

By: Representatives Deweese, Read, Bennett,
Creekmore IV, Currie, McGee, Scott, Turner,
Young

To: Appropriations C;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1797

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE
2 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
5 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
6 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of Human
7 Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
8 June 30, 2025.....\$ 75,956,688.00.

9 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
10 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
11 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Human
12 Services which is comprised of special source funds collected by
13 or otherwise available to the department for the support of the
14 various divisions of the department, for the purpose of defraying
15 the expenses of the department for the fiscal year beginning
16 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 1,738,701,848.00.

17 **SECTION 3.** None of the funds appropriated by this act shall
18 be expended for any purpose that is not actually required or



19 necessary for performing any of the powers or duties of the
20 Department of Human Services that are authorized by the
21 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, state or federal law, or rules
22 or regulations that implement state or federal law.

23 **SECTION 4.** With the funds appropriated in this act, the
24 following positions are authorized:

25 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

26	Permanent:	Full Time.....	1,296
27	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	455

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



44 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active
45 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's
46 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are
47 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,
48 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
49 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board
50 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any
51 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board
52 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in
53 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the
54 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the
55 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the
56 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel
57 Board.

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

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



69 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
70 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
71 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
72 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
73 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
74 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
75 appropriated level.

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

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

84 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
85 Department of Human Services shall maintain complete accounting
86 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
87 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
88 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
89 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
90 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
91 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
92 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
93 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.



94 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 herein to
95 the Department of Human Services, One Million Dollars
96 (\$1,000,000.00) shall be transferred to the Department of Health,
97 Child Care Licensure Program from the Child Care Development Fund
98 or other appropriate special fund. These funds are to be
99 transferred to the Board of Health no later than July 31, 2024.
100 The Department of Health shall make a complete accounting to the
101 Department of Human Services detailing the uses of these funds in
102 accordance with federal and state regulations.

103 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
104 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
105 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
106 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
107 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
108 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
109 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
110 made without competitive bids.

111 **SECTION 8.** The Department of Human Services is authorized to
112 expend available funds on technology or equipment upgrades or
113 replacements when it will generate savings through efficiency or
114 when the savings generated from such upgrades or replacements
115 exceed expenditures thereof.

116 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
117 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain
118 utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such



119 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,
 120 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,
 121 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance
 122 with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall
 123 include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not
 124 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities
 125 shall be prohibited.

126 **SECTION 10.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
 127 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
 128 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
 129 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
 130 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
 131 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
 132 performance measures provided below:

133		FY2025
134	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
135	Support Services	
136	Percent of Referred/Directed	
137	Investigative Audits Conducted	100.00
138	Percent of Special Investigations Conducted	95.00
139	Percent of Referred/Obtained Fraud	
140	Investigations Conducted Timely	100.00
141	Percent of Referred Administrative	
142	Disqualification Hearings & Fair	
143	Hearings Conducted Timely	99.00



144	Percent of Monitoring Reviews Conducted	
145	within Acceptable Timeframes	98.00
146	Total Amount of Funds Recovered	3,500,000.00
147	Aging & Adult Services	
148	In-Home Services - Age 60 + (Persons Served)	32,680
149	Community Services - Age 60 + (Persons	
150	Served)	193,617
151	Number of Congregate Meals	468,272
152	Number of Home Delivered Meals	2,700,000
153	Substantiated Incidences of Abuse of	
154	Vulnerable Adults per 1,000 Population	0.17
155	Home Delivered Meals, Percent Reduction	
156	of Persons on Waiting list	5.00
157	Child Support Enforcement	
158	Number of Paternities Established	15,500
159	Percent Change in Paternities Established	3.30
160	Number of Obligations Established	16,000
161	Percent Change in Obligations Established	12.50
162	Total Collections (\$)	378,000,000.00
163	Percent Change in Total Collections	-2.50
164	Number of Absent Parents Located	68,000
165	Percent of Child Support Cases Current	
166	on Payments	-2.53
167	Community Services	
168	Number of Elderly Served by CSBG & LIHEAP	20,352



169	Number of Disabled Served CSBG/LIHEAP	26,762
170	Number of Households Achieving	
171	Self-Sufficiency CSBG/LIHEAP	0
172	Percent Increase in Rate of Households	
173	Attaining Self-Sufficiency	0.00
174	Number of Households Stabilized CSBG/LIHEAP	0
175	Percent Increase in the Number of	
176	Households Stabilized	0.00
177	Number of Households Weatherized	516
178	Early Childhood Care & Dev	
179	Number of Children Served	30,138
180	Assistance Payments	
181	Dollar Amount of Assistance	6,240,877.00
182	Food Assistance	
183	Number of Average Monthly Households	225,000
184	Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program	
185	- SNAP (\$)	716,413,100.00
186	Percent of Mississippi Households	
187	Receiving SNAP Benefits	22.51
188	Tanf Work Program	
189	Number of Average Monthly TANF Households	8,864
190	Number of Average Monthly Persons Served	
191	in TANF Work Program	1,107
192	TANF Work Program Participation Rate (%)	60.00
193	Number of Persons Employed Through the	



