

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

To: Appropriations D;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1820  
(As Sent to Governor)

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 .....\$ 7,608,682.00.

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 .....\$ 997,779.00.

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.....\$ 37,203,759.00.

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, Fourteen Million One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars  
53 (\$14,170,000.00) is provided for the purpose of employing support  
54 staff in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thirty Thousand  
55 Dollars (\$130,000.00) 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.....\$ 17,464,222.00.

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.....\$ 27,530,762.00.

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 .....\$ 171,252.00.

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.....\$ 5,476,546.00.

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.....\$ 1,672,707.00.

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 .....\$ 369,916.00.

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 appropriated in Section 8 of this  
180 act, Seven Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-nine  
181 Dollars (\$732,539.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is  
182 provided for two (2) full-time CCID inferior court judges, one (1)  
183 part-time judge for the CCID inferior court and the support staff  
184 of the judges pursuant to Senate Bill 2180, 2024 Regular Session,  
185 and engrossed in Section 9-12-1, Mississippi Code of 1972. These  
186 employees shall be utilized for the Capitol Complex Improvement  
187 District established in Section 29-5-203, Mississippi Code of  
188 1972.

189 **SECTION 25.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
190 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
191 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
192 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
193 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
194 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to





195 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
196 made without competitive bids.

197         **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
198 of this act, an amount not to exceed Two Million Four Hundred  
199 Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,460,500.00) may be  
200 provided for the Comprehensive Electronic Court Systems Fund  
201 administered by the Administrative Office of Courts.

202         **SECTION 27.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
203 Mississippi State Supreme Court shall maintain complete accounting  
204 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
205 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
206 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
207 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
208 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to  
209 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
210 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
211 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

212         **SECTION 28.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
213 of this act, Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars  
214 (\$2,500,000.00) shall be provided for the Youth Court Support Fund  
215 administered by the Administrative Office of Courts.

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



219           **SECTION 30.** It is the intention of the Legislature that in  
220 the event there are not sufficient funds in the Judicial System  
221 Operation Fund created under Section 9-21-45, Mississippi Code of  
222 1972, in any given year with which to pay the annual salary  
223 supplements set forth in Section 25-3-35, Mississippi Code of  
224 1972, then the county treasury shall not be obligated to fund such  
225 salary supplements and the salary of county court judges shall be  
226 that in place prior to the passage of Section 9-9-11, Mississippi  
227 Code of 1972.

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

|   |    |              |
|---|----|--------------|
| 233           Drug Courts.....            | \$ | 6,500,000.00 |
| 234           Civil Legal Assistance..... | \$ | 200,000.00   |

235           **SECTION 32.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
236 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
237 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -  
238 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing  
239 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB  
240 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for programmers, trainers and  
241 operations for the Mississippi Electronic Courts (MEC) System to  
242 meet the mandate to bring all the courts into the MEC System for



243 the Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal  
244 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
245 .....\$ 362,686.00.

246 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
247 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
248 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
249 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
250 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
251 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

252 **SECTION 33.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
253 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
254 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -  
255 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing  
256 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB  
257 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for IT equipment and Youth Court  
258 computers for the Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts  
259 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30,  
260 2025.....\$ 310,000.00.

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



267           **SECTION 34.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
268 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
269 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -  
270 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing  
271 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB  
272 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for temporary Intake Officers for the  
273 Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal  
274 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
275 .....\$           500,000.00.

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

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

288           **SECTION 36.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
289 and after July 1, 2024.

