

By: Senator(s) Williams

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2604

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY PAY FOR  
2 MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATORS ACT; AND FOR RELATED  
3 PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) This act shall be known and may be cited as  
6 the "Supplemental Salary Pay for Mississippi Emergency  
7 Telecommunicators Act of 2023."

8 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize  
9 emergency telecommunicators as highly trained, specialized workers  
10 who make significant personal sacrifices in order to achieve the  
11 expertise required to ensure excellence in the response to every  
12 type of emergency call or situation. Emergency telecommunicators  
13 are the crucial first point of contact in life-or-death situations  
14 and were declared First Responders by the Governor on October 28,  
15 2022.

16 (3) For the purposes of this section, the following words  
17 and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed in this section  
18 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:



19           (a) "Emergency Telecommunicator" means any person  
20 employed full time by the state or any political subdivision  
21 thereof, who is certified by the Board of Emergency  
22 Telecommunications Standards in the Office of Standards and  
23 Training in the Department of Public Safety, and whose primary  
24 responsibility is the emergency communications for 9-1-1 and other  
25 public safety, fire or emergency medical agencies whose primary  
26 responsibility is the receipt or processing of calls for emergency  
27 services. Emergency Telecommunicators may also be referred to as  
28 9-1-1 dispatchers, public safety dispatchers, emergency  
29 communications specialist or emergency communications officers.

30           (b) "Certified emergency telecommunicator" means any  
31 person who has been certified by and is currently in good standing  
32 with the Board of Emergency Telecommunications Standards in the  
33 Office of Standards and Training in the Department of Public  
34 Safety, as set forth in Section 19-5-351 et seq.

35           (c) "Employed full-time" means any person who is  
36 receiving gross compensation for his or her duties as a certified  
37 emergency telecommunicator of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)  
38 or more per week or One Thousand Seventy-Five Dollars (\$1,075.00)  
39 or more per month.

40           **SECTION 2.** (1) All emergency or public safety  
41 communications agencies of the state or of a political subdivision  
42 of the state which employ one or more certified emergency  
43 telecommunicators on a full-time basis shall pay, in addition to



44 existing compensation, an additional Five Hundred Dollars  
45 (\$500.00) per month to all emergency telecommunicators who have  
46 been employed with such agency for a minimum of three (3) years,  
47 to be funded by the State through the special fund established in  
48 Section 3 of this act.

49 (2) For the purposes of eligibility under this section,  
50 years of employment service shall include any years of consecutive  
51 employment with any other emergency communications or public  
52 safety agency.

53 (3) Any emergency communications or public safety agency of  
54 the state or a political subdivision of the state which reduces an  
55 emergency telecommunicator's salary in response to the  
56 supplemental pay provided under this act shall be subject to a  
57 civil penalty of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation,  
58 payable to the special fund created under Section 3 of this act.

59 **SECTION 3.** For the provision of the supplemental pay under  
60 this act, there is hereby created in the State Treasury a special  
61 fund to be known as the "Supplemental Salary Pay for Emergency  
62 Telecommunicators Fund." The fund shall consist of monies  
63 appropriated by an act of the Legislature, to which the  
64 appropriations hereinafter made shall be credited, and the funds  
65 so credited shall be and remain dedicated to the payment of such  
66 supplemental salaries, as provided under this act.

67 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Finance and Administration  
68 shall issue a standardized form to each emergency



69 telecommunications or public safety agency of the state or a  
70 political subdivision of the state, upon which the agency shall  
71 provide a list of employees eligible for supplemental pay under  
72 this act. The Department of Finance and Administration shall  
73 issue payments in accordance with this act upon the basis of such  
74 forms submitted by the emergency telecommunications or public  
75 safety agency.

76       **SECTION 5.** (1) Any emergency communications or public  
77 safety agency of the state or a political subdivision of the state  
78 employing individuals entitled to additional compensation from the  
79 state under the provisions of this act, and who is charged with  
80 the responsibility of preparing the payrolls for such individuals,  
81 shall include the additional compensation paid by the state to  
82 such individuals in the calculation and deduction from the pay of  
83 such individuals the sums required by state or federal law to be  
84 withheld by an employer, such as federal income tax and social  
85 security tax or contributions to state or local retirement  
86 systems. Any officials so charged with withholding sums from the  
87 pay of the individuals shall be further charged with the  
88 responsibility of transmitting the sums so withheld in accordance  
89 with the law or laws requiring the withholding.

90       (2) The additional compensation paid by the state to  
91 individuals as authorized under this act shall be included in the  
92 calculation and computation of the total wages paid to the  
93 individual in the determination of employer contributions to any



94 retirement system or pension fund of which the individual may be a  
95 member as well as in the determination of retirement eligibility  
96 and benefits which may accrue to the individual under any  
97 retirement system or pension fund, as well as in the determination  
98 of any other employee benefits, sick leave, or disability pay to  
99 which the individual might be entitled with the exception of  
100 workers' compensation benefits.

101         **SECTION 6.** (1) There is hereby created a board of review  
102 under this act, which shall be composed of nine (9) members as  
103 follows:

104                 (a) The Executive Director of the Department of Finance  
105 and Administration or his or her designee;

106                 (b) A member of the Mississippi 9-1-1 Coordinators  
107 Association, appointed by the association's president;

108                 (c) A member of the Mississippi Chapter of the National  
109 Emergency Number Association (NENA), appointed by the  
110 association's president;

111                 (d) A member of the Mississippi Chapter of the  
112 Association of Public Safety Communication Officials, appointed by  
113 the association's president;

114                 (e) A member of the Mississippi Board on  
115 Telecommunicator Emergency Standards and Training, appointed by  
116 the Governor after the submission of up to two (2) recommendations  
117 to the Governor for such appointment;



118 (f) A member of the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association  
119 who is responsible for managing a public safety answering point,  
120 appointed by the president of the association;

121 (g) A member of the Mississippi Police Chiefs'  
122 Association who is responsible for managing a public safety  
123 answering point, appointed by the president of the association;

124 (h) A member of the Mississippi Association of  
125 Supervisors, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor who shall be an  
126 elected member of a county board of supervisors, after the  
127 submission of up to two (2) recommendations to the Lieutenant  
128 Governor for such appointment; and

129 (i) A member of the Mississippi State Troopers  
130 Association, appointed by the Governor.

131 (2) Members of the board of review shall serve for terms of  
132 four (4) years, with no member being appointed for more than three  
133 (3) consecutive terms. Vacancies on the board of review shall be  
134 filled by appointment in like manner for the balance of the  
135 unexpired term, and each member shall serve until his or her  
136 successor is appointed in like manner for the balance of an  
137 unexpired term, and each member shall serve until his or her  
138 successor is appointed.

139 (3) Whenever any question arises as to the eligibility of  
140 any person to receive additional pay out of state funds as  
141 provided under this act, the question thereof, together with all  
142 of the facts relating thereto, shall be submitted to the board of



143 review created under this section, for determination. The  
144 decision of the board with regard to eligibility shall be final.

145 (4) If it is determined by the board of review that  
146 supplemental salaries are due to eligible recipients for back  
147 periods of time, the board shall certify to the Joint Legislative  
148 Budget Committee that such payment is due. Upon receipt of such  
149 certification, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee may, in its  
150 discretion, approve payment of all or a portion of such  
151 supplemental salary from the special fund created under Section 3  
152 of this act; however, no payment shall be made to any one  
153 recipient in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) at any  
154 one time.

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