194	TANF Work Program for the Year	832
195	Number of Households Receiving TANF	
196	Benefits During the Year	9,969
197	Percent of Households Receiving TANF	
198	During the Year	49.00
199	Percent of TANF Participants in Job Trng	
200	Who Enter Employment	30.00
201	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
202	Training Who Enter Employment at A	
203	Salary Sufficient to Be Ineligible for	
204	TANF	19.00
205	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
206	Training Who Remain Employed For: One	
207	Year After Leaving the Program	75.00
208	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
209	Training Who Remain Employed For: Five	
210	Years After Leaving the Program	65.00
211	Social Services Block Grant	
212	Number of Clients Served, Division of	
213	Family & Children's Services	75,611
214	Number of Clients Served, Aging & Adult	
215	Services	21,178
216	Number of Clients Served, Youth Services	12,880
217	Youth Services	
218	Community Services (Children Served)	15,000



219	Institutional Component (Children Served)	300
220	Number of Volunteers - Community	
221	Services/Institution	0
222	Number of Children Placed in Alternative	
223	Placement	0
224	Percent of Children Diverted from	
225	Institutional Care	95.00
226	Recidivism Rate (%)	20.00

227 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
228 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
229 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
230 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

231 **SECTION 11.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the
232 Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support
233 Enforcement, make a concentrated effort to increase collections of
234 past due child support payments. On or before January 1, 2025,
235 the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services shall
236 submit a report to the Legislative Budget Office detailing
237 year-to-date performance measures in the Child Support Enforcement
238 Program compared with the prior year.

239 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
240 Department of Human Services shall have the authority to spend
241 such additional funds as it shall receive from the federal
242 government in incentives or the federal match on those incentives
243 for the purpose of child support enforcement.



244 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two
245 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be transferred
246 to the Juvenile Facility Monitoring Unit at the Department of
247 Public Safety no later than July 31, 2024.

248 **SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated herein, to the
249 Department of Human Services One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00),
250 is provided for the support of the Home Delivered Meals Program
251 and any additional funds that may be appropriated to this program.

252 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds provided in Section 1, herein to
253 the Department of Human Services, an amount not to exceed One
254 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) is provided to fund the
255 Senior Olympics Program.

256 **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
257 Governor's Office, Division of Medicaid and the Department of
258 Human Services shall continue to work together to implement
259 Section 43-12-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, known as the "Medicaid
260 and Human Services Transparency and Fraud Prevention Act".

261 **SECTION 17.** As a condition of receiving and expending any
262 funds appropriated under this act, the Department of Human
263 Services:

264 (a) Shall use a competitive procurement process for entering
265 into all TANF subgrant agreements with non-state entities when the
266 federal government does not direct to whom the funds must be
267 subgranted;



268 (b) Upon awarding of a grant to any subgrantee of the
269 department, shall require the subgrantee to submit a monthly
270 report to the department that contains, but is not limited to, all
271 of the following:

272 (i) A listing of all costs incurred by the subgrantee
273 during the previous month;

274 (ii) A listing of all clients served by the subgrantee,
275 with an explanation of which services were provided to the
276 clients;

277 (iii) A listing of all lower-tier subgrantees, who must
278 be approved by the department before the execution of any such
279 agreement by the prime subgrantee; and

280 (iv) Any other data required by the department to
281 provide sufficient evidence of budgetary compliance;

282 (c) Shall not advance funds to a subgrantee for more than
283 sixty (60) days; and

284 (d) Shall reimburse a subgrantee for expenses only after the
285 required documentation is provided and is approved by the
286 department.

287 **SECTION 18.** It is the intent of the Legislature, that within
288 the funds available, the Department of Human Services may provide
289 any qualifying grants of CARES Act or American Rescue Act funding
290 in an amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand
291 Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) to the three (3) regional food banks that



292 serve Mississippi, including Feed the Gulf Coast, Mid-South Food
293 Bank, and Mississippi Food Network.

294 **SECTION 19.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
295 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
296 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of
297 Human Services for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of
298 Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1622, 2023 Regular
299 Session to defray expenses of the Department of Human Services for
300 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
301 June 30, 2025.....\$ 58,327,806.00.

302 This appropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
303 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

304 (a) To defray the Department's computer
305 expenses.....\$ 4,327,806.00.

306 (b) To secure federal funding for a new
307 computer system.....\$ 54,000,000.00.

308 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
309 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
310 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
311 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
312 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
313 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

314 **SECTION 20.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
315 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
316 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon



317 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
318 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
319 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

320 **SECTION 21.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
321 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2024.

