

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.

