

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

To: Appropriations C;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1798

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM GENERAL FUND IN THE STATE  
2 TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE  
3 FIRE ACADEMY 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 appropriated out of any money in the State General  
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the  
8 expenses of the State Fire Academy for the fiscal year beginning  
9 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 6,354,428.00.

10 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
11 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in  
12 the State Treasury to the credit of the State Fire Academy which  
13 is comprised of special source funds collected by or otherwise  
14 available to the department, for the purpose of defraying the  
15 expenses of the department for the fiscal year beginning  
16 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 0.00.

17 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
18 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 60

21 Time-Limited: 0

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



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

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

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



68 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
69 appropriated level.

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

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

78 **SECTION 4.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
79 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
80 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
81 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
82 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
83 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
84 performance measures provided below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
87 Training	
88 Number of Students Trained	12,000
89 Average Cost per Student Trained	781.07

90 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets  
91 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the



92 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget  
93 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

94       **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
95 State Fire Academy shall maintain complete accounting and  
96 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
97 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
98 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
99 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
100 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to  
101 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
102 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
103 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

104       **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
105 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
106 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
107 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
108 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
109 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
110 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
111 made without competitive bids.

112       **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
113 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
114 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
115 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
116 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally



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

119       **SECTION 8.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
120 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
121 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the State Fire  
122 Academy for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of  
123 Capital Expense Funds for the purpose of a state match to purchase  
124 a specialty rescue truck, as authorized in House Bill No. 1606,  
125 2023 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024,  
126 and ending June 30, 2025.....\$       75,000.00.

127       Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
128 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
129 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
130 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
131 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
132 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

133       **SECTION 9.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
134 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
135 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the State Fire  
136 Academy for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of  
137 Capital Expense Funds for the purpose of the completion of dorm  
138 rooms at the State Fire Academy, as authorized in HB 1606, 2023  
139 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and  
140 ending June 30, 2025.....\$       160,000.00.



141 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
142 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
143 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
144 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
145 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
146 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

147 **SECTION 10.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
148 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
149 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
150 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
151 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
152 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

153 **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
154 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2024.

