

By: Representatives Bounds, Read, Anderson  
(122nd), Clark, Eure, Hale, Jackson (11th),  
Paden, Pigott

To: Appropriations B;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1777  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE BOARD OF  
3 REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS FOR  
4 FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
8 Treasury to the credit of the State Board of Registration for  
9 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, for the purpose of  
10 defraying the expenses of the board for the fiscal year beginning  
11 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 1,077,245.00.

12 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds approved for expenditure under the  
13 provisions of Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 5  
16 Time-Limited: 0

17 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
18 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
19 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds



20 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
21 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
22 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
23 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board  
24 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may  
25 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year  
26 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024  
27 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that  
28 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount  
29 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments  
30 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current  
31 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee  
32 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the  
33 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

34       Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
35 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
36 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
37 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
38 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
39 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the  
40 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
41 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
42 essential for the agency.

43       Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
44 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or



45 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
46 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
47 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
48 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
49 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
50 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
51 appropriated level.

52 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
53 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for  
54 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are  
55 withdrawn and no longer available.

56 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in  
57 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A  
58 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as  
59 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

60 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
61 State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land  
62 Surveyors shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records  
63 related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this  
64 act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of  
65 detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the  
66 intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for  
67 Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative  
68 Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the



69 format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025  
70 budget request process.

71       **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
72 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
73 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
74 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
75 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
76 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
77 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
78 made without competitive bids.

79       **SECTION 5.** Of the funds provided herein, Four Hundred  
80 Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) shall be provided in grants for  
81 ABET-accredited engineering programs and Board-approved surveying  
82 programs of any college or university in the State of Mississippi,  
83 after application to and subject to approval by the Board. The  
84 Board will develop guidelines for application, award, and  
85 disbursement of these grants. The Board will issue a written  
86 report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the chairs of the  
87 House and Senate Appropriations Committees as to how the grants  
88 were awarded not later than August 1, 2025.

89       **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
90 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
91 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
92 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
93 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally



94 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
95 actions contrary to this provision.

96         **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
97 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
98 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
99 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
100 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
101 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

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

