

By: Representatives Mims, Read, Barton,  
Cockerham, Faulkner, Hood, McKnight, Rushing,  
Watson

To: Appropriations D;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1818

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE  
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
3 EXPENSES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'  
4 RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE  
5 RETIREMENT SYSTEM BUILDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
8 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury  
9 to the credit of the Administrative Expense Account of the Public  
10 Employees' Retirement System for the purpose of defraying the  
11 administrative expenses of the Board of Trustees of the Public  
12 Employees' Retirement System, or out of any money in the State  
13 Treasury to the credit of the Retirement System Building Account  
14 of the Public Employees' Retirement System for the purpose of  
15 maintenance and general operation of the Retirement System  
16 Building, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
17 June 30, 2025.....\$ 19,645,422.00.

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



20 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

21 Permanent: 167

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

90 **SECTION 4.** In accordance with the purposes of this article,  
91 there shall be established in the State Treasury the Public  
92 Employees' Retirement System Building Repair and Maintenance Fund,  
93 into which shall be deposited all funds collected as rental income



94 from the building owned by the system located at 301 North  
95 President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. At the end of each fiscal  
96 year, any and all unexpended funds shall be transferred to the  
97 Administrative Budget Fund of the system.

98       **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
99 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
100 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
101 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
102 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
103 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
104 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
105 made without competitive bids.

106       **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, no more  
107 than Three Million Five Hundred Thirty-eight Thousand Dollars  
108 (\$3,538,000.00) is provided for the purpose of defraying those  
109 expenses associated with maintaining, upgrading and operating the  
110 computer system.

111       **SECTION 7.** The Public Employees' Retirement System is  
112 further authorized, in its discretion, to expend funds for the  
113 purchase of service pins for employees of the Public Employees'  
114 Retirement System.

115       **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, no more  
116 than Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) is provided,  
117 only for the explicit purpose of building maintenance and repair.



118           **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
119 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
120 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
121 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
122 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
123 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
124 actions contrary to this provision.

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

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

