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To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 374

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF STATE GENERAL OBLIGATION
2 BONDS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
3 CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF A SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
4 ENGINEERING, AGRICULTURE AND MATH (STEAM) OUTREACH CENTER AT
5 ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this act, the following words
8 shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context clearly
9 requires otherwise:

10 (a) "State" means the State of Mississippi.

11 (b) "Commission" means the State Bond Commission.

12 (2) The principal of and interest on the bonds authorized
13 under this act shall be payable in the manner provided in this
14 subsection. Such bonds shall bear such date or dates, be in such
15 denomination or denominations, bear interest at such rate or rates
16 (not to exceed the limits set forth in Section 75-17-101,
17 Mississippi Code of 1972), be payable at such place or places
18 within or without the State of Mississippi, shall mature
19 absolutely at such time or times not to exceed twenty-five (25)



20 years from date of issue, be redeemable before maturity at such
21 time or times and upon such terms, with or without premium, shall
22 bear such registration privileges, and shall be substantially in
23 such form, all as shall be determined by resolution of the
24 commission.

25 (3) The bonds authorized by this act shall be signed by the
26 chairman of the commission, or by his facsimile signature, and the
27 official seal of the commission shall be affixed thereto, attested
28 by the secretary of the commission. The interest coupons, if any,
29 to be attached to such bonds may be executed by the facsimile
30 signatures of such officers. Whenever any such bonds shall have
31 been signed by the officials designated to sign the bonds who were
32 in office at the time of such signing but who may have ceased to
33 be such officers before the sale and delivery of such bonds, or
34 who may not have been in office on the date such bonds may bear,
35 the signatures of such officers upon such bonds and coupons shall
36 nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes and have the
37 same effect as if the person so officially signing such bonds had
38 remained in office until their delivery to the purchaser, or had
39 been in office on the date such bonds may bear. However,
40 notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, such bonds may be
41 issued as provided in the Registered Bond Act of the State of
42 Mississippi.

43 (4) All bonds and interest coupons issued under the
44 provisions of this act have all the qualities and incidents of



45 negotiable instruments under the provisions of the Uniform
46 Commercial Code, and in exercising the powers granted by this act,
47 the commission shall not be required to and need not comply with
48 the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code.

49 (5) The commission shall act as issuing agent for the bonds
50 authorized under this act, prescribe the form of the bonds,
51 determine the appropriate method for sale of the bonds, advertise
52 for and accept bids or negotiate the sale of the bonds, issue and
53 sell the bonds so authorized to be sold, pay all fees and costs
54 incurred in such issuance and sale, and do any and all other
55 things necessary and advisable in connection with the issuance and
56 sale of such bonds. The commission is authorized and empowered to
57 pay the costs that are incident to the sale, issuance and delivery
58 of the bonds authorized under this act from the proceeds derived
59 from the sale of such bonds. The commission may sell such bonds
60 on sealed bids at public sale or may negotiate the sale of the
61 bonds for such price as it may determine to be for the best
62 interest of the State of Mississippi. All interest accruing on
63 such bonds so issued shall be payable semiannually or annually.

64 If such bonds are sold by sealed bids at public sale, notice
65 of the sale shall be published at least one time, not less than
66 ten (10) days before the date of sale, and shall be so published
67 in one or more newspapers published or having a general
68 circulation in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, selected by the
69 commission.



70 The commission, when issuing any bonds under the authority of
71 this act, may provide that bonds, at the option of the State of
72 Mississippi, may be called in for payment and redemption at the
73 call price named therein and accrued interest on such date or
74 dates named therein.

75 (6) The bonds issued under the provisions of this act are
76 general obligations of the State of Mississippi, and for the
77 payment thereof the full faith and credit of the State of
78 Mississippi is irrevocably pledged. If the funds appropriated by
79 the Legislature are insufficient to pay the principal of and the
80 interest on such bonds as they become due, then the deficiency
81 shall be paid by the State Treasurer from any funds in the State
82 Treasury not otherwise appropriated. All such bonds shall contain
83 recitals on their faces substantially covering the provisions of
84 this subsection.

85 (7) Upon the issuance and sale of bonds under the provisions
86 of this act, the commission shall transfer the proceeds of any
87 such sale or sales to the special fund created in Section 2(1) of
88 this act. The proceeds of such bonds shall be disbursed from the
89 special fund under such restrictions, if any, as may be contained
90 in the resolution providing for the issuance of the bonds.

91 (8) The bonds authorized under this act may be issued
92 without any other proceedings or the happening of any other
93 conditions or things other than those proceedings, conditions and
94 things which are specified or required by this act. Any



95 resolution providing for the issuance of bonds under the
96 provisions of this act shall become effective immediately upon its
97 adoption by the commission, and any such resolution may be adopted
98 at any regular or special meeting of the commission by a majority
99 of its members.

