

By: Representatives Read, Eure, Barton,  
Busby, Clarke, Haney

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1636  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND  
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL  
3 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 support and maintenance  
8 of the Department of Marine Resources for the fiscal year  
9 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....  
10 .....\$ 3,376,978.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in  
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Marine  
14 Resources for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
15 June 30, 2024.....\$ 170,812,390.00.

16 Of the funds appropriated in this section, Three Million  
17 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,050,000.00) is derived from the state  
18 excise taxes upon gasoline, oil and other petroleum products.



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

21       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22           Permanent:                   108

23           Time-Limited:               65

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.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
68 Department of Marine Resources shall maintain complete accounting



69 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
 70 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
 71 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
 72 2023. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
 73 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 shall be submitted to  
 74 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
 75 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
 76 during the Fiscal Year 2024 budget request process.

77       **SECTION 5.** Each Marine Conservation Officer and Supervisor  
 78 shall be furnished an allowance for uniforms not to exceed Six  
 79 Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) per annum.

80       **SECTION 6.**

81       In addition to all other sums heretofore appropriated, the  
 82 following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby  
 83 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit  
 84 of the Tidelands Fund No. 3345200000 to the Department of Marine  
 85 Resources for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the  
 86 tidelands projects for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and  
 87 ending June 30, 2024 .....\$ 12,455,247.00.

PROJECT NO.	PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECTS	AMOUNT
Harrison County:		
	Eagle Point Park Improvements	
	-City Of Biloxi.....	\$ 35,000.00
FY24-P601-01	Popp's Ferry Causeway Park Pier and Repairs	



94		-City Of Biloxi.....\$	500,000.00
95	FY24-P601-03	Oak Street South Pier and Docking	
96		Facility	
97		-City Of Biloxi.....\$	400,000.00
98	FY24-P603-19	Courthouse Road Boat Launch and	
99		Jetties Improvements/Mitigation	
100		-City Of Gulfport.....\$	400,000.00
101	FY24-P511-11	D'Iberville Working Waterfront	
102		Harbor/Marina Public Access Phase II	
103		-City Of D'Iberville.....\$	400,000.00
104	FY24-P613-10	Long Beach Small Craft Harbor	
105		Improvements	
106		-City Of Long Beach.....\$	400,000.00
107	FY24-P600-06	Pass Christian Small Craft Harbor/ Pier	
108		C1 Improvements	
109		-City Of Pass Christian.....\$	315,000.00
110	FY24-M999-07	MS Coastal Map Revision Project	
111		- Southern Mississippi Planning and	
112		Development District.....\$	250,000.00
113	Jackson County:		
114		East Beach Pathway Project	
115		-City Of Ocean Springs.....\$	400,000.00
116	FY24-P618-09	Shepard State Park Upgrades Project	
117		-City Of Gautier.....\$	250,000.00
118	FY24-P618-10	Fairway Drive Boat Launch and Pier	



119		-City Of Gautier.....\$	250,000.00
120	FY24-P501-09	Moss Point River Enhancements	
121		-City Of Moss Point.....\$	285,000.00
122	FY24-P601-12	Point Park Pier Expansion	
123		-City Of Pascagoula.....\$	300,000.00
124	FY24-P602-01	Racetrack Road Boat Launch Phase III	
125		-Jackson Cnty Brd of Supervisors.....\$	160,000.00
126	FY24-M648-14	Marine Education Center Living	
127		Shoreline and Access	
128		-Univ. of Southern Mississippi.....\$	383,309.00
129	Hancock County:		
130	FY24-P510-11	Dredging for Noma Drive Boat	
131		Ramp Access	
132		-City Of Diamondhead.....\$	300,000.00
133	FY24-P510-12	Nature Trail and Nature Education	
134		Center Planning Phase	
135		-City Of Diamondhead.....\$	100,000.00
136	FY24-P401-10	Municipal Harbor Beach Amenities	
137		and Improvement	
138		-City Of Bay St. Louis.....\$	300,000.00
139	FY24-P646-07	Beach Boulevard Pavilions	
140		-City Of Waveland.....\$	100,000.00
141	FY24-P646-08	Beach Boulevard Hydration Station	
142		-City Of Waveland.....\$	200,000.00
143	FY24-P610-08	Derelict Pier and Vessel Removal	



144                   -Hancock Cnty Brd of Supervisors.....\$   200,000.00  
 145                   Marine Patrol Equipment  
 146                   -Department of Marine Resources.....\$   200,000.00  
 147 Total Public Access Projects.....\$ 6,128,309.00  
 148 Total Management Projects.....\$ 3,969,394.00  
 149 Bond Repayment .....\$ 1,357,544.00  
 150 Prior Year Projects.....\$ 1,000,000.00  
 151 Total Tidelands Funds:.....\$12,455,247.00

152       Each political subdivision receiving funds authorized in this  
 153 section shall be held responsible for complying with Section  
 154 29-15-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be subject to an  
 155 audit by the State Auditor and shall submit detailed reports  
 156 beginning June 30, and every six (6) months thereafter for the  
 157 duration of the project to the Department of Marine Resources on  
 158 how funds authorized in this section were expended.

