

By: Representative Read

To: Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1705

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 27-103-125, 27-103-139,  
 2 27-103-203, 27-103-211, 27-103-213 AND 27-103-303, MISSISSIPPI  
 3 CODE OF 1972, WHICH RELATE TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE BUDGET  
 4 PROCESS, FOR THE PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO DIRECT THE  
 5 STATE TREASURER AND THE STATE FISCAL OFFICER TO MAKE CERTAIN  
 6 TRANSFERS TO THE CAPITAL EXPENSE FUND DURING FISCAL YEAR 2025; AND  
 7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-103-125, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 10 brought forward as follows:

11 27-103-125. The proposed budget of each state agency shall  
 12 show the amounts required for operating expenses separately from  
 13 the amounts required for permanent improvements. The overall  
 14 budget shall show, separately by each source, the estimated amount  
 15 of general fund revenue and of special fund revenues of general  
 16 fund agencies. The total proposed expenditures in Part 1 of the  
 17 overall budget shall not exceed the amount of estimated revenues  
 18 that will be available in the general and special funds for  
 19 appropriation or use during the succeeding fiscal year, including  
 20 any balances other than unencumbered balances in general funds



21 that will be on hand in the general and special funds at the close  
22 of the then current fiscal year. The total proposed expenditures  
23 from the State General Fund in Part 1 of the overall budget shall  
24 not exceed ninety-eight percent (98%) of the amount of general  
25 fund revenue estimate for the succeeding fiscal year. The general  
26 fund revenue estimate shall be the estimate jointly adopted by the  
27 Governor and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The  
28 Legislative Budget Office may recommend additional taxes or  
29 sources of revenue if in its judgment those additional funds are  
30 necessary to adequately support the functions of the state  
31 government.

32 **SECTION 2.** Section 27-103-139, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
33 brought forward as follows:

34 27-103-139. On or before November 15 preceding each regular  
35 session of the Legislature, except the first regular session of a  
36 new term of office, the Governor shall submit to the members of  
37 the Legislature, the Legislative Budget Office or the  
38 members-elect, as the case may be, and to the executive head of  
39 each state agency a balanced budget for the succeeding fiscal  
40 year. The budget submitted shall be prepared in a format that  
41 will include performance measurement data associated with the  
42 various programs operated by each agency. The total proposed  
43 expenditures in the balanced budget shall not exceed the amount of  
44 estimated revenues that will be available for appropriation or use  
45 during the succeeding fiscal year, including any balances other



46 than unencumbered balances in general funds that will be on hand  
47 at the close of the then current fiscal year, as determined by the  
48 revenue estimate jointly adopted by the Governor and the  
49 Legislative Budget Committee. The total proposed expenditures  
50 from the State General Fund in the balanced budget shall not  
51 exceed ninety-eight percent (98%) of the amount of general fund  
52 revenue estimate for the succeeding fiscal year. The general fund  
53 revenue estimate shall be the estimate jointly adopted by the  
54 Governor and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

55 The revenues used in preparing the balanced budget shall be  
56 only those revenues that will be available under the general laws  
57 of the state as they exist when the balanced budget is prepared,  
58 and shall not include any proposed revenues that would become  
59 available only after the enactment of new legislation. If the  
60 Governor has any recommendations for additional proposed  
61 expenditures or proposed revenues that are not included in his  
62 balanced budget, he shall submit those recommendations in a  
63 supplement that is separate from his balanced budget, and whenever  
64 the Governor recommends any such additional proposed expenditures,  
65 he also shall recommend proposed revenues that are sufficient to  
66 fund the additional proposed expenditures, providing specific  
67 details regarding the sources and the total amount of those  
68 proposed revenues.

69 The Governor may employ a budget officer for the purpose of  
70 receiving information from the State Fiscal Officer and preparing



71 his recommendations on the budget. If the Governor determines  
72 that information received from the State Fiscal Officer is not  
73 sufficient to enable him to prepare his budget recommendations, he  
74 may request an appropriation from the Legislature to provide  
75 additional staff within the Governor's office for that purpose.  
76 At the first regular session after his election for Governor, the  
77 Governor shall submit any budget recommendations plus the required  
78 revenue source recommendations no later than January 31 of that  
79 year.