100 (9) The bonds authorized under the authority of this act may
101 be validated in the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District
102 of Hinds County, Mississippi, in the manner and with the force and
103 effect provided by Chapter 13, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972,
104 for the validation of county, municipal, school district and other
105 bonds. The notice to taxpayers required by such statutes shall be
106 published in a newspaper published or having a general circulation
107 in the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

108 (10) Any holder of bonds issued under the provisions of this
109 act or of any of the interest coupons pertaining thereto may,
110 either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus or other
111 proceeding, protect and enforce any and all rights granted under
112 this act, or under such resolution, and may enforce and compel
113 performance of all duties required by this act to be performed, in
114 order to provide for the payment of bonds and interest thereon.

115 (11) All bonds issued under the provisions of this act shall
116 be legal investments for trustees and other fiduciaries, and for
117 savings banks, trust companies and insurance companies organized
118 under the laws of the State of Mississippi, and such bonds shall
119 be legal securities which may be deposited with and shall be



120 received by all public officers and bodies of this state and all
121 municipalities and political subdivisions for the purpose of
122 securing the deposit of public funds.

123 (12) Bonds issued under the provisions of this act and
124 income therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation in the State of
125 Mississippi.

126 (13) The proceeds of the bonds issued under this act shall
127 be used solely for the purposes herein provided, including the
128 costs incident to the issuance and sale of such bonds.

129 (14) The State Treasurer is authorized, without further
130 process of law, to certify to the Department of Finance and
131 Administration the necessity for warrants, and the Department of
132 Finance and Administration is authorized and directed to issue
133 such warrants, in such amounts as may be necessary to pay when due
134 the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, or the
135 accreted value of, all bonds issued under this act; and the State
136 Treasurer shall forward the necessary amount to the designated
137 place or places of payment of such bonds in ample time to
138 discharge such bonds, or the interest thereon, on the due dates
139 thereof. As used in this section, the "accreted value" of any
140 bond means, as of any date of computation, an amount equal to the
141 sum of (i) the stated initial value of such bond, plus (ii) the
142 interest accrued thereon from the issue date to the date of
143 computation at the rate, compounded semiannually, that is



144 necessary to produce the approximate yield to maturity shown for
145 bonds of the same maturity.

146 (15) This act shall be deemed to be full and complete
147 authority for the exercise of the powers granted in this act that
148 relate to the issuance of bonds, but this act shall not be deemed
149 to repeal or to be in derogation of any existing law of this state
150 that relates to the issuance of bonds.

151 **SECTION 2.** (1) (a) (i) A special fund, to be designated
152 as the "2024 Alcorn State University Science, Technology
153 Engineering, Agriculture and Math (STEAM) Outreach Center Fund,"
154 is created within the State Treasury. The fund shall be
155 maintained by the State Treasurer as a separate and special fund,
156 separate and apart from the General Fund of the state. Unexpended
157 amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall
158 not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned or
159 investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be deposited into
160 such fund.

161 (ii) Monies deposited into the fund shall be
162 disbursed, in the discretion of the Department of Finance and
163 Administration, to pay the costs associated with construction,
164 furnishing and equipping of a Science, Technology, Engineering,
165 Agriculture and Math (STEAM) Outreach Center at Alcorn State
166 University.

167 (b) Amounts deposited into such special fund shall be
168 disbursed to pay the costs of the projects described in paragraph



169 (a) of this subsection. Promptly after the commission has
170 certified, by resolution duly adopted, that the projects described
171 in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall have been completed,
172 abandoned, or cannot be completed in a timely fashion, any amounts
173 remaining in such special fund shall be applied to pay debt
174 service on the bonds issued under this section, in accordance with
175 the proceedings authorizing the issuance of such bonds and as
176 directed by the commission.

177 (2) (a) The commission, at one time, or from time to time,
178 may declare by resolution the necessity for issuance of general
179 obligation bonds of the State of Mississippi to provide funds for
180 all costs incurred or to be incurred for the purposes described in
181 subsection (1) of this section. Upon the adoption of a resolution
182 by the Department of Finance and Administration, declaring the
183 necessity for the issuance of any part or all of the general
184 obligation bonds authorized by this section, the department shall
185 deliver a certified copy of its resolution or resolutions to the
186 commission. Upon receipt of such resolution, the commission is
187 authorized to proceed under the provisions of Section 1(5) of this
188 act. The total amount of bonds issued under this section shall
189 not exceed Eleven Million Nine Hundred Seventeen Thousand Five
190 Hundred Dollars (\$11,917,500.00). No bonds shall be issued under
191 this section after July 1, 2028.

192 (b) Any investment earnings on amounts deposited into
193 the special fund created in subsection (1) of this section shall



194 be used to pay debt service on bonds issued under this section, in
195 accordance with the proceedings authorizing issuance of such
196 bonds.

197 (3) The provisions of Section 1 of this act shall apply to
198 the issuance of bonds authorized under this section.

199 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
200 and after July 1, 2024.

