

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

To: Appropriations B;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1786  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE PEARL RIVER VALLEY WATER  
3 SUPPLY DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL 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 authorized and approved for expenditure out of any  
7 special source funds which are received by or otherwise become  
8 available to the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, for the  
9 purpose of defraying the expenses of the district for the fiscal  
10 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
11 .....\$ 25,191,367.00.

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

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 109  
16 Time-Limited: 1

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 Pearl River Valley Water Supply District shall maintain complete  
62 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all  
63 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be  
64 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal  
65 Year 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that  
66 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be  
67 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format



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

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

78 **SECTION 5.** The funds herein approved for expenditure, except  
79 and less an amount approved by the State Fiscal Officer which  
80 shall be sufficient to cover disbursements for current operations,  
81 shall be deposited at interest with any official depository of the  
82 state at a rate of interest numerically not less than one percent  
83 (1%) below the bank discount rate on United States Treasury bills  
84 of comparable maturity as determined by the State Treasurer.

85 **SECTION 6.** None of the funds appropriated for expenditure  
86 under this act may be expended by Pearl River Valley Water Supply  
87 District until the district agrees to comply with the following  
88 condition: the District shall waive traffic control fees for any  
89 vehicle displaying a "REZ" tag.

90 **SECTION 7.** None of the funds appropriated for expenditure  
91 under this act may be expended by Pearl River Valley Water Supply  
92 District until the district agrees to comply with the following



93 conditions: (1) If any local governmental or nonprofit entity  
94 wins the bid for the ESPN Bass Masters Classic or the FLW Major  
95 Open, these events shall be exempt from the district's lottery  
96 system for host events at the reservoir and given priority of any  
97 and all date options available. (2) If any local governmental or  
98 nonprofit entity wins the bid for such events, the district shall  
99 waive the daily launch fees or any other special event fees for  
100 the ESPN Bass Masters Classic or the FLW Major Open. (3) The  
101 Catch A Dream Foundation Bass Classic shall be held on the first  
102 Sunday in May unless any local governmental or nonprofit entity  
103 wins the bid for the ESPN Bass Masters Classic or the FLW Major  
104 Open on that date. The Catch A Dream Foundation Bass Classic  
105 shall be exempt from the district's lottery system for host events  
106 at the reservoir and given priority for the first Sunday in May.  
107 The district shall waive the daily launch fees or any other  
108 special event fees for the Classic.

109       **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated herein, Two Hundred  
110 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) is provided for the purpose of  
111 funding overtime, callback or standby pay.

112       **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
113 Section 1, One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
114 (\$1,750,000.00), or so much thereof, shall be derived out of any  
115 money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense  
116 Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
117 and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.



118           These funds are provided for dredging and other related  
119 activities to remove sediments and debris from the bottom of the  
120 Ross Barnett Reservoir.

121           **SECTION 10.** Funds are provided herein out of the Ross Barnett  
122 Reservoir Dredging Fund for dredging and other related activities  
123 to remove sediments and debris from the bottom of the Ross Barnett  
124 Reservoir.

125           **SECTION 11.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
126 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
127 Expense Fund, not otherwise appropriated for Pearl River Valley  
128 Water Supply District for the purpose of reauthorizing the  
129 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1631,  
130 2023 Regular Session, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of  
131 Pearl River Valley Water Supply District for the fiscal year  
132 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
133 .....\$       1,352,364.00.

134           Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
135 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
136 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
137 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
138 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
139 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

140           **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
141 of Section 1 of this act, Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) is  
142 provided for the construction of a new office building.



143           **SECTION 13.** The funds herein appropriated shall be expended  
144 in compliance with Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
145 that no state agency shall incur obligations or indebtedness in  
146 excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers,  
147 either personally or upon their official bonds, shall be held  
148 responsible for actions contrary to this provision.

149           **SECTION 14.** The money herein approved for expenditure shall  
150 be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper person, officer  
151 or officers, in the manner provided by law or in accordance with  
152 the provisions of a valid trust indenture.

153           **SECTION 15.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
154 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
155 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
156 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
157 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
158 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

159           **SECTION 16.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
160 and after July 1, 2024.

