

By: Representatives Read, Mims, Arnold,  
Bounds, Clark, Clarke, Currie, Hines, Hood,  
Horan, Sanford, Scoggin, Watson, Young

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1625  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
5 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General  
6 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of Child  
7 Protection Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023,  
8 and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 131,237,561.00.

9 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
10 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in  
11 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Child  
12 Protection Services which is comprised of special source funds  
13 collected by or otherwise available to the department for the  
14 support of the various divisions of the department, for the  
15 purpose of defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal  
16 year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
17 June 30, 2024.....\$ 152,079,359.00.



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

20       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

21           Permanent:           1,517

22           Time-Limited:        417

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

84 **SECTION 6.** The Department of Child Protection Services is  
85 authorized to expend available funds on technology or equipment  
86 upgrades or replacements when it will generate savings through  
87 efficiency or when the savings generated from such upgrades or  
88 replacements exceed expenditures thereof.

89 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, herein to  
90 the Department of Child Protection Services, it is the intention  
91 of the Legislature that Ninety-three Thousand Six Hundred One  
92 Dollars (\$93,601.00) shall be allocated to the Mississippi



93 Children's Trust Fund supported from General Fund court  
94 assessments.

95       **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated by this act, pursuant  
96 to Section 97-3-54.9, Mississippi Code of 1972, Two Hundred Fifty  
97 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided for maintaining a  
98 24-hour hotline that is to be manned at all times, and for a  
99 coordinator to work with the Department of Public Safety, and to  
100 contract with outside agencies or service providers to organize  
101 for the provision of specialized services, including counseling  
102 services and other appropriate care to children who have been  
103 victims of commercial and sexual exploitation or human  
104 trafficking.

105       **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and  
106 Section 2, an amount not to exceed Four Million Five Hundred  
107 Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000.00) may be expended for the  
108 Department of Child Protection Services for Kinship Care Payments  
109 as authorized by Section 43-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972.

110       **SECTION 10.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
111 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
112 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of  
113 Child Protection Services for the purpose of reauthorizing the  
114 expenditure of Capital Expense Fund, as reappropriated in HB 1611,  
115 2022 Regular Session, for information technology system  
116 developments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and  
117 ending June 30, 2024.....\$       10,721,859.00.



118 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
119 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
120 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
121 remaining as of June 30, 2023, from the amount authorized for the  
122 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
123 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

124 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Eleven  
125 Million Eighty-six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars  
126 (\$11,086,239.00) are appropriated to fund the Adoption Assistance  
127 and Congregate Care Homes Maintenance Payments and One Million Two  
128 Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-nine Dollars  
129 (\$1,254,999.00) are provided for the Foster Home Maintenance  
130 Payments. It is the intent of the Legislature that these funds be  
131 expended for said purpose.

132 **SECTION 12.** Notwithstanding any other provision, the  
133 Department of Child Protection Services shall have the authority  
134 to escalate its headcount for any additional operational needs  
135 related to Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds, upon approval  
136 of the Department of Finance and Administration and the State  
137 Personnel Board.

138 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated herein, the Department  
139 of Child Protection Services is authorized to make payments for  
140 expenses incurred during Fiscal Years 2020, 2021, and 2022 for an  
141 amount not to exceed Sixty-five Thousand Four Hundred  
142 Seventy-three Dollars and Seventy-nine Cents (\$65,473.79).



143           **SECTION 14.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
144 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
145 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
146 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
147 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
148 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

149           **SECTION 15.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
150 and after July 1, 2023.

