159 taken under authority of this section, to the Legislative Budget  
160 Office.

161 (7) Funds deposited in the Working Cash-Stabilization  
162 Reserve Fund shall be used only for the purposes specified in this  
163 section, and as long as the provisions of this section remain in  
164 effect, no other expenditure, appropriation or transfer of funds  
165 in the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund shall be made  
166 except by act of the Legislature making specific reference to the  
167 Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund as the source of those  
168 funds.

169 (8) Any funds appropriated from the Working  
170 Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund that are unexpended at the end of



171 a fiscal year shall lapse into the Working Cash-Stabilization  
172 Reserve Fund.

173 **SECTION 4.** Section 27-103-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
174 brought forward as follows:

175 27-103-211. The total sum appropriated by the Legislature  
176 from the State General Fund for any fiscal year shall not exceed  
177 ninety-eight percent (98%) of the general fund revenue estimate  
178 for that fiscal year developed by the Department of Revenue and  
179 the University Research Center and adopted by the Joint  
180 Legislative Budget Committee. The unencumbered balances in  
181 general funds that will be available and on hand at the close of  
182 the fiscal year shall not include projected amounts required to be  
183 deposited into the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund under  
184 Section 27-103-203.

185 **SECTION 5.** Section 27-103-213, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
186 brought forward as follows:

187 27-103-213. (1) The unencumbered cash balance in the  
188 General Fund in the State Treasury at the close of each fiscal  
189 year shall be distributed to the Municipal Revolving Fund, the  
190 Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund and the Capital Expense  
191 Fund in the manner provided in this section.

192 (2) (a) At the end of each fiscal year, the Executive  
193 Director of the Department of Finance and Administration and the  
194 State Treasurer shall determine the extent of the unencumbered  
195 cash balance existing in the General Fund in the State Treasury.





196           (b) As used in this section, the term "unencumbered  
197 cash balance" or "unencumbered General Fund cash balance" means  
198 the amount in the State General Fund after deducting all  
199 appropriations and other expenditures. However, if the  
200 Legislature has authorized additional or deficit appropriations or  
201 transfers from the State General Fund for that fiscal year, those  
202 amounts shall be subtracted from the unencumbered cash balance in  
203 the General Fund before determining the amount available for  
204 distribution. The unencumbered General Fund cash balance shall  
205 not be determined until after August 31 of each year, and it shall  
206 not be made until the State Treasurer has received a certificate  
207 in writing from the Executive Director of the Department of  
208 Finance and Administration, with notification to the Legislative  
209 Budget Office, showing the amount of the unencumbered General Fund  
210 cash balance.

211           (3) If any unencumbered General Fund cash balance is  
212 available for distribution under this section, the distribution of  
213 those funds shall be made by the Executive Director of the  
214 Department of Finance and Administration in the following order:

215           (a) To the Municipal Revolving Fund, an amount equal to  
216 Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00); however, if  
217 the amount of the unencumbered General Fund cash balance is less  
218 than Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00), then the  
219 total amount of the unencumbered General Fund cash balance shall  
220 be distributed to the Municipal Revolving Fund.



221 (b) To the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund,  
222 fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the unencumbered General Fund  
223 cash balance after the distributions are made under paragraph (a),  
224 not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the General Fund appropriations  
225 for the fiscal year that the unencumbered General Fund cash  
226 balance represents. For the purposes of this paragraph (b), the  
227 appropriations for the fiscal year shall be the total amount  
228 contained in the actual appropriation bills passed by the  
229 Legislature.

230 (c) To the Capital Expense Fund, any remaining amount  
231 of the unencumbered General Fund cash balance after the  
232 distributions are made under paragraphs (a) and (b).

233 **SECTION 6.** Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
234 brought forward as follows:

235 27-103-303. (1) There is created in the State Treasury a  
236 special fund, separate and apart from any other fund, to be  
237 designated the Capital Expense Fund.

238 (2) The Capital Expense Fund shall not be considered as a  
239 surplus or available funds when adopting a balanced budget as  
240 required by law. The State Treasurer shall invest all sums in the  
241 Capital Expense Fund not needed for the purposes provided for in  
242 this section in certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements and  
243 other securities as authorized in Section 27-105-33(d) or Section  
244 7-9-103, as the State Treasurer may determine to yield the highest



245 market rate available. Interest earned on this fund shall be  
246 deposited by the State Treasurer into the State General Fund.

247 (3) The Capital Expense Fund shall be used for capital  
248 expense needs, repair and renovation of state-owned properties and  
249 specific expenditures authorized by the Legislature. The  
250 Legislature shall designate those capital expense projects, repair  
251 and renovation projects and other authorized projects in an  
252 appropriation act passed by the Legislature, which shall direct  
253 the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration to  
254 administer the projects.

