

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

To: Appropriations B;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1783
(As Sent to Governor)

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\$ 3,604,594.00.

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.....\$ 256,780,550.00.

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: 108

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
30 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
31 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
32 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
33 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024
34 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
35 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
36 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
37 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
38 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
39 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
40 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

41 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
42 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
43 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to



44 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
45 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
46 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
47 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
48 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
49 essential for the agency.

50 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
51 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
52 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
53 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
54 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
55 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
56 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
57 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
58 appropriated level.

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62 withdrawn and no longer available.

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

67 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
68 Department of Marine Resources shall maintain complete accounting



69 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
70 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
71 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
72 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
73 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
74 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
75 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
76 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

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

80 **SECTION 6.** In addition to all other sums heretofore
81 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
82 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
83 Treasury to the credit of the Tidelands Fund No. 3345200000 to the
84 Department of Marine Resources for the purpose of defraying the
85 expenses of the tidelands projects for the fiscal year beginning
86 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025\$ 11,700,000.00.

87 This amount is allocated as follows:

88 PROJECT NO.	PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECTS	AMOUNT
89 Harrison County:		
90 FY25-P603-03	Courthouse Road Boat Launch and	
91	Jetties Improvements/Mitigation	
92	-City Of Gulfport.....	\$ 500,000.00
93 FY25-P511-12	D'Iberville Working Waterfront	



94		And Seafood Harbor	
95		-City Of D'Iberville.....	\$ 800,000.00
96	FY25-P511-13	Fountain Pier and Kayak Launch	
97		-City Of D'Iberville.....	\$ 100,000.00
98	FY25-P600-10	Pass Christian Small Craft Harbor/ Pier C-2 Improvements	
100		-City Of Pass Christian.....	\$ 340,000.00
101	FY25-P613-11	Long Beach Small Craft Harbor Improvements	
103		-City Of Long Beach.....	\$ 500,000.00
104	FY25-M648-20	Development of a broodstock of southern flounder	
106		- Univ. of Southern Mississippi.....	\$ 164,534.00
107		Dredging Project at Brashier Bayou	
108		-City of Biloxi.....	\$ 400,000.00
109	Jackson County:		
110	FY25-P412-13	McPhearson Pier Rehabilitation	
111		-City Of Ocean Springs.....	\$ 250,000.00
112	FY25-P618-01	Fairway Drive Boat Launch and Pier	
113		-City Of Gautier.....	\$ 250,000.00
114	FY25-P602-03	Hwy 63 Boat Launch Improvements	
115		-Jackson Cnty Brd of Supervisors.....	\$ 200,000.00
116	FY25-P501-10	Moss Point Riverfront Enhancements	
117		-City Of Moss Point.....	\$ 250,000.00
118	FY25-P604-07	Beach Park Pier Repairs and	



119		Enhancements	
120		-City Of Pascagoula.....	\$ 400,000.00
121	Hancock County:		
122	FY25-P610-13	Municipal Harbor Beach Amenities	
123		and Improvement	
124		- Hancock Cnty Brd of Supervisors...	\$ 400,000.00
125	FY25-P401-11	Municipal Harbor Beach Amenities	
126		and Improvement	
127		-City Of Bay St. Louis.....	\$ 250,000.00
128	FY25-P646-10	Coleman Avenue Waterfront	
129		Improvements	
130		-City Of Waveland.....	\$ 250,000.00
131	FY25-P510-01	Lily Pond Public Access Improvements	
132		-City Of Diamondhead.....	\$ 250,000.00
133		Total Public Access Projects.....	\$ 5,304,534.00
134		Total Management Projects.....	\$ 3,842,769.00
135		Bond Repayment	\$ 1,552,697.00
136		Prior Year Projects.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
137		Total Tidelands Funds.....	\$11,700,000.00

138 Each political subdivision receiving funds authorized in this
139 section shall be held responsible for complying with Section
140 29-15-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be subject to an
141 audit by the State Auditor and shall submit detailed reports
142 beginning June 30, and every six (6) months thereafter for the



143 duration of the project to the Department of Marine Resources on
144 how funds authorized in this section were expended.

145 It is the intention of the Legislature that any political
146 subdivision seeking to qualify for tidelands funds for the
147 subsequent fiscal year shall submit a proposal to the Department
148 of Marine Resources no later than July 1, 2024. All proposals
149 submitted will be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of
150 Marine Resources in accordance to department plans and procedures.
151 Multiphased projects, multiyear projects, proposed projects with
152 high dollar value and projects that have a record of stacking
153 funds shall be considered as low priority projects when evaluated.

