

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

To: Appropriations D;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1820

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SUPREME COURT WHICH IS
3 COMPRISED OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE OFFICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
4 CLERK AND THE STATE LAW LIBRARY AND TO PAY EXPENSES OF SPECIAL
5 JUDGES, CHANCELLORS AND CIRCUIT JUDGES, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF
6 DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS AND
7 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION, COURT OF
8 APPEALS AND THE BOARD OF BAR ADMISSIONS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025;
9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
13 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the
14 expenses of the Mississippi State Supreme Court for the fiscal
15 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
16\$ 7,415,985.00.

17 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
18 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
19 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi State Supreme
20 Court which is comprised of special source funds collected by or
21 otherwise available to the Mississippi State Supreme Court, for



22 the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Mississippi State
23 Supreme Court for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
24 ending June 30, 2025\$ 964,021.00.

25 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
26 this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
27 Mississippi State Supreme Court, the following positions are
28 authorized:

29 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

30 Permanent: 70

31 Time-Limited: 0

32 **SECTION 4.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
33 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
34 Fund not otherwise appropriated to the Mississippi State Supreme
35 Court for the purpose of defraying the expenses of special judges,
36 chancellors and circuit judges for the fiscal year beginning
37 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 32,363,429.00.

38 **SECTION 5.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
39 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
40 the State Treasury to the credit of the trial judges, for the
41 purpose of defraying the expenses of special judges, chancellors
42 and circuit judges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
43 ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,192,368.00.

44 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under Sections 4 and 5
45 of this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of special



46 judges, chancellors and circuit judges, the following positions
47 are authorized:

48 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

49 Permanent: 109

50 Time-Limited: 0

51 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under Sections 4 and 5
52 of this act, Ten Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars
53 (\$10,900,000.00) is provided for the purpose of employing support
54 staff in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars
55 (\$100,000.00) per fiscal year per judge.

56 **SECTION 8.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
57 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
58 Fund, not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of funding the
59 Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal year beginning
60 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 16,852,868.00.

61 **SECTION 9.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
62 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
63 the State Treasury to the credit of the Administrative Office of
64 Courts for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
65 Administrative Office of Courts and the Board of Certified Court
66 Reporters for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
67 June 30, 2025.....\$ 27,461,955.00.

68 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
69 of this act for the purpose of funding the Administrative Office
70 of Courts, the following positions are authorized:



71 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

72 Permanent: 48

73 Time-Limited: 0

74 **SECTION 11.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
75 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the Continuing
76 Legal Education Fund, a special fund hereby created in the State
77 Treasury, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of providing
78 continuing legal education programs to lawyers in Mississippi, for
79 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025..
80\$ 159,397.00.

81 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
82 interest earned from any investment or deposit to the Continuing
83 Legal Education Fund made pursuant to Section 27-105-33,
84 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be credited by the State Treasurer
85 to the Continuing Legal Education Fund and shall not be paid into
86 the General Fund of Mississippi.

87 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
88 of this act for the purpose of providing continuing legal
89 education programs, the following positions are authorized:

90 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

91 Permanent: 2

92 Time-Limited: 0

93 **SECTION 14.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
94 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
95 Fund not otherwise appropriated to the Mississippi State Supreme



96 Court for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court of
97 Appeals for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
98 June 30, 2025.....\$ 5,237,619.00.

99 **SECTION 15.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
100 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
101 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi State Supreme
102 Court, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court of
103 Appeals for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
104 June 30, 2025.....\$ 1,615,045.00.

105 **SECTION 16.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
106 of this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court
107 of Appeals, the following positions are authorized:

108 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

109 Permanent: 58
110 Time-Limited: 0

111 **SECTION 17.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
112 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
113 the State Treasury to the credit of the Board of Bar Admissions,
114 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the board for the
115 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
116\$ 359,694.00.

117 **SECTION 18.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
118 interest earned from any investment or deposit to the Board of Bar
119 Admissions Fund made pursuant to Section 27-105-33, Mississippi
120 Code of 1972, shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the



121 Board of Bar Admissions Fund and shall not be paid into the
122 General Fund of Mississippi.

123 **SECTION 19.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
124 of this act for the purpose of funding the Board of Bar
125 Admissions, the following positions are authorized:

126 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

127 Permanent: 3

128 Time-Limited: 0

129 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
130 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law.

