

By: Representatives Read, Bennett, Barton,  
Boyd, Busby, Clark, Clarke, Currie, Eure,  
Haney, Jackson, Sanford, Watson, Young

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1614  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING  
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL  
3 TELEVISION FOR THE 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 Authority for Educational Television  
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
10 June 30, 2024.....\$ 4,680,452.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in  
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Authority for  
14 Educational Television which is comprised of special source funds  
15 collected by or otherwise available to the Authority, for the  
16 purpose of defraying the expenses of the Authority for the fiscal  
17 year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....  
18 .....\$ 12,287,177.00.



19           **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
20 Section 1 and Section 2, the following positions are authorized:

21       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22           Permanent:                   80

23           Time-Limited:               7

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

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



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

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

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

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

67 **SECTION 4.** Funds appropriated herein shall first be used for  
68 the continuation of a full and complete broadcast schedule of



69 educational and instructional, professional growth, and public  
70 service programs, with the production of new films and programs to  
71 be secondary thereto.

72         **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
73 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall maintain  
74 complete accounting and personnel records related to the  
75 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such  
76 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as  
77 maintained for Fiscal Year 2023. It is further the intention of  
78 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year  
79 2025 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
80 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level  
81 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2024 budget request  
82 process.

83         **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
84 Section 2, Two Million One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred  
85 Sixty-six Dollars (\$2,118,966.00) shall be derived from the  
86 Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75  
87 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

88         **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the  
89 following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are derived  
90 from the Education Enhancement Fund pursuant to Sections 27-65-75  
91 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.....\$ 2,000,000.00.

92         These funds are provided for tower maintenance and upgrades.



93           **SECTION 8.** No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be  
94 transferred to, expended by, or used, directly or indirectly, for  
95 the benefit of any public relations, publicity or publication  
96 activities of any other state agency, department or officer, nor  
97 shall any personnel paid or equipment purchased with funds  
98 appropriated hereby be transferred or assigned to any other state  
99 agency, department or officer for public relations, publicity or  
100 publication activities of such office.

101           **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
102 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall have the  
103 authority to expend funds in the Capital Equipment Replacement  
104 Revolving Fund, in accordance with Section 37-63-17, Mississippi  
105 Code of 1972, for the purpose of purchasing technical equipment  
106 for operating the educational radio and television facilities.

107           **SECTION 10.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
108 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
109 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
110 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
111 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
112 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
113 performance measures provided below:

114		FY2024
115	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
116	Content Operations	
117	Number of Locally Produced TV Programs	150



118	Number of Locally Produced Radio Programs	1,092
119	Number of Monthly Average Number of Web	
120	Site Users	4,500
121	Number of New Programs Produced and	
122	Broadcast Related to Fit to Eat	
123	Programming	13
124	Percent Increase in Visitors Viewing the	
125	Healthy Living Related Items on MPB	
126	Site	31.00
127	Percent of Radio Broadcasts & TV Alerts	
128	During Times of Emergency	100.00
129	Education Services	
130	Percent Increase in Users Using MPB	
131	Education Online Resources for Pre-K	
132	Children and Families	15.00
133	Number of Students Served by the Digital	
134	Education Network (DEN) Classroom	2,000
135	Number of School Districts Participating	
136	in the DEN Classroom	30
137	Number of Teachers Taking e-Learning Courses	1,200
138	Number of Teacher Continuing Education	
139	Units (CEUs) Provided by e-Learning	
140	Courses Offered	400
141	Percent Increase of Visitors to the MPB	
142	Education Website	15.00



143	Number of Rotary Clubs Sponsoring with MPB	20
144	Number of Early Childhood Educators	
145	Attending MPB Resource Workshops	
146	Involving PBS and MPB Programs/Content	250
147	Number of Childcare Centers Using PBS	
148	Content	30
149	Number of Parents Participating in	
150	Parents Are Teachers Too (PATT)	
151	Initiative	300
152	Technical Services	
153	Number of Transmitters On Air	8
154	On-Air Reliability	99.95
155	Number of IT Help Desk Orders Filled	600
156	Administration	
157	Number of Community Engagements/Outreach	
158	Events Including Virtual Engagements	125
159	Number of State Agency Partners	40
160	New Grant Dollars Acquired	75,000.00
161	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
162	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	
163	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget	
164	Committee for Fiscal Year 2025.	
165	<b>SECTION 11.</b> It is the intention of the Legislature that	
166	whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the	
167	purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things	



168 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
169 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
170 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
171 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
172 made without competitive bids.

173 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that an  
174 amount equal to One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per square foot  
175 shall be paid to the Executive Office of the State Board of  
176 Institutions of Higher Learning to defray utility costs.

177 **SECTION 13.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
178 Authority for Educational Television may fund a program to focus  
179 on the manufacturing industry in Mississippi.

180 **SECTION 14.** Mississippi Authority for Educational Television  
181 is authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or  
182 contribution from any individual, public, or private organization,  
183 or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational  
184 costs of the department. Such grants, donations or contributions  
185 shall be received and expended under the rules and regulations of  
186 the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner  
187 consistent with the escalation of federal funds not to exceed Two  
188 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

189 **SECTION 15.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
190 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education  
191 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational  
192 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the





193 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds to defray the expenses  
194 of the Educational Television Authority, as authorized in House  
195 Bill No. 1601, 2022 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning  
196 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 3,048,822.00.

197 This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing  
198 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

199 (a) Tower maintenance and upgrades.....\$ 1,999,794.00.

200 (b) Digitalization of 49 Years of Educational  
201 Content and Mississippi History.....\$ 700,000.00.

202 (c) Production of a Medgar Evers  
203 documentary.....\$ 349,028.00.

204 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
205 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
206 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
207 remaining as of June 30, 2023, from the amount authorized for the  
208 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
209 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

210 **SECTION 16.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
211 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
212 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational  
213 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the  
214 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds as authorized in House Bill  
215 No. 1601, 2022 Regular Session provide for tower maintenance and  
216 upgrades for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
217 June 30, 2024.....\$ 1,135,044.00.



218           Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
219 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
220 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
221 remaining as of June 30, 2023, from the amount authorized for the  
222 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
223 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

224           **SECTION 17.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
225 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
226 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
227 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
228 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
229 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

230           **SECTION 18.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
231 and after July 1, 2023.