154 It is the intention of the Legislature that if the amount of
155 the Tidelands funds appropriated in this act exceed the actual
156 amount of tidelands funds available, the available funds shall be
157 allocated on a pro rata basis between projects listed in this
158 section.

159 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
160 department shall place any special trust funds appropriated to the
161 department in a special trust fund and the interest earned on the
162 principal shall be credited to the special trust fund. Monies in
163 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained in the
164 special trust fund for use in the next succeeding fiscal year.
165 The department may use the interest earned on the fund to pay
166 reasonable costs for administering the fund and related projects.



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

171 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature for the
172 Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental
173 Quality to continue with any agency partnerships, including grant
174 agreements, that provide environmental projects to restore
175 Mississippi's natural resources in the wake of the Deepwater
176 Horizon Oil Spill.

177 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
178 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
179 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
180 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
181 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
182 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
183 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
184 made without competitive bids.

185 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One
186 Hundred Nineteen Million Seven Hundred Thirteen Thousand One
187 Hundred Ninety-six Dollars (\$119,713,196.00) is provided for the
188 funding of the following Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act
189 (GOMESA) projects for FY 2025:

190 (a) To assist the City of Waveland with
191 Center City Infrastructure Improvements -



192 Sewer.....\$ 4,000,000.00
 193 (b) To assist the City of D'Iberville with
 194 Working Waterfront Marina Expansion Project
 195 Phase II.....\$ 2,500,000.00
 196 (c) To assist the City of Ocean Springs
 197 With Washington Avenue and Front Beach Utility
 198 Improvement.....\$ 1,200,000.00
 199 (d) To assist the City of Gautier with
 200 Marin Bluff and Hickory Hills Sewer Improvements...\$ 2,701,150.00
 201 (e) To assist the City of Moss Point with
 202 Riverfront Coastal River Protection.....\$ 3,750,000.00
 203 (f) To assist the City of Moss Point with
 204 Storm Water Park.....\$ 118,500.00
 205 (g) To assist the Jackson County Utility
 206 Authority with Poticaw Road Sewer Extension.....\$ 1,200,000.00
 207 (h) To assist Mississippi State University
 208 with Fixed Lab Equipment.....\$ 865,000.00
 209 (i) To assist the Diamondhead Water and Sewer
 210 District Sewer Improvements Phase III.....\$ 1,000,000.00
 211 (j) To assist the Hancock County Water and
 212 Sewer District with Asbestos Water Pipe Replacement
 213 And Port Bienville Water Improvements.....\$ 1,000,000.00
 214 (k) To assist the Kiln Utility and Fire
 215 District with Hwy 603 Sewer Expansion from Hwy 43
 216 To Cuevas Town Road.....\$ 2,452,575.00



217 (l) To assist The Nature Conservancy with
 218 Using Brood Stock Reefs to Enhance Oyster
 219 Production on Commercial Leases.....\$ 1,000,000.00
 220 (m) To assist the City of Ocean Springs with
 221 Front Beach Bulkhead.....\$ 1,600,000.00
 222 (n) To assist the City of Pascagoula with
 223 the Live Oak Corridor Drainage to Remedy
 224 Flooding.....\$ 2,000,000.00
 225 (o) To assist the City of Gulfport with the
 226 North Gulfport Wastewater Treatment Plant UV
 227 Disinfection.....\$ 1,200,000.00
 228 (p) To assist the Hancock County Utility
 229 Authority with the Stennis Space Center
 230 Wastewater Conveyance Project.....\$ 10,064,952.00
 231 (q) To assist the City of Long Beach with
 232 the Small Craft Harbor Eastern Bulkhead
 233 Improvements.....\$ 5,193,000.00
 234 (r) To assist the City of Pass Christian
 235 with the West Breakwater Wall Hurricane
 236 Mitigation Improvements.....\$ 2,563,000.00
 237 (s) To assist the Department of Marine
 238 Resources with Oyster Spat.....\$ 4,000,000.00
 239 (t) To assist the Institute for Marine
 240 Mammal Studies with Monitoring and Evaluation of
 241 Sea Turtle Nesting in Mississippi.....\$ 990,128.00