159       It is the intention of the Legislature that any political  
 160 subdivision seeking to qualify for tidelands funds for the  
 161 subsequent fiscal year shall submit a proposal to the Department  
 162 of Marine Resources no later than July 1, 2023. All proposals  
 163 submitted will be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of  
 164 Marine Resources in accordance to department plans and procedures.  
 165 Multiphased projects, multiyear projects, proposed projects with  
 166 high dollar value and projects that have a record of stacking  
 167 funds shall be considered as low priority projects when evaluated.



168           It is the intention of the Legislature that if the amount of  
169 the Tidelands funds appropriated in this act exceed the actual  
170 amount of tidelands funds available, the available funds shall be  
171 allocated on a pro rata basis between projects listed in this  
172 section.

173           **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
174 department shall place any special trust funds appropriated to the  
175 department in a special trust fund and the interest earned on the  
176 principal shall be credited to the special trust fund. Monies in  
177 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained in the  
178 special trust fund for use in the next succeeding fiscal year.  
179 The department may use the interest earned on the fund to pay  
180 reasonable costs for administering the fund and related projects.

181           **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
182 Department of Marine Resources has the authorization to move  
183 tidelands funds between approved projects upon request from entity  
184 and proper completion of Form TTF-6 documentation.

185           **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature for the  
186 Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental  
187 Quality to continue with any agency partnerships, including grant  
188 agreements, that provide environmental projects to restore  
189 Mississippi's natural resources in the wake of the Deepwater  
190 Horizon Oil Spill.

191           **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
192 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the





193 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
194 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
195 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
196 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
197 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
198 made without competitive bids.

199           **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One  
200 Hundred Million One Hundred Ninety-two Thousand Five Hundred  
201 Twenty-seven Dollars (\$100,192,527.00) is provided for the funding  
202 of the following Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA)  
203 projects for FY 2024:

204           (a) To assist the City of Pascagoula with the  
205 Live Oak Corridor Drainage to Remedy Flooding .....\$ 2,000,000.00

206           (b) To assist the City of Gulfport with the  
207 North Gulfport Wastewater Treatment Plant UV  
208 Disinfection .....\$ 1,200,000.00

209           (c) To assist the Hancock County Utility  
210 Authority with the Stennis Space Center Wastewater  
211 Conveyance Project .....\$ 10,650,000.00

212           (d) To assist the City of Long Beach with  
213 the Small Craft Harbor Eastern Bulkhead  
214 Improvements .....\$ 2,693,000.00

215           (e) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
216 with the West Breakwater Wall Hurricane  
217 Mitigation Improvements .....\$ 2,590,000.00



218 (f) To assist the Department of Marine  
219 Resources with Oyster Spat .....\$ 2,000,000.00

220 (g) To assist the Institute for Marine Mammal  
221 Studies with Monitoring and Evaluation of Sea  
222 Turtle Nesting in Mississippi .....\$ 1,000,000.00

223 (h) To assist the University of Southern  
224 Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery  
225 Resource Assessment .....\$ 532,242.00

226 (i) To assist the Hancock County Port and  
227 Harbor Commission with Bank Mitigation .....\$ 1,749,220.00

228 (j) To assist the University of Southern  
229 Mississippi with Oak Island Oyster Company in the  
230 Development and Testing of an Off Bottom Oyster  
231 Structure .....\$ 1,195,571.00

232 (k) To assist Jackson County with Coastal  
233 Roadway Hurricane Protection .....\$ 750,000.00

234 (l) To assist the Institute for Marine  
235 Mammal Studies with Monitoring/Gauging Habitat  
236 Suitability for Dolphins and Turtles ..... \$ 1,500,000.00

237 (m) To assist the Kiln Utility District  
238 with Jourdan River Shores Sewer Improvements  
239 Phase II .....\$ 2,255,600.00

240 (n) To assist Harrison County with Sand  
241 Beach Outfall Coordination .....\$ 1,600,000.00

