

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

To: Appropriations C;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1799

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE FOR THE
3 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 Mississippi Department of Insurance for the fiscal
9 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
10\$ 13,238,194.00.

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 Mississippi Department of
14 Insurance which is comprised of special source funds collected by
15 or otherwise available to the department, for the support of the
16 various offices of the department for the fiscal year beginning
17 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 3,130,000.00.



18 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
19 this act, the following positions are authorized:

20 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

21 Permanent: 129

22 Time-Limited: 0

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

89 **SECTION 5.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
90 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
91 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
92 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the



93 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
94 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
95 performance measures provided below:

96 FY2025

97 Performance Measures Target

98 Lic & Reg MS Ins Co's & Agents

99 Number of (Producer, Etc) Licenses Issued 218,000

100 Average Cost per License Issued 100.00

101 Number of Agent's C/A's Issued 580,000

102 Average Cost per Agent C/A Issued 25.00

103 Number of Requests for Assistance 24,500

104 Average Cost per Customer I/C Addressed 55.00

105 Number of Fire Marshal Fire Investigations 538

106 Cost per Fire Marshal Investigation 900.00

107 Number of Fire Marshal Inspections 8,000

108 Average Cost per Fire Marshal Inspection 60.00

109 Liquefied Compressed Gas

110 Number of Accidents/Injuries/Deaths Due

111 to Incidents Involving LCG 0.00

112 Number of Inspections 8,000

113 Average Cost per Inspection 60.00

114 Number of Safety Training Schools/Seminars 170

115 Average Cost per Safety Training School 145.00

116 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets

117 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the



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

120 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
121 Section 1, Fifteen Thousand Seventy-nine Dollars (\$15,079.00) is
122 provided for the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards and
123 Certification Board.

124 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
125 Section 1, funds in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars
126 (\$20,000.00) is provided and shall be expended to pay the annual
127 dues for the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

128 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
129 of the funds appropriated above shall be expended unless members
130 of the Mississippi House of Representatives and Mississippi Senate
131 are notified at least five (5) days prior to a public ceremony
132 announcing the award of any grant in their district or any public
133 announcement or ceremony regarding any project for which the
134 Legislature has made funds available. Any signage regarding any
135 public event or project shall include the following language:
136 "Funds were made available for this project by the Mississippi
137 State Legislature."

138 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
139 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
140 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
141 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
142 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind



143 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
144 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
145 made without competitive bids.

146 **SECTION 10.** Within the limits of the funds available to the
147 Mississippi Insurance Department for such purpose, the
148 Commissioner of Insurance for the Mississippi Insurance Department
149 may grant a paid internship to students pursuing junior or senior
150 undergraduate level year coursework toward a bachelor's degree in
151 risk management insurance or graduate level coursework towards a
152 master's degree in business administration. Those applicants
153 deemed qualified by the Mississippi Department of Insurance shall
154 receive funds that may be used to pay for tuition, books and
155 related fees to pursue their degree. It is the intent of the
156 Legislature that the paid internship program shall be used as
157 incentive for risk management insurance careers at the Mississippi
158 Insurance Department.

159 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two
160 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided for the
161 State Fire Marshal's Office for fire safety prevention and
162 services, including, but not limited to, fire protection supplies
163 and materials, smoke alarms, and public service announcements
164 providing fire prevention information.

165 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
166 of Section 2, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
167 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury



168 to the credit of the Propane Education and Research Program Fund,
169 for the purpose of research and development of more cost effective
170 uses of propane and on educational programs, safety programs, and
171 market development of propane for the fiscal year beginning
172 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 130,000.00.

173 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds provided in Section 2, Three
174 Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) is provided from the Mississippi
175 Volunteer Firefighter Length-of-Service Awards Program Fund.
176 These funds are provided for the Mississippi Length-of-Service
177 Award Program (LOSAP) established in Section 45-11-271 of the
178 Mississippi Code of 1972.

179 **SECTION 14.** In addition to all other sums heretofore
180 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
181 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
182 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Annual Fire Fund
183 to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the purposes
184 allowed in Section 17-23-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the
185 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
186\$ 9,000,000.00.

187 **SECTION 15.** In addition to all other funds appropriated, the
188 following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby
189 appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State
190 Treasury to the credit of the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance
191 Fund which was created in Section 17-23-1 (4), Mississippi Code of
192 1972 to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the Rural Fire



193 Truck Matching Assistance Program for the fiscal year beginning
194 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 2,000,000.00.

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

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

