

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

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1608
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 MISSISSIPPI REAL ESTATE APPRAISER LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION
4 BOARD FOR 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 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury
8 to the credit of the Real Estate Appraisal License Fund, for the
9 purpose of defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Real Estate
10 Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board for the fiscal year
11 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....
12\$ 497,130.00.

13 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
14 Section 1, the following positions are authorized for the
15 Mississippi Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification
16 Board:

17 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

18 Permanent: 4
19 Time-Limited: 0



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

37 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
38 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
39 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
40 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 do
41 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
42 the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 projected cost exceeds the
43 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the



44 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
45 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

63 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
64 Mississippi Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification
65 Board shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records
66 related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this
67 act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of
68 detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2023. It is further the



69 intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for
70 Fiscal Year 2025 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative
71 Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the
72 format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2024
73 budget request process.

74 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
75 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
76 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
77 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
78 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
79 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
80 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
81 made without competitive bids.

82 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
83 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
84 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
85 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
86 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
87 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
88 actions contrary to this provision.

89 **SECTION 6.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
90 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
91 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
92 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal



93 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
94 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

95 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
96 and after July 1, 2023.