80 **SECTION 3.** Section 27-103-203, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
81 brought forward as follows:

82 27-103-203. (1) There is created in the State Treasury a  
83 special fund, separate and apart from any other fund, to be  
84 designated the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund.

85 (2) The Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund shall not be  
86 considered as a surplus or available funds when adopting a  
87 balanced budget as required by law. The State Treasurer shall  
88 invest all sums in the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund not  
89 needed for the purposes provided for in this section in  
90 certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements and other  
91 securities as authorized in Section 27-105-33(d) or Section  
92 7-9-103, as the State Treasurer may determine to yield the highest  
93 market rate available. If the Ayers Settlement Fund is created  
94 under Section 37-101-27(5), the first Five Million Dollars  
95 (\$5,000,000.00) of interest earned on those sums each fiscal year



96 shall be deposited into that fund until a total of Seventy Million  
97 Dollars (\$70,000,000.00) has been deposited into the fund. The  
98 interest, or the remaining interest if the Ayers Settlement Fund  
99 is created, that is earned on those sums shall be deposited in the  
100 Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund until the balance of  
101 principal and interest in the fund reaches ten percent (10%) of  
102 the total General Fund appropriations for the current fiscal year,  
103 and all interest earned in excess of amounts necessary to maintain  
104 the ten percent (10%) fund balance requirement shall be deposited  
105 by the State Treasurer into the State General Fund.

106 (3) The Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund, except for  
107 Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) and the amount of the  
108 interest and income earned on the principal of the Ayers Endowment  
109 Trust created by Section 37-101-27, shall be used by the State  
110 Treasurer for cash flow needs throughout the year when the  
111 Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration  
112 certifies that in his opinion there will be cash flow deficiencies  
113 in the State General Fund. No borrowing of monies from other  
114 special funds for such purposes as authorized by Section 31-17-101  
115 et seq., shall be made as long as an unencumbered balance in  
116 excess of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) and the  
117 interest and income earned on the principal of the Ayers Endowment  
118 Trust created by Section 37-101-27 remains in the fund. The State  
119 Treasurer shall reimburse the fund for all sums borrowed for those  
120 purposes from General Fund revenues collected during the fiscal



121 year in which those funds are used. The State Treasurer shall  
122 immediately notify the Legislative Budget Office and the State  
123 Department of Finance and Administration of each transfer into and  
124 out of the fund. Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) in the  
125 Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund shall remain available for  
126 exclusive use of the Ayers Endowment Trust created by Section  
127 37-101-27. If the Ayers Settlement Fund is created under Section  
128 37-101-27(5), beginning when a total of Fifty-five Million Dollars  
129 (\$55,000,000.00) has been deposited into the fund, for each annual  
130 deposit of interest to that fund under subsection (2) of this  
131 section, the Ayers Endowment Trust created under Section  
132 37-101-27(1) shall be reduced by an equal amount annually until  
133 the Ayers Endowment Trust reaches Zero Dollars (\$0.00), at which  
134 time any requirements concerning the Ayers Endowment Trust in this  
135 section shall be null and void.

136 (4) The Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund, except for  
137 Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000.00), shall also be used for the  
138 purpose of covering any projected deficits that may occur in the  
139 General Fund at the end of a fiscal year as a result of revenue  
140 shortfalls. If the Governor determines that a deficit in revenues  
141 from all sources may occur, it shall be the duty of the Executive  
142 Director of the Department of Finance and Administration to  
143 transfer such funds as necessary to the General Fund to alleviate  
144 the deficit in accordance with Sections 27-104-13 and 31-17-123;  
145 however, not more than Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) may



146 be transferred from the fund for that purpose in any one (1)  
147 fiscal year.

148 (5) The Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund also shall  
149 be used to provide funds for the Disaster Assistance Trust Fund  
150 when those funds are immediately needed to provide for disaster  
151 assistance under Sections 33-15-301 through 33-15-317. Any  
152 transfer of funds from the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund  
153 to the Disaster Assistance Trust Fund shall be made in accordance  
154 with the provisions of subsection (5) of Section 33-15-307.

