

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

To: Appropriations C;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1809

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING  
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR  
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 purposes of defraying the  
8 expenses of the Department of Rehabilitation Services for the  
9 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
10 .....\$ 31,663,477.00.

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 Department of  
14 Rehabilitation Services which is comprised of special source funds  
15 collected by or otherwise available to the department for the  
16 support of the various offices of the department, for the purpose  
17 of defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year  
18 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....



19 .....\$ 219,338,956.00.

20 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
21 Section 2, Three Million Six Hundred Eighty-one Thousand Eight  
22 Hundred Two Dollars (\$3,681,802.00) shall be derived from the  
23 Health Care Expendable Fund created in Section 43-13-407,  
24 Mississippi Code of 1972. The above funds shall be allocated as  
25 follows:

26 Fully match all available federal  
27 funds.....\$ 2,782,590.00.

28 Independent Living Program which  
29 includes the State Attendant  
30 Care Program.....\$ 854,903.00.  
31 Deaf and hard of hearing.....\$ 44,309.00.

32 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
33 this act, the following positions are authorized:

34 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:  
35 Permanent: 859  
36 Time-Limited: 185

37 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
38 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
39 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds  
40 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
41 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
42 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal  
43 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall



44 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency  
45 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the  
46 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to  
47 the personal services amount must be approved by the State  
48 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation  
49 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be  
50 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate  
51 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services  
52 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved  
53 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active  
54 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's  
55 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are  
56 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,  
57 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing  
58 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board  
59 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any  
60 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board  
61 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in  
62 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the  
63 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the  
64 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the  
65 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel  
66 Board.

67       Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
68 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current



69 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
70 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
71 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
72 the agency's projected cost for Fiscal Year 2025 exceeds the  
73 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
74 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
75 essential for the agency.

76 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
77 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
78 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
79 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
80 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
81 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
82 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
83 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
84 appropriated level.

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

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



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

103           **SECTION 6.** The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the  
104 Blind shall remain accredited by using not more than Five Hundred  
105 Dollars (\$500.00) of the funds appropriated along with matching  
106 funds for payment of fees to an accreditation agency recommended  
107 by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

108           **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated herein, the Mississippi  
109 Department of Rehabilitation Services through the Office of  
110 Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind is authorized to expend an  
111 amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00)  
112 for the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) News line service  
113 to allow blind and visually impaired persons to access newspapers  
114 through toll-free telephone calls.

115           **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
116 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
117 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things



118 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
 119 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
 120 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
 121 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
 122 made without competitive bids.

123 **SECTION 9.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
 124 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
 125 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
 126 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
 127 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
 128 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
 129 performance measures provided below:

130	FY2025
131 <u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
132 Disability Determination Services	
133       Number of Dispositions	60,000
134       Processing Time (Days)	150
135 Voc Rehabilitation For The Blind	
136       Blind & Visually Impaired Served (Persons)	2,050
137       Number of Persons Rehabilitated	295
138       Independent Living (Number Served)	720
139       Percent Change in Persons Employed	
140               Compared to Persons Served	14.00
141 Vocational Rehabilitation	
142       Number of Clients Served	15,050



143	Number of Clients Rehabilitated	2,545
144	Percent Change of Persons Employed	
145	Compared to Persons Served	16.00
146	Persons Employed with Pay Rate Greater	
147	than Federal or State Minimum Wage	2,545
148	Persons with Significant Disabilities	
149	Leaving VR With Competitive, Self, or	
150	BEP Employment, Wage = or > Than Minimum	1,588
151	Spinal Cord & Head Injury Program	
152	Number of Clients Served	1,050
153	Percent Change in Number of Spinal Cord	
154	& Brain injuries per Year	3.00
155	Special Disability Programs	
156	Number of Clients Served	3,100
157	Percent Change in Persons Receiving HCBW	
158	Services Compared to Waiting List	25.00
159	Ratio of Cost to HCBW Services per	
160	Person Compared to an Institutional	
161	Setting	38.00
162	Support Services	
163	Percent of Total Budget	2.00
164	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
165	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	
166	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget	
167	Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.	



168           **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, it is  
169 the intention of the Legislature that One Million Five Hundred  
170 Sixty-three Thousand Thirty-nine Dollars (\$1,563,039.00) shall be  
171 allocated to the Spinal Cord & Head Injury Trust supported from  
172 General Fund court assessments.

173           **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and  
174 Section 2, One Million Four Hundred Eighty-three Thousand Five  
175 Hundred Seventy-three Dollars (\$1,483,573.00) in General Funds and  
176 One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-seven  
177 Dollars (\$1,700,587.00) in Special Funds is provided to maintain  
178 support of 100 additional slots in the Independent Living Home and  
179 Community Based Waiver programs along with any additional funds  
180 that may be appropriated to these programs.

181           **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
182 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
183 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
184 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
185 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
186 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
187 actions contrary to this provision.

188           **SECTION 13.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
189 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
190 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
191 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal





192 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
193 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

194         **SECTION 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
195 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2024.

