

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

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1605
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE FOR THE
3 FISCAL YEAR 2024.

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, for the purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the fiscal
9 year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....
10\$ 16,169,614.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Department of
14 Insurance which is comprised of special source funds collected by
15 or otherwise available to the department, for the support of the
16 various offices of the department for the fiscal year beginning
17 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 335,000.00.



18 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
19 this act, the following positions are authorized:

20 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

21 Permanent: 129

22 Time-Limited: 0

23 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
24 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
25 Services for Fiscal Year 2025 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2024 funds
26 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
27 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 budget by the Mississippi
28 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
29 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
30 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
31 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
32 2024 that may not be utilized for active Fiscal Year 2023
33 Headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
34 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
35 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
36 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
37 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
38 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
39 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

40 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
41 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
42 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to



43 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 do
44 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
45 the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 projected cost exceeds the
46 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
47 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
48 essential for the agency.

49 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
50 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
51 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
52 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
53 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
54 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
55 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
56 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
57 appropriated level.

58 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
59 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for
60 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are
61 withdrawn and no longer available.

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

66 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
67 Mississippi Department of Insurance shall maintain complete



68 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all
 69 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be
 70 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal
 71 Year 2023. It is further the intention of the Legislature that
 72 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 shall be
 73 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format
 74 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail
 75 provided during the Fiscal Year 2024 budget request process.

76 **SECTION 5.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
 77 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
 78 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
 79 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
 80 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
 81 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
 82 performance measures provided below:

	FY2024
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Lic & Reg MS Ins Co's & Agents	
Number of (Producer, Etc) Licenses Issued	165,000
Average Cost per License Issued	100.00
Number of Agent's C/A's Issued	290,000
Average Cost per Agent C/A Issued	25.00
Number of Requests for Assistance	24,500
Average Cost per Customer I/C Addressed	53.00
Number of Fire Marshal Investigations	475



93	Cost per Fire Marshal Investigation	550.00
94	Number of Fire Marshal Inspections	5,720
95	Average Cost per Fire Marshal Inspection	60.00
96	Liquefied Compressed Gas	
97	Number of Accidents/Injuries/Deaths Due	
98	to Incidents Involving LCG	0
99	Number of Inspections	7,500
100	Average Cost per Inspection	60.00
101	Number of Safety Training Schools/Seminars	170
102	Average Cost per Safety Training School	145.00

103 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
104 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
105 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
106 Committee for Fiscal Year 2025.

107 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
108 Section 1, Fifteen Thousand Seventy-nine Dollars (\$15,079.00) is
109 provided for the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards and
110 Certification Board.

111 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
112 Section 1, funds in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars
113 (\$20,000.00) are provided and shall be expended to pay the annual
114 dues for the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

115 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
116 of the funds appropriated above shall be expended unless members
117 of the Mississippi House of Representatives and Mississippi Senate



118 are notified at least five (5) days prior to a public ceremony
119 announcing the award of any grant in their district or any public
120 announcement or ceremony regarding any project for which the
121 Legislature has made funds available. Any signage regarding any
122 public event or project shall include the following language:
123 "Funds were made available for this project by the Mississippi
124 State Legislature."

125 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
126 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
127 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
128 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
129 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
130 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
131 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
132 made without competitive bids.

133 **SECTION 10.** Within the limits of the funds available to the
134 Mississippi Insurance Department for such purpose, the
135 Commissioner of Insurance for the Mississippi Insurance Department
136 may grant a paid internship to students pursuing junior or senior
137 undergraduate level year coursework toward a bachelor's degree in
138 risk management insurance or graduate level coursework towards a
139 master's degree in business administration. Those applicants
140 deemed qualified by the Mississippi Department of Insurance shall
141 receive funds that may be used to pay for tuition, books and
142 related fees to pursue their degree. It is the intent of the



143 Legislature that the paid internship program shall be used as
144 incentive for risk management insurance careers at the Mississippi
145 Insurance Department.

146 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two
147 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided for the
148 State Fire Marshal's Office for fire safety prevention and
149 services, including, but not limited to, fire protection supplies
150 and materials, smoke alarms, and public service announcements
151 providing fire prevention information.

152 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
153 of Section 2, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
154 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury
155 to the credit of the Propane Education and Research Program Fund,
156 for the purpose of research and development of more cost effective
157 uses of propane and on educational programs, safety programs, and
158 market development of propane for the fiscal year beginning
159 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 130,000.00.

160 **SECTION 13.** In addition to all other sums heretofore
161 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
162 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
163 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Annual Fire Fund
164 to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the purposes
165 allowed in Section 17-23-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the
166 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....
167\$ 9,000,000.00.



168 **SECTION 14.** In addition to all other funds appropriated, the
169 following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby
170 appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State
171 Treasury to the credit of the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance
172 Fund which was created in Section 17-23-1 (4), Mississippi Code of
173 1972 to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the Rural Fire
174 Truck Matching Assistance Program for the fiscal year beginning
175 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 2,000,000.00.

176 **SECTION 15.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
177 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
178 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Mississippi
179 Department of Insurance for the purpose of reauthorizing the
180 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds for the purpose of purchasing
181 vehicles for inspectors, as authorized in House Bill No. 1593,
182 2022 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023,
183 and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 14,455.00.

184 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
185 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
186 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
187 remaining as of June 30, 2023 from the amount authorized for the
188 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
189 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

190 **SECTION 16.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
191 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
192 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Mississippi



193 Department of Insurance for the purpose of reauthorizing the
194 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds for the purpose of purchasing
195 smoke alarms, as authorized in House Bill No. 1593, 2022 Regular
196 Session, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending
197 June 30, 2024.....\$ 50,000.00.

198 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
199 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
200 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
201 remaining as of June 30, 2023 from the amount authorized for the
202 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
203 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

204 **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Two
205 Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$205,000.00), or so much thereof,
206 shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the
207 credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section
208 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as
209 determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided
210 for the Department of Insurance to purchase vehicles.

211 **SECTION 18.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
212 act, Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) is provided to the
213 department for the purpose of funding the Mississippi Length of
214 Service Award Program, which was created in House Bill 521, 2023
215 Regular Session.

216 **SECTION 19.** With the funds appropriated herein, the
217 Mississippi Insurance Department is authorized to make payment for



218 expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2021 to the National
219 Association of Insurance Commissioners in an amount not to exceed
220 Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$15,770.00).

221 **SECTION 20.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
222 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
223 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
224 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
225 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
226 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

227 **SECTION 21.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
228 and after July 1, 2023.

