

By: Representatives Bounds, Read, Anderson  
(122nd), Clark, Eure, Hale, Jackson (45th),  
Paden, Pigott

To: Appropriations B;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1783

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND  
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL  
3 YEAR 2025.

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, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
10 .....\$ 3,388,239.00.

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, 2024, and ending  
15 June 30, 2025.....\$ 170,843,519.00.

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:                   106

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 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds  
27 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
28 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
29 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal  
30 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall  
31 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency  
32 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the  
33 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to  
34 the personal services amount must be approved by the State  
35 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation  
36 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be  
37 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate  
38 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services  
39 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved  
40 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active  
41 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's  
42 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are  
43 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,



44 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing  
45 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board  
46 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any  
47 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board  
48 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in  
49 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the  
50 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the  
51 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the  
52 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel  
53 Board.

54         Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
55 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
56 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
57 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
58 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
59 the agency's projected cost for Fiscal Year 2025 exceeds the  
60 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
61 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
62 essential for the agency.

63         Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
64 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
65 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
66 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
67 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
68 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written



69 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
70 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
71 appropriated level.

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

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

80 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
81 Department of Marine Resources shall maintain complete accounting  
82 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
83 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
84 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
85 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
86 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to  
87 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
88 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
89 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

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



93           **SECTION 6.** In addition to all other sums heretofore  
94 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
95 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
96 Treasury to the credit of the Tidelands Fund No. 3345200000 to the  
97 Department of Marine Resources for the purpose of defraying the  
98 expenses of the tidelands projects for the fiscal year beginning  
99 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025 .....\$    12,455,247.00.

100 This amount is allocated as follows:

101 Total Public Access Projects.....	\$           4,951,275.00
102 Total Management Projects.....	\$           4,951,275.00
103 Bond Repayment .....	\$           1,552,697.00
104 Prior Year Projects.....	\$           1,000,000.00

105           Each political subdivision receiving funds authorized in this  
106 section shall be held responsible for complying with Section  
107 29-15-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be subject to an  
108 audit by the State Auditor and shall submit detailed reports  
109 beginning June 30, and every six (6) months thereafter for the  
110 duration of the project to the Department of Marine Resources on  
111 how funds authorized in this section were expended.

112           It is the intention of the Legislature that any political  
113 subdivision seeking to qualify for tidelands funds for the  
114 subsequent fiscal year shall submit a proposal to the Department  
115 of Marine Resources no later than July 1, 2024. All proposals  
116 submitted will be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of  
117 Marine Resources in accordance to department plans and procedures.



118 Multiphased projects, multiyear projects, proposed projects with  
119 high dollar value and projects that have a record of stacking  
120 funds shall be considered as low priority projects when evaluated.

121 It is the intention of the Legislature that if the amount of  
122 the Tidelands funds appropriated in this act exceed the actual  
123 amount of tidelands funds available, the available funds shall be  
124 allocated on a pro rata basis between projects listed in this  
125 section.

126 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
127 department shall place any special trust funds appropriated to the  
128 department in a special trust fund and the interest earned on the  
129 principal shall be credited to the special trust fund. Monies in  
130 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained in the  
131 special trust fund for use in the next succeeding fiscal year.  
132 The department may use the interest earned on the fund to pay  
133 reasonable costs for administering the fund and related projects.

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

138 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature for the  
139 Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental  
140 Quality to continue with any agency partnerships, including grant  
141 agreements, that provide environmental projects to restore



142 Mississippi's natural resources in the wake of the Deepwater  
143 Horizon Oil Spill.

144       **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
145 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
146 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
147 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
148 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
149 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
150 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
151 made without competitive bids.

152       **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2,  
153 Eighty-seven Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred  
154 Five Dollars (\$87,560,705.00) is provided for the funding of the  
155 following Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) projects for  
156 FY 2025:

157       Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Eighty Seven Million  
158 Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Five Dollars  
159 (\$87,560,705.00) is provided for the funding of the following Gulf  
160 of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) projects for FY 2025:

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

163       (b) To assist the City of Gulfport with the  
164 North Gulfport Wastewater Treatment Plant UV  
165 Disinfection ..... \$ 1,200,000.00