255 (4) In addition to the purposes specified in subsection (3)  
256 of this section, the Capital Expense Fund shall be used to provide  
257 funds for emergency repairs on state-owned buildings upon  
258 requisition of the Executive Director of the Department of Finance  
259 and Administration. Whenever the executive director determines  
260 that funds are immediately needed for emergency repairs on  
261 state-owned buildings, he or she shall requisition the funds  
262 needed from the Capital Expense Fund, which shall be subject to  
263 the limitations set forth in this subsection. At the same time he  
264 or she makes the requisition, the executive director shall notify  
265 the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
266 Representatives, the respective Chairmen of the Senate  
267 Appropriations Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House  
268 Appropriations Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee  
269 and the Legislative Budget Office of his or her determination of



270 the need for the funds, the amount that he or she has  
271 requisitioned and where the funds will be used. If the amount  
272 requisitioned is available in the Capital Expense Fund, is not  
273 allocated for any specific projects as authorized in subsection  
274 (3) of this section and is within the limitations set forth below  
275 in this subsection, then the executive director may escalate the  
276 budget of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property  
277 Management to use the full amount of the requisitioned funds for  
278 the emergency repairs and transfer that amount to the bureau for  
279 that purpose. If the amount requisitioned is more than the amount  
280 available in the Capital Expense Fund or above the limitations set  
281 forth below in this subsection, then the executive director may  
282 escalate the budget of the bureau to use the amount that is  
283 available within the limitations for the emergency repairs and  
284 transfer that amount to the bureau for that purpose. The maximum  
285 amount that may be transferred from the Capital Expense Fund to  
286 the bureau for any single emergency shall be One Million Dollars  
287 (\$1,000,000.00), and the maximum amount that may be transferred to  
288 the bureau for all emergencies during any fiscal year shall be  
289 Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

290 (5) Funds deposited in the Capital Expense Fund shall be  
291 used only for the purposes specified in this section, and as long  
292 as the provisions of this section remain in effect, no other  
293 expenditure, appropriation or transfer of funds in the Capital  
294 Expense Fund shall be made except by act of the Legislature making



295 specific reference to the Capital Expense Fund as the source of  
296 those funds.

297 (6) Unexpended funds in the Capital Expense Fund at the end  
298 of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund but  
299 shall remain in the fund for use under this section. Any funds  
300 appropriated from the Capital Expense Fund that are unexpended at  
301 the end of a fiscal year shall lapse into the Capital Expense  
302 Fund.

303 **SECTION 7.** Section 57-119-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
304 brought forward as follows:

305 57-119-9. (1) Applicants who are eligible for assistance  
306 under this section include, but are not limited to, local units of  
307 government, nongovernmental organizations, institutions of higher  
308 learning, community colleges, public schools, ports, airports,  
309 public-private partnerships, private for-profit entities, private  
310 nonprofit entities and local economic development entities.  
311 Projects that are eligible for assistance under this section are  
312 projects that have the potential to generate increased economic  
313 activity in the region, as described in Section 57-119-11(3).

314 (2) MDA shall establish criteria, rules, and procedures for  
315 accepting and reviewing applications for assistance under this  
316 section. MDA, with advice from the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund  
317 Advisory Board, shall review, compile and score all timely  
318 received applications, and shall present the applications and its  
319 recommendations for assistance to individual projects under this



320 section to the Legislature no later than December 1 of the year.  
321 The Legislature shall determine individual projects that will be  
322 funded under this section by separate line items in an  
323 appropriation bill.

324 (3) Applications for assistance under this section will be  
325 received through web portals set up by MDA. MDA shall set  
326 criteria for the web portal which may include protection of the  
327 confidentiality of any or all of the applications.

328 (4) The project described in paragraph (m) of Section 18,  
329 Chapter 106, Laws of 2020 (Senate Bill No. 2977), to assist George  
330 County with a rail connection project, shall not be required to  
331 meet the criteria established by the Mississippi Development  
332 Authority for the selection and recommendation of projects under  
333 this section in order to receive the funds allocated for that  
334 project under Chapter 106.

335 **SECTION 8.** Section 57-119-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
336 brought forward as follows:

337 57-119-13. (1) Assistance provided under this chapter may  
338 not be used to finance one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of  
339 any project; however, this limitation shall not apply to projects  
340 for public schools.

341 (2) Contracts executed by MDA with recipients of assistance  
342 under this chapter must include provisions requiring a performance  
343 report on the contracted activities, must account for the proper  
344 use of funds provided under the contract, and must include



345 provisions for recovery of assistance if the assistance was based  
346 upon fraudulent information or the recipient of the assistance is  
347 not meeting the performance requirements established by MDA of the  
348 assistance. Recipients of assistance under this chapter must  
349 regularly report to MDA the status of the project on a schedule  
350 determined by MDA.

351       **SECTION 9.** During fiscal year 2024, the State Fiscal  
352 Officer shall transfer to the Capital Expense Fund out of the  
353 following enumerated funds, the amounts listed below from each  
354 fund:

355 FUND	FUND NUMBER	AMOUNT
356 General Fund	2999000000	\$1.00
357 Treasurer's Office		
358 Abandoned Property	3317800000	\$1.00
359 TOTAL		\$2.00

360       **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
361 and after July 1, 2023.

