

By: Representatives Read, Oliver, Bounds,
Busby, Cockerham, Hale, Haney, Hines,
Huddleston, Jackson, Ladner, Scoggin, Turner,
Watson, Young

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1597

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
4 THERAPISTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much of it as may be
7 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
8 the State Treasury to the credit of the Board of Examiners for
9 Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists for the purpose
10 of defraying the expenses of the board for the fiscal year
11 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....
12\$ 206,744.00.

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

15 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16 Permanent: 2
17 Time-Limited: 0

18 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
19 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal



20 Services for Fiscal Year 2025 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2024 funds
21 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
22 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 budget by the Mississippi
23 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
24 personal services appropriation, which shall be published by the
25 State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel Board
26 shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs
27 based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the
28 agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for
29 Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed the data provided by the
30 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2024
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
38 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
39 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
40 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
41 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
42 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.

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

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

57 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
58 Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family
59 Therapists shall maintain complete accounting and personnel
60 records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under
61 this act and that such records shall be in the same format and
62 level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2023. It is further
63 the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request
64 for Fiscal Year 2025 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative
65 Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the
66 format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2024
67 budget request process.

68 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
69 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the



70 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
71 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
72 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
73 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
74 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
75 made without competitive bids.

76 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
77 Section 1, Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) is
78 provided for the upgrade and maintenance of the Board's Licensing
79 and Regulatory System (LARS) to a CLOUD based system.

80 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
81 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
82 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
83 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
84 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
85 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
86 actions contrary to this provision.

87 **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
88 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
89 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
90 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
91 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
92 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

93 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
94 and after July 1, 2023, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2023.