242 (u) To assist the University of Southern
 243 Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery
 244 Resource Assessment.....\$ 382,317.00
 245 (v) To assist the Hancock County Port and
 246 Harbor Commission with Sewer Construction and
 247 Improvements to Site 1 at Port Bienville
 248 Industrial Park.....\$ 1,749,220.00
 249 (w) To assist the University of Southern
 250 Mississippi with Oak Island Oyster Company in the
 251 Development and Testing of an Off Bottom Oyster
 252 Structure.....\$ 1,195,571.00
 253 (x) To assist Jackson County with Coastal
 254 Roadway Hurricane Protection.....\$ 750,000.00
 255 (y) To assist the Institute for Marine
 256 Mammal Studies with Monitoring/Gauging Habitat
 257 Suitability for Dolphins and Turtles.....\$ 1,485,958.00
 258 (z) To assist the Kiln Utility District
 259 with Jourdan River Shores Sewer Improvements
 260 Phase II.....\$ 2,225,600.00
 261 (aa) To assist Harrison County with Sand
 262 Beach Outfall Coordination.....\$ 1,600,000.00
 263 (bb) To assist the City of Ocean Springs
 264 With Sewer Rehabilitation.....\$ 1,960,000.00
 265 (cc) To assist the Department of Marine
 266 Resources with Oyster Cultch.....\$ 2,000,000.00



267 (dd) To assist the City of Pass Christian
 268 with Highway 90 Hurricane Mitigation
 269 Improvements.....\$ 5,195,000.00
 270 (ee) To assist Coastal Mississippi with
 271 the promotion of the Seafood Industry and their
 272 Economic Contributions to the State.....\$ 500,000.00
 273 (ff) To assist the City of Diamondhead
 274 With Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water
 275 Quality Improvements Phase II.....\$ 1,999,839.00
 276 (gg) To assist Jackson County with East
 277 Beach Outfalls/Shoreline Protection.....\$ 1,710,000.00
 278 (hh) To assist the City of Gautier with
 279 Hickory Hills/Lagrange Water Quality and
 280 Stormwater Improvements.....\$ 2,941,981.00
 281 (ii) To assist the City of Biloxi with
 282 Keegan Bayou Restoration.....\$ 2,520,000.00
 283 (jj) To assist the Department of Marine
 284 Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall
 285 Pavilion.....\$ 635,819.00
 286 (kk) To assist the City of Long Beach with
 287 Small Craft Harbor Southern Quay Bulkhead
 288 Improvements.....\$ 2,554,000.00
 289 (ll) To assist the Department of Marine
 290 Resources with Bonnet Carre Spillway
 291 Mitigation.....\$ 1,475,000.00



292 (mm) To assist the City of D'Iberville with
293 the Working Waterfront and Seafood Harbor
294 Project.....\$ 500,000.00

295 (nn) To assist the University of
296 Southern Mississippi with the Ocean Enterprise
297 Project.....\$ 1,142,308.00

298 (oo) To assist the Department of Marine
299 Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall.....\$ 55,738.00

300 (pp) To assist the Department of Marine
301 Resources with the Coffee Creek water quality.....\$ 76,073.00

302 (qq) To assist Jackson County Board of
303 Supervisors with the Front Beach Erosion
304 Control.....\$ 640,243.00

305 (rr) To assist the Department of Marine
306 Resources with GOMESA project management,
307 development and mitigation.....\$ 1,288,123.00

308 (ss) To assist the Department of Marine
309 Resources with artificial reef construction.....\$ 1,032,598.00

310 (tt) To assist the Department of
311 Environmental Quality with water quality.....\$ 864,037.00

312 (uu) To assist the Department of Marine
313 Resources with Bonnet Carre Response.....\$ 24,855.00

314 (vv) To assist the City of Pass Christian
315 With Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Repairs.....\$ 3,208,475.00

