

By: Representatives Read, Bounds, Arnold,  
Cockerham, Eure, Hale, Mangold, Oliver,  
Turner, Young

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1619

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE OIL AND GAS BOARD  
3 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 special fund in  
7 the State Treasury to the credit of the State Oil and Gas Board  
8 which is comprised of special source funds collected by or  
9 otherwise available to the department, for the purpose of  
10 defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year  
11 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....  
12 .....\$ 2,675,607.00.

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

15 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16 Permanent: Full Time..... 32  
17 Time-Limited: Full Time..... 0



18           With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
19 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
20 Services for Fiscal Year 2025 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2024 funds  
21 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
22 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 budget by the Mississippi  
23 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
24 personal services appropriation, which shall be published by the  
25 State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel Board  
26 shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs  
27 based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the  
28 agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for  
29 Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed the data provided by the  
30 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2024  
31 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions  
32 shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception  
33 of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.

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



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

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

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

57 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
58 State Oil and Gas Board shall maintain complete accounting and  
59 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
60 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
61 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
62 2023. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
63 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 shall be submitted to  
64 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
65 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
66 during the Fiscal Year 2024 budget request process.



67           **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
68 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.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
83 and after July 1, 2023, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2023.