166       (c) To assist the Hancock County Utility



167 Authority with the Stennis Space Center Wastewater  
 168 Conveyance Project ..... \$ 10,588,400.00  
 169 (d) To assist the City of Long Beach with  
 170 the Small Craft Harbor Eastern Bulkhead  
 171 Improvements ..... \$ 2,693,000.00  
 172 (e) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
 173 with the West Breakwater Wall Hurricane  
 174 Mitigation Improvements ..... \$ 2,590,000.00  
 175 (f) To assist the Department of Marine  
 176 Resources with Oyster Spat..... \$ 2,000,000.00  
 177 (g) To assist the Institute for Marine Mammal  
 178 Studies with Monitoring and Evaluation of Sea  
 179 Turtle Nesting in Mississippi ..... \$ 997,142.00  
 180 (h) To assist the University of Southern  
 181 Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery  
 182 Resource Assessment ..... \$ 505,437.00  
 183 (i) To assist the Hancock County Port and  
 184 Harbor Commission with Bank Mitigation ..... \$ 1,749,220.00  
 185 (j) To assist the University of Southern  
 186 Mississippi with Oak Island Oyster Company in the  
 187 Development and Testing of an Off Bottom Oyster  
 188 Structure ..... \$ 1,195,571.00  
 189 (k) To assist Jackson County with Coastal  
 190 Roadway Hurricane Protection ..... \$ 750,000.00  
 191 (l) To assist the Institute for Marine





192 Mammal Studies with Monitoring/Gauging Habitat  
193 Suitability for Dolphins and Turtles..... \$ 1,496,817.00  
194 (m) To assist the Kiln Utility District  
195 with Jourdan River Shores Sewer Improvements  
196 Phase II ..... \$ 2,255,600.00  
197 (n) To assist Harrison County with Sand  
198 Beach Outfall Coordination..... \$ 1,600,000.00  
199 (o) To assist the City of Ocean Springs  
200 With Sewer Rehabilitation ..... \$ 1,960,000.00  
201 (p) To assist the Department of Marine  
202 Resources with Oyster Cultch ..... \$ 1,000,000.00  
203 (q) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
204 with Highway 90 Hurricane Mitigation  
205 Improvements ..... \$ 2,540,000.00  
206 (r) To assist Coastal Mississippi with  
207 the promotion of the Seafood Industry and their  
208 Economic Contributions to the State ..... \$ 500,000.00  
209 (s) To assist the City of Diamondhead  
210 With Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water Quality  
211 Improvements Phase II..... \$ 1,999,839.00  
212 (t) To assist Jackson County with East Beach  
213 Outfalls/Shoreline Protection ..... \$ 1,710,000.00  
214 (u) To assist the City of Gautier with  
215 Hickory Hills/Lagrange Water Quality and  
216 Stormwater Improvements ..... \$ 2,973,981.00



217 (v) To assist the City of Biloxi with Keegan  
 218 Bayou Restoration ..... \$ 2,520,000.00  
 219 (w) To assist the Department of Marine  
 220 Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall  
 221 Pavilion ..... \$ 650,000.00  
 222 (x) To assist the City of Long Beach with  
 223 Small Craft Harbor Southern Quay Bulkhead  
 224 Improvements ..... \$ 2,554,000.00  
 225 (y) To assist the Department of Marine  
 226 Resources with Bonnet Carre Spillway  
 227 Mitigation ..... \$ 1,475,000.00  
 228 (z) To assist the City of D'Iberville with  
 229 the Working Waterfront and Seafood Harbor  
 230 Project..... \$ 500,000.00  
 231 (aa) To assist the University of Southern  
 232 Mississippi with the Ocean Enterprise Project..... \$ 1,847,409.00  
 233 (bb) To assist the Department of Marine  
 234 Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall ..... \$ 71,906.00  
 235 (cc) To assist the Department of Marine  
 236 Resources with the Coffee Creek water quality..... \$ 76,074.00  
 237 (dd) To assist Jackson County Board of  
 238 Supervisors with the Front Beach Erosion  
 239 Control ..... \$ 640,243.00  
 240 (ee) To assist the Department of Marine  
 241 Resources with GOMESA project management,



242	development and mitigation.....	\$	1,304,315.00
243	(ff) To assist the Department of Marine		
244	Resources with artificial reef construction.....	\$	443,351.00
245	(gg) To assist the Department of Environmental		
246	Quality with water quality.....	\$	866,683.00
247	(hh) To assist the Department of Marine		
248	Resources with Bonnet Carre Response .....	\$	27,134.00
249	(ii) To assist Jackson County with a		
250	Watershed Development Plan.....	\$	28,088.00
251	(jj) To assist the City of Pass Christian		
252	With Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Repairs .....	\$	967,575.00
253	(kk) To assist Hancock County with Atlantic		
254	Street Sewer Improvements .....	\$	669,725.00
255	(ll) To assist the City of Long Beach with		
256	Small Craft Harbor SE Bulkhead Improvements .....	\$	2,188,000.00
257	(mm) To assist the Kiln Utility District		
258	with the Jordan River Shores Sewer Force Main		
259	Relocation .....	\$	189,828.00
260	(nn) To assist the City of Biloxi with		
261	the Point Cadet Living Shoreline .....	\$	756,537.00
262	(oo) To assist the Department of Marine		
263	Resources with MS Reef Fish Monitoring and		
264	Assessment .....	\$	47,657.00
265	(pp) To assist Hancock County Utility		
266	Authority with Oak Harbor Sewer Improvements.....	\$	2,804,082.00