316 (ww) To assist Hancock County with Atlantic



317	Street Sewer Improvements.....	\$	402,342.00
318	(xx) To assist the City of Long Beach		
319	With Small Craft Harbor SE Bulkhead		
320	Improvements.....	\$	2,188,000.00
321	(yy) To assist the Kiln Utility District		
322	with the Jordan River Shores Sewer Force Main		
323	Relocation.....	\$	189,828.00
324	(zz) To assist the City of Biloxi with		
325	the Point Cadet Living Shoreline.....	\$	756,537.00
326	(aaa) To assist the Department of Marine		
327	Resources with MS Reef Fish Monitoring and		
328	Assessment.....	\$	297,348.00
329	(bbb) To assist Hancock County Utility		
330	Authority with Oak Harbor Sewer Improvements.....	\$	2,804,082.00
331	(ccc) To assist Hancock County Port and		
332	Harbor Commission with Port Bienville		
333	Conservation Management.....	\$	260,423.00
334	(ddd) To assist the City of Pascagoula with		
335	Buena Vista Area Drainage.....	\$	485,406.00
336	(eee) To assist the City of Pass Christian		
337	with Gravity Sewer System Improvements Phase I.....	\$	1,643,861.00
338	(fff) To assist the City of Pascagoula with		
339	Point Park Pier Repair/Improvements.....	\$	318,151.00
340	(ggg) To assist the Department of Marine		
341	Resources with the Railroad Corner Beneficial		



342	Use Site.....	\$	57,606.00
343	(hhh) To assist the University of Southern		
344	Mississippi with collection of Fishery-Dependent		
345	information on Blue Crabs.....	\$	30,804.00
346	(iii) To assist the National Oceans and		
347	Applications Research Center with the Cat Island		
348	Baseline Inventory of Seagrass Habitat.....	\$	8,731.00
349	(jjj) To assist the National Oceans and		
350	Applications Research Center with the Inventory		
351	Of Wetlands Habitats.....	\$	66,971.00
352	(kkk) To assist Mississippi State University		
353	with the Evaluation and Monitoring of Marine		
354	Mammal and Sea Turtles after Bonnet Carre		
355	Spillway Opening.....	\$	903,650.00
356	(lll) To assist the American Shrimp		
357	Processors Association with the Shrimp		
358	Processors Feasibility Study.....	\$	596,148.00
359	(mmm) To assist the Jackson County Utility		
360	Authority with Septic System Abatements.....	\$	1,604,707.00
361	(nnn) To assist the University of Southern		
362	Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery		
363	Resource Assessment.....	\$	43,932.00
364	(ooo) To assist the Department of Marine		
365	Resources with the Katrina Key Expansion.....	\$	430,000.00
366	(ppp) To assist the Secretary of State with		



367 the Broadwater Marina Restoration.....\$ 3,578,590.00
 368 (qqq) To assist the City of Pass Christian
 369 with Sewer Pump Station Repairs.....\$ 348,585.00
 370 (rrr) To assist the City of Diamondhead
 371 With Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water
 372 Quality Improvements.....\$ 1,193,447.00
 373 (sss) To assist the Department of Marine
 374 Resources with the Bonnet Carre and Mid Breton
 375 Response.....\$ 525,163.00
 376 (ttt) To assist the City of Ocean Springs
 377 with the Front Beach Pub Access and Storm Water
 378 Mitigation Improvements.....\$ 1,934,039.00
 379 (uuu) To assist the City of Pass Christian
 380 with Phase II of the Gravity Sewer System
 381 Improvements.....\$ 4,466,316.00
 382 (vvv) To assist the Department of Marine
 383 Resources with the Off Bottom Oyster
 384 Aquaculture.....\$ 1,334,987.00
 385 (www) To assist the Department of Marine
 386 Resources with the Pelican Key Beneficial
 387 Use Site.....\$ 348,220.00
 388 (xxx) To assist the Department of Marine
 389 Resources with Phase II of the Katrina Key
 390 Expansion.....\$ 400,000.00
 391 (yyy) To assist the Jackson County Board



392 of Supervisors with the Pascagoula Beach Open
393 Channel Outfalls.....\$ 1,339,000.00
394 (zzz) To assist the Department of Marine
395 Resources with water testing for Seafood
396 Consumption Safety.....\$ 45,262.00

397 **SECTION 12.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the
398 Department of Marine Resources shall have the authority to expend
399 funds in an amount not to exceed Ten Million Dollars
400 (\$10,000,000.00) from funds for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security
401 Act (GOMESA) that may become available to the agency in fiscal
402 year 2025 in accordance with the rules and regulations of the
403 Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent
404 with the escalation of federal funds.

405 **SECTION 13.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
406 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain
407 utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such
408 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,
409 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,
410 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance
411 with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall
412 include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not
413 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities
414 shall be prohibited.

415 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
416 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with



417 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
418 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
419 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
420 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
421 actions contrary to this provision.

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

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

433 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
434 and after July 1, 2024.

