

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

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1604

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE BOARD OF
3 REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS FOR
4 FISCAL YEAR 2024.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
8 Treasury to the credit of the State Board of Registration for
9 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, for the purpose of
10 defraying the expenses of the board for the fiscal year beginning
11 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 556,525.00.

12 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds approved for expenditure under the
13 provisions of Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 5

16 Time-Limited: 0

17 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
18 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
19 Services for Fiscal Year 2025 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2024 funds



20 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
21 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 budget by the Mississippi
22 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
23 personal services appropriation, which shall be published by the
24 State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel Board
25 shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs
26 based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the
27 agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for
28 Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed the data provided by the
29 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2024
30 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions
31 shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception
32 of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.

33 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
34 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or
35 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
36 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
37 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
38 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
39 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
40 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
41 appropriated level.

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



being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this 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 State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors 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 2023. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 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 2024 budget request process.

SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that 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.

75 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
76 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
77 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
78 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
79 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
80 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
81 actions contrary to this provision.

82 **SECTION 6.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
83 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
84 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
85 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
86 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
87 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, 2023, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2023.

