

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

To: Appropriations C;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1810

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE  
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE  
3 BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY  
4 THERAPISTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much of it as may be  
7 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in  
8 the State Treasury to the credit of the Board of Examiners for  
9 Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists for the purpose  
10 of defraying the expenses of the board for the fiscal year  
11 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
12 .....\$ 270,228.00.

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

15 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16 Permanent: 3  
17 Time-Limited: 0

18 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
19 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal



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



45 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the  
46 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel  
47 Board.

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

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

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



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

74 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
75 Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family  
76 Therapists shall maintain complete accounting and personnel  
77 records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under  
78 this act and that such records shall be in the same format and  
79 level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further  
80 the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request  
81 for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative  
82 Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the  
83 format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025  
84 budget request process.

85 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
86 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
87 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
88 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
89 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
90 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
91 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
92 made without competitive bids.

93 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
94 Section 1, Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) is



95 provided for the upgrade and maintenance of the Board's Licensing  
96 and Regulatory System (LARS) to a CLOUD based system.

97       **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
98 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
99 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
100 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
101 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
102 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
103 actions contrary to this provision.

104       **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
105 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
106 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
107 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
108 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
109 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

110       **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
111 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2024.