242 (o) To assist the City of Ocean Springs



243 With Sewer Rehabilitation .....\$ 1,960,000.00  
244 (p) To assist the Department of Marine  
245 Resources with Oyster Cultch .....\$ 1,000,000.00  
246 (q) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
247 with Highway 90 Hurricane Mitigation  
248 Improvements .....\$ 2,540,000.00  
249 (r) To assist Coastal Mississippi with  
250 the promotion of the Seafood Industry and their  
251 Economic Contributions to the State .....\$ 500,000.00  
252 (s) To assist the City of Diamondhead  
253 With Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water Quality  
254 Improvements Phase II .....\$ 1,999,839.00  
255 (t) To assist Jackson County with East Beach  
256 Outfalls/Shoreline Protection .....\$ 1,710,000.00  
257 (u) To assist the City of Gautier with  
258 Hickory Hills/Lagrange Water Quality and  
259 Stormwater Improvements .....\$ 2,973,981.00  
260 (v) To assist the City of Biloxi with Keegan  
261 Bayou Restoration .....\$ 2,520,000.00  
262 (w) To assist the Department of Marine  
263 Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall  
264 Pavilion .....\$ 650,000.00  
265 (x) To assist the City of Long Beach with  
266 Small Craft Harbor Southern Quay Bulkhead  
267 Improvements .....\$ 2,554,000.00



268 (y) To assist the Department of Marine  
 269 Resources with Bonnet Carre Spillway  
 270 Mitigation .....\$ 1,475,000.00  
 271 (z) To assist the City of D'Iberville  
 272 with the Working Waterfront and Seafood  
 273 Harbor Project.....\$ 500,000.00  
 274 (aa) To assist the University of Southern  
 275 Mississippi with the Ocean Enterprise Project.....\$ 3,114,002.00  
 276 (bb) To assist the City of Biloxi with the  
 277 East Biloxi Boardwalk sand re-nourishment .....\$ 894,380.00  
 278 (cc) To assist the Department of Marine  
 279 Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall .....\$ 367,638.00  
 280 (dd) To assist the Department of Marine  
 281 Resources with the Coffee Creek water quality.....\$ 102,241.00  
 282 (ee) To assist the Department of Marine  
 283 Resources with the Infinity Science Center .....\$ 165,967.00  
 284 (ff) To assist Jackson County Board of  
 285 Supervisors with the Front Beach Erosion  
 286 Control .....\$ 658,740.00  
 287 (gg) To assist the Department of Marine  
 288 Resources with GOMESA project management,  
 289 development and mitigation .....\$ 1,396,227.00  
 290 (hh) To assist the Department of Marine  
 291 Resources with artificial reef construction.....\$ 744,054.00  
 292 (ii) To assist the Department of Environmental



293	Quality with water quality .....	\$	985,054.00
294	(jj) To assist the Department of Marine		
295	Resources with Bonnet Carre Response .....	\$	161,132.00
296	(kk) To assist Jackson County with a Watershed		
297	Development Plan .....	\$	258,368.00
298	(ll) To assist the City of Diamondhead with		
299	Marsh Erosion Prevention .....	\$	495,000.00
300	(mm) To assist the City of Pass Christian		
301	With Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Repairs .....	\$	967,575.00
302	(nn) To assist Hancock County with Atlantic		
303	Street Sewer Improvements .....	\$	2,213,648.00
304	(oo) To assist the City of Long Beach with		
305	Small Craft Harbor SE Bulkhead Improvements .....	\$	2,188,000.00
306	(pp) To assist the Kiln Utility District with		
307	the Jordan River Shores Sewer Force Main		
308	Relocation .....	\$	392,378.00
309	(qq) To assist the City of Biloxi with		
310	the Point Cadet Living Shoreline .....	\$	764,863.00
311	(rr) To assist the Department of Marine		
312	Resources with MS Reef Fish Monitoring and		
313	Assessment .....	\$	70,789.00
314	(ss) To assist Hancock County Utility		
315	Authority with Oak Harbor Sewer Improvements.....	\$	2,811,548.00
316	(tt) To assist Hancock County Port and Harbor		
317	Commission with Port Bienville Conservation		



