

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

To: Appropriations C;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1803  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE  
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE  
3 MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF NURSING 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 special fund in  
7 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Board of  
8 Nursing, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the board  
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
10 June 30, 2025.....\$ 5,586,080.00.

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

13 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

14 Permanent: 40

15 Time-Limited: 0

16 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
17 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
18 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds



19 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
20 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
21 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
22 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board  
23 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may  
24 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year  
25 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024  
26 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that  
27 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount  
28 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments  
29 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current  
30 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee  
31 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the  
32 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

33       Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
34 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
35 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
36 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
37 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
38 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the  
39 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
40 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
41 essential for the agency.

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



44 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
45 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
46 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
47 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
48 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
49 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
50 appropriated level.

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

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

59 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds provided for herein, One Million  
60 Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,560,000.00) shall be  
61 provided for the Office of Nursing Workforce (ONW). In accordance  
62 with Section 73-15-18(1), Mississippi Code of 1972, the  
63 Mississippi Board of Nursing is designated as the state agency  
64 responsible for the administration and supervision of the Nursing  
65 Workforce Program as an educational curriculum. The mission of  
66 the Office of Nursing Workforce is to carry out the scope of  
67 service and leadership tasks required of the profession by



68 promoting a strong educational infrastructure between nursing  
69 practice and nursing education.

70         **SECTION 4.** Of the funds provided under the provisions of  
71 this act, an amount not to exceed One Hundred Five Thousand  
72 Dollars (\$105,000.00) may be allocated to the Mississippi Board of  
73 Pharmacy to defray the expenses of the Mississippi Prescription  
74 Monitoring Program.

75         **SECTION 5.** As a condition of receiving the funds  
76 appropriated in this act, the Mississippi Board of Nursing shall  
77 develop a plan to revise the nursing licensure laws to provide  
78 eligibility for licensure to those who have completed the Air  
79 Force 4N Training Program or possess a practical nursing degree  
80 from the Community College of the Air Force, alongside individuals  
81 who completed the Army's practical nurse program and Navy Corpsman  
82 course, and present the plan to the Legislature not later than the  
83 first day of the 2025 Regular Session for consideration by the  
84 Legislature. The purpose of authorizing such licensure  
85 eligibility is to acknowledge the value of military training in  
86 nursing, expedite licensure procedures for those persons, and  
87 efficiently integrate qualified military-trained individuals into  
88 the nursing workforce which will help in addressing the state's  
89 healthcare needs effectively and economically.

90         **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
91 funds are appropriated here in accordance with a signed Memorandum  
92 of Understanding with the Mississippi Department of Health to



93 assist with the implementation of the Medical Cannabis Act for  
94 registering and monitoring compliance with the rules and  
95 regulations of the Act.

96       **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
97 Mississippi Board of Nursing shall maintain complete accounting  
98 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
99 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
100 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
101 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
102 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to  
103 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
104 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
105 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

106       **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
107 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
108 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
109 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
110 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
111 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
112 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
113 made without competitive bids.

114       **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
115 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
116 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
117 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their



118 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
119 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
120 actions contrary to this provision.

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

127       **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
128 and after July 1, 2024.