155 (6) The Department of Finance and Administration shall  
156 immediately send notice of any transfers made, or other action  
157 taken under authority of this section, to the Legislative Budget  
158 Office.

159 (7) Funds deposited in the Working Cash-Stabilization  
160 Reserve Fund shall be used only for the purposes specified in this  
161 section, and as long as the provisions of this section remain in  
162 effect, no other expenditure, appropriation or transfer of funds  
163 in the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund shall be made  
164 except by act of the Legislature making specific reference to the  
165 Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund as the source of those  
166 funds.

167 (8) Any funds appropriated from the Working  
168 Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund that are unexpended at the end of  
169 a fiscal year shall lapse into the Working Cash-Stabilization  
170 Reserve Fund.



171           **SECTION 4.** Section 27-103-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
172 brought forward as follows:

173           27-103-211. The total sum appropriated by the Legislature  
174 from the State General Fund for any fiscal year shall not exceed  
175 ninety-eight percent (98%) of the general fund revenue estimate  
176 for that fiscal year developed by the Department of Revenue and  
177 the University Research Center and adopted by the Joint  
178 Legislative Budget Committee. The unencumbered balances in  
179 general funds that will be available and on hand at the close of  
180 the fiscal year shall not include projected amounts required to be  
181 deposited into the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund under  
182 Section 27-103-203.

183           **SECTION 5.** Section 27-103-213, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
184 brought forward as follows:

185           27-103-213. (1) The unencumbered cash balance in the  
186 General Fund in the State Treasury at the close of each fiscal  
187 year shall be distributed to the Municipal Revolving Fund, the  
188 Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund and the Capital Expense  
189 Fund in the manner provided in this section.

190           (2) (a) At the end of each fiscal year, the Executive  
191 Director of the Department of Finance and Administration and the  
192 State Treasurer shall determine the extent of the unencumbered  
193 cash balance existing in the General Fund in the State Treasury.

194           (b) As used in this section, the term "unencumbered  
195 cash balance" or "unencumbered General Fund cash balance" means





196 the amount in the State General Fund after deducting all  
197 appropriations and other expenditures. However, if the  
198 Legislature has authorized additional or deficit appropriations or  
199 transfers from the State General Fund for that fiscal year, those  
200 amounts shall be subtracted from the unencumbered cash balance in  
201 the General Fund before determining the amount available for  
202 distribution. The unencumbered General Fund cash balance shall  
203 not be determined until after August 31 of each year, and it shall  
204 not be made until the State Treasurer has received a certificate  
205 in writing from the Executive Director of the Department of  
206 Finance and Administration, with notification to the Legislative  
207 Budget Office, showing the amount of the unencumbered General Fund  
208 cash balance.

209 (3) If any unencumbered General Fund cash balance is  
210 available for distribution under this section, the distribution of  
211 those funds shall be made by the Executive Director of the  
212 Department of Finance and Administration in the following order:

213 (a) To the Municipal Revolving Fund, an amount equal to  
214 Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00); however, if  
215 the amount of the unencumbered General Fund cash balance is less  
216 than Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00), then the  
217 total amount of the unencumbered General Fund cash balance shall  
218 be distributed to the Municipal Revolving Fund.

219 (b) To the Working Cash-Stabilization Reserve Fund,  
220 fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the unencumbered General Fund



221 cash balance after the distributions are made under paragraph (a),  
222 not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the General Fund appropriations  
223 for the fiscal year that the unencumbered General Fund cash  
224 balance represents. For the purposes of this paragraph (b), the  
225 appropriations for the fiscal year shall be the total amount  
226 contained in the actual appropriation bills passed by the  
227 Legislature.

228 (c) To the Capital Expense Fund, any remaining amount  
229 of the unencumbered General Fund cash balance after the  
230 distributions are made under paragraphs (a) and (b).