318	Management .....	\$	265,010.00
319	(uu) To assist the City of Gautier with Water		
320	Quality and Infrastructure Sanitary Sewer .....	\$	3,321,800.00
321	(vv) To assist the City of Pascagoula with		
322	Buena Vista Area Drainage .....	\$	498,277.00
323	(ww) To assist the City of Pass Christian with		
324	Gravity Sewer System Improvements Phase I.....	\$	1,744,319.00
325	(xx) To assist the City of Pascagoula with		
326	Point Park Pier Repair/Improvements .....	\$	347,351.00
327	(yy) To assist the Department of Marine		
328	Resources with the Railroad Corner Beneficial Use		
329	Site .....	\$	114,530.00
330	(zz) To assist the University of Southern		
331	Mississippi with collection of Fishery-Dependent		
332	information on Blue Crabs .....	\$	99,774.00
333	(aaa) To assist the National Oceans and		
334	Applications Research Center with the Cat Island		
335	Baseline Inventory of Seagrass Habitat .....	\$	289,727.00
336	(bbb) To assist the National Oceans and		
337	Applications Research Center with the Inventory		
338	Of Wetlands Habitats .....	\$	369,614.00
339	(ccc) To assist the National Oceans and		
340	Applications Research Center with the Pelican		
341	Key Baseline Hydrographic Survey .....	\$	87,792.00
342	(ddd) To assist Mississippi State University		



343 with the Evaluation and Monitoring of Marine Mammal  
 344 and Sea Turtles after Bonnet Carre Spillway  
 345 Opening .....\$ 2,088,170.00  
 346 (eee) To assist the American Shrimp Processors  
 347 Association with the Shrimp Processors Feasibility  
 348 Study .....\$ 665,918.00  
 349 (fff) To assist the Jackson County Utility  
 350 Authority with Septic System Abatements .....\$ 1,800,000.00  
 351 (ggg) To assist the University of Southern  
 352 Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery  
 353 Resource Assessment .....\$ 381,000.00  
 354 (hhh) To assist the Department of Marine  
 355 Resources with the Katrina Key Expansion .....\$ 430,000.00  
 356 (iii) To assist the Secretary of State with  
 357 the Broadwater Marina Restoration .....\$ 3,678,850.00  
 358 (jjj) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
 359 with Sewer Pump Station Repairs .....\$ 366,335.00  
 360 (kkk) To assist the City of Diamondhead  
 361 With Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water Quality  
 362 Improvements .....\$ 1,193,447.00  
 363 (lll) To assist the Department of Marine  
 364 Resources with the Bonnet Carre and Mid Breton  
 365 Response .....\$ 802,931.00  
 366 (mmm) To assist the City of Ocean Springs  
 367 with the Front Beach Pub Access and Storm Water



368 Mitigation Improvements .....\$ 2,614,984.00  
369 (nnn) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
370 with Phase II of the Gravity Sewer System  
371 Improvements .....\$ 4,594,986.00  
372 (ooo) To assist the Department of Marine  
373 Resources with the Off Bottom Oyster  
374 Aquaculture .....\$ 1,455,173.00  
375 (ppp) To assist the Department of Marine  
376 Resources with the Pelican Key Beneficial Use  
377 Site .....\$ 348,220.00  
378 (qqq) To assist the Department of Marine  
379 Resources with Phase II of the Katrina Key  
380 Expansion .....\$ 400,000.00  
381 (rrr) To assist the Jackson County Board  
382 of Supervisors with the Pascagoula Beach Open  
383 Channel Outfalls .....\$ 1,339,000.00  
384 (sss) To assist the Department of Marine  
385 Resources with water testing for Seafood  
386 Consumption Safety .....\$ 45,262.00

387 **SECTION 12.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
388 Department of Marine Resources shall have the authority to expend  
389 funds in an amount not to exceed Seventeen Million Dollars  
390 (\$17,000,000.00) from funds for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security  
391 Act (GOMESA) that may become available to the agency in fiscal  
392 year 2024 in accordance with the rules and regulations of the





393 Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent  
394 with the escalation of federal funds.

395       **SECTION 13.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none  
396 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain  
397 utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such  
398 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,  
399 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,  
400 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance  
401 with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall  
402 include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not  
403 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities  
404 shall be prohibited.

405       **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
406 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
407 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
408 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
409 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
410 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
411 actions contrary to this provision.

412       **SECTION 15.** With the funds appropriated herein, the  
413 Department of Marine Resources is authorized to make payment for  
414 expenses incurred during Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 as follows:

415 Vendor	Amount	Invoice Date	Fiscal Year
416 Coastal Conservation Assoc.	\$3,175.50	4/16/2020	2020
417 City of Waveland	\$4,050.00	5/31/2020	2020



418	City of Long Beach	\$ 217.50	5/27/2021	2021
419	City of Long Beach	\$ 217.50	6/25/2021	2021
420	City of Long Beach	\$ 270.00	6/30/2021	2021
421	MS Wildlife Federation	\$ 125.00	6/25/2021	2021

422       **SECTION 16.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
423 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
424 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
425 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
426 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
427 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

428       **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
429 and after July 1, 2023.