131 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
132 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
133 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
134 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

135 **SECTION 20.** No part of the funds herein appropriated shall
136 be used in the payment of attorney's fees, nor shall any of such
137 funds be used, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of
138 paying any clerk, stenographer, assistant, deputy or other person
139 who may be related by blood or marriage within the third degree,
140 computed by the rules of civil law, to the official employing or
141 having the right of employment or selection thereof; and in the
142 event of any such payment, then the official or person approving
143 and making or receiving such payment shall be jointly and
144 severally liable to return to the State of Mississippi and to pay
145 into the State Treasury three (3) times any such amount so paid or



146 received, to be recovered at suit of the Attorney General;
147 however, when the relationship is by affinity and the person
148 through whom the relationship was established is dead, this
149 provision shall not apply.

150 **SECTION 21.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the
151 Mississippi State Supreme Court shall charge the maximum amount
152 allowable by law for services rendered where charges for such
153 services are provided for by statute, and for any other services
154 rendered, shall charge an amount consistent with the cost of
155 providing such services. The funds derived from these charges
156 shall be deposited into a special fund account in the State
157 Treasury to the credit of the Office of the Mississippi State
158 Supreme Court.

159 **SECTION 22.** It is the intent of the Legislature that no part
160 of the funds herein appropriated shall be required to be used for
161 the payment of rent for the public space in the Law Library.

162 **SECTION 23.** In accordance with Section 9-21-13, Mississippi
163 Code of 1972, the Director of the Administrative Office of Courts
164 is authorized to direct expenditures of state monies appropriated
165 to the Administrative Office of Courts or any courts of the state
166 for any and all functions or projects directly or indirectly
167 affecting the operation of any court and may transfer monies
168 appropriated for the office or any account to any one or more
169 other accounts or office. The Director of the Administrative
170 Office of Courts shall notify, in writing, the Lieutenant



171 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
172 Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of
173 the House Appropriations A Committee, and the Legislative Budget
174 Office of any transfer. The written notification shall include
175 the justification for the transfer of funds, an explanation of
176 need, the amount, and where the funds will be used. This written
177 notification shall be sent on or before the fifteenth day of the
178 month prior to the effective date of the transfer.

179 **SECTION 24.** Of the funds provided in Section 8, Three Hundred
180 Eighty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$389,665.00)
181 or so much thereof as may be necessary, is provided for costs
182 associated with the Capitol Complex Improvement District
183 established in Section 29-5-203, Mississippi Code of 1972.

184 **SECTION 25.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
185 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
186 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
187 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
188 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
189 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
190 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
191 made without competitive bids.

192 **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
193 of this act, an amount not to exceed Two Million Four Hundred
194 Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,460,500.00) may be



195 provided for the Comprehensive Electronic Court Systems Fund
196 administered by the Administrative Office of Courts.

197 **SECTION 27.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
198 Mississippi State Supreme Court shall maintain complete accounting
199 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
200 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
201 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
202 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
203 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
204 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
205 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
206 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

207 **SECTION 28.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
208 of this act, Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
209 (\$2,500,000.00) shall be provided for the Youth Court Support Fund
210 administered by the Administrative Office of Courts.

211 **SECTION 29.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 8, Nine
212 Million Dollars (\$9,000,000.00) is provided to defray the costs of
213 the Drug Court Program.

214 **SECTION 30.** It is the intention of the Legislature that in
215 the event there are not sufficient funds in the Judicial System
216 Operation Fund created under Section 9-21-45, Mississippi Code of
217 1972, in any given year with which to pay the annual salary
218 supplements set forth in Section 25-3-35, Mississippi Code of
219 1972, then the county treasury shall not be obligated to fund such



220 salary supplements and the salary of county court judges shall be
221 that in place prior to the passage of Section 9-9-11, Mississippi
222 Code of 1972.

223 **SECTION 31.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 8, it is
224 the intention of the Legislature that an amount of Six Million
225 Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,700,000.00) may be allocated
226 for the programs supported from General Fund court assessments as
227 follows:

228	Drug Courts.....	\$	6,500,000.00
229	Civil Legal Assistance.....	\$	200,000.00

230 **SECTION 32.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
231 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
232 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -
233 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing
234 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB
235 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for programmers, trainers and
236 operations for the Mississippi Electronic Courts (MEC) System to
237 meet the mandate to bring all the courts into the MEC System for
238 the Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal
239 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
240\$ 362,686.00.

241 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
242 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
243 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
244 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the



245 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
246 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

247 **SECTION 33.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
248 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
249 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -
250 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing
251 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB
252 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for IT equipment and Youth Court
253 computers for the Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts
254 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30,
255 2025.....\$ 310,000.00.

256 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
257 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
258 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
259 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
260 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
261 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

262 **SECTION 34.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
263 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
264 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -
265 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing
266 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB
267 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for temporary Intake Officers for the
268 Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal
269 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....



270\$ 500,000.00.

271 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
272 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
273 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
274 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
275 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
276 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

277 **SECTION 35.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
278 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
279 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
280 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
281 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
282 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

283 **SECTION 36.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
284 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2024.