231 **SECTION 6.** Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
232 brought forward as follows:

233 27-103-303. (1) There is created in the State Treasury a  
234 special fund, separate and apart from any other fund, to be  
235 designated the Capital Expense Fund.

236 (2) The Capital Expense Fund shall not be considered as a  
237 surplus or available funds when adopting a balanced budget as  
238 required by law. The State Treasurer shall invest all sums in the  
239 Capital Expense Fund not needed for the purposes provided for in  
240 this section in certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements and  
241 other securities as authorized in Section 27-105-33(d) or Section  
242 7-9-103, as the State Treasurer may determine to yield the highest  
243 market rate available. Interest earned on this fund shall be  
244 deposited by the State Treasurer into the State General Fund.



245           (3) The Capital Expense Fund shall be used for capital  
246 expense needs, repair and renovation of state-owned properties and  
247 specific expenditures authorized by the Legislature. The  
248 Legislature shall designate those capital expense projects, repair  
249 and renovation projects and other authorized projects in an  
250 appropriation act passed by the Legislature, which shall direct  
251 the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration to  
252 administer the projects.

253           (4) In addition to the purposes specified in subsection (3)  
254 of this section, the Capital Expense Fund shall be used to provide  
255 funds for emergency repairs on state-owned buildings upon  
256 requisition of the Executive Director of the Department of Finance  
257 and Administration. Whenever the executive director determines  
258 that funds are immediately needed for emergency repairs on  
259 state-owned buildings, he or she shall requisition the funds  
260 needed from the Capital Expense Fund, which shall be subject to  
261 the limitations set forth in this subsection. At the same time he  
262 or she makes the requisition, the executive director shall notify  
263 the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
264 Representatives, the respective Chairmen of the Senate  
265 Appropriations Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House  
266 Appropriations Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee  
267 and the Legislative Budget Office of his or her determination of  
268 the need for the funds, the amount that he or she has  
269 requisitioned and where the funds will be used. If the amount



270 requisitioned is available in the Capital Expense Fund, is not  
271 allocated for any specific projects as authorized in subsection  
272 (3) of this section and is within the limitations set forth below  
273 in this subsection, then the executive director may escalate the  
274 budget of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property  
275 Management to use the full amount of the requisitioned funds for  
276 the emergency repairs and transfer that amount to the bureau for  
277 that purpose. If the amount requisitioned is more than the amount  
278 available in the Capital Expense Fund or above the limitations set  
279 forth below in this subsection, then the executive director may  
280 escalate the budget of the bureau to use the amount that is  
281 available within the limitations for the emergency repairs and  
282 transfer that amount to the bureau for that purpose. The maximum  
283 amount that may be transferred from the Capital Expense Fund to  
284 the bureau for any single emergency shall be One Million Dollars  
285 (\$1,000,000.00), and the maximum amount that may be transferred to  
286 the bureau for all emergencies during any fiscal year shall be  
287 Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

288 (5) Funds deposited in the Capital Expense Fund shall be  
289 used only for the purposes specified in this section, and as long  
290 as the provisions of this section remain in effect, no other  
291 expenditure, appropriation or transfer of funds in the Capital  
292 Expense Fund shall be made except by act of the Legislature making  
293 specific reference to the Capital Expense Fund as the source of  
294 those funds.



295 (6) Unexpended funds in the Capital Expense Fund at the end  
296 of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund but  
297 shall remain in the fund for use under this section. Any funds  
298 appropriated from the Capital Expense Fund that are unexpended at  
299 the end of a fiscal year shall lapse into the Capital Expense  
300 Fund.

301 **SECTION 7.** During fiscal year 2025, the State Treasurer, in  
302 conjunction with the State Fiscal Officer, shall transfer to the  
303 Capital Expense Fund the amounts listed below from each of the  
304 following named funds:

305 FUND	FUND NUMBER	AMOUNT
306 General Fund	2999000000	\$1.00
307 Treasurer's Office		
308 <u>Abandoned Property</u>	3317800000	<u>\$1.00</u>
309 TOTAL		\$2.00

310 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
311 and after July 1, 2024.

