

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

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1607

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE  
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
3 EXPENSES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'  
4 RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE  
5 RETIREMENT SYSTEM BUILDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
8 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury  
9 to the credit of the Administrative Expense Account of the Public  
10 Employees' Retirement System for the purpose of defraying the  
11 administrative expenses of the Board of Trustees of the Public  
12 Employees' Retirement System, or out of any money in the State  
13 Treasury to the credit of the Retirement System Building Account  
14 of the Public Employees' Retirement System for the purpose of  
15 maintenance and general operation of the Retirement System  
16 Building, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
17 June 30, 2024.....\$ 19,176,620.00.

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



20 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

21 Permanent: Full Time..... 157  
22 Time-Limited: Full Time..... 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 shall be published by the  
30 State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel Board  
31 shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs  
32 based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the  
33 agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for  
34 Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed the data provided by the  
35 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2024  
36 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions  
37 shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception  
38 of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.

39 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
40 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
41 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
42 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
43 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
44 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written



45 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
46 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
47 appropriated level.

48 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
49 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are  
50 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this  
51 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

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

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

62 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
63 Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System shall  
64 maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the  
65 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such  
66 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as  
67 maintained for Fiscal Year 2023. It is further the intention of  
68 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year  
69 2025 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee



70 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level  
71 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2024 budget request  
72 process.

73         **SECTION 4.** In accordance with the purposes of this article,  
74 there shall be established in the State Treasury the Public  
75 Employees' Retirement System Building Repair and Maintenance Fund,  
76 into which shall be deposited all funds collected as rental income  
77 from the building owned by the system located at 301 North  
78 President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. At the end of each fiscal  
79 year, any and all unexpended funds shall be transferred to the  
80 Administrative Budget Fund of the system.

81         **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
82 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
83 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
84 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
85 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
86 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
87 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
88 made without competitive bids.

89         **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, no more  
90 than Three Million Five Hundred Thirty-eight Thousand Dollars  
91 (\$3,538,000.00) is provided for the purpose of defraying those  
92 expenses associated with maintaining, upgrading and operating the  
93 computer system.



94           **SECTION 7.** The Public Employees' Retirement System is  
95 further authorized, in its discretion, to expend funds for the  
96 purchase of service pins for employees of the Public Employees'  
97 Retirement System.

98           **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, no more  
99 than Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) is provided,  
100 only for the explicit purpose of building maintenance and repair.

101           **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
102 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
103 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
104 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
105 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
106 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
107 actions contrary to this provision.

108           **SECTION 10.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
109 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
110 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
111 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
112 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
113 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

114           **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
115 and after July 1, 2023, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2023.