267	(qq) To assist Hancock County Port and Harbor		
268	Commission with Port Bienville Conservation		
269	Management .....	\$	261,643.00
270	(rr) To assist the City of Gautier with Water		
271	Quality and Infrastructure Sanitary Sewer .....	\$	38,899.00
272	(ss) To assist the City of Pascagoula with		
273	Buena Vista Area Drainage .....	\$	490,712.00
274	(tt) To assist the City of Pass Christian		
275	with Gravity Sewer System Improvements Phase I....	\$	1,650,669.00
276	(uu) To assist the City of Pascagoula with		
277	Point Park Pier Repair/Improvements .....	\$	322,651.00
278	(vv) To assist the Department of Marine		
279	Resources with the Railroad Corner Beneficial Use		
280	Site .....	\$	57,606.00
281	(ww) To assist the University of Southern		
282	Mississippi with collection of Fishery-Dependent		
283	information on Blue Crabs .....	\$	32,254.00
284	(xx) To assist the National Oceans and		
285	Applications Research Center with the Cat Island		
286	Baseline Inventory of Seagrass Habitat .....	\$	9,679.00
287	(yy) To assist the National Oceans and		
288	Applications Research Center with the Inventory		
289	Of Wetlands Habitats .....	\$	93,436.00
290	(zz) To assist Mississippi State University		
291	with the Evaluation and Monitoring of Marine Mammal		



292 and Sea Turtles after Bonnet Carre Spillway  
 293 Opening ..... \$ 1,073,767.00  
 294 (aaa) To assist the American Shrimp Processors  
 295 Association with the Shrimp Processors Feasibility  
 296 Study..... \$ 602,728.00  
 297 (bbb) To assist the Jackson County Utility  
 298 Authority with Septic System Abatements ..... \$ 1,604,708.00  
 299 (ccc) To assist the University of Southern  
 300 Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery  
 301 Resource Assessment ..... \$ 43,932.00  
 302 (ddd) To assist the Department of Marine  
 303 Resources with the Katrina Key Expansion ..... \$ 430,000.00  
 304 (eee) To assist the Secretary of State with  
 305 the Broadwater Marina Restoration ..... \$ 3,678,850.00  
 306 (fff) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
 307 with Sewer Pump Station Repairs..... \$ 366,335.00  
 308 (ggg) To assist the City of Diamondhead  
 309 With Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water Quality  
 310 Improvements ..... \$ 1,193,447.00  
 311 (hhh) To assist the Department of Marine  
 312 Resources with the Bonnet Carre and Mid Breton  
 313 Response ..... \$ 660,467.00  
 314 (iii) To assist the City of Ocean Springs  
 315 with the Front Beach Pub Access and Storm Water  
 316 Mitigation Improvements ..... \$ 1,992,554.00



317 (jjj) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
318 with Phase II of the Gravity Sewer System  
319 Improvements ..... \$ 4,524,487.00  
320 (kkk) To assist the Department of Marine  
321 Resources with the Off Bottom Oyster  
322 Aquaculture..... \$ 1,366,785.00  
323 (lll) To assist the Department of Marine  
324 Resources with the Pelican Key Beneficial Use  
325 Site ..... \$ 348,220.00  
326 (mmm) To assist the Department of Marine  
327 Resources with Phase II of the Katrina Key  
328 Expansion ..... \$ 400,000.00  
329 (nnn) To assist the Jackson County Board  
330 of Supervisors with the Pascagoula Beach Open  
331 Channel Outfalls..... \$ 1,339,000.00  
332 (ooo) To assist the Department of Marine  
333 Resources with water testing for Seafood  
334 Consumption Safety ..... \$ 45,262.00

335 **SECTION 12.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
336 Department of Marine Resources shall have the authority to expend  
337 funds in an amount not to exceed Seventeen Million Dollars  
338 (\$17,000,000.00) from funds for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security  
339 Act (GOMESA) that may become available to the agency in fiscal  
340 year 2025 in accordance with the rules and regulations of the



341 Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent  
342 with the escalation of federal funds.

343         **SECTION 13.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none  
344 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain  
345 utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such  
346 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,  
347 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,  
348 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance  
349 with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall  
350 include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not  
351 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities  
352 shall be prohibited.

353         **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
354 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
355 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
356 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
357 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
358 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
359 actions contrary to this provision.

360         **SECTION 15.** With the funds appropriated herein, the  
361 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is authorized to make  
362 payments for expenses incurred during prior fiscal years for an  
363 amount not to exceed One Hundred Forty-four Thousand Six Hundred  
364 Fifty-eight Dollars and Fifty-Three Cents (\$144,658.53).



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

371           **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
372 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2024.

