

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

To: Appropriations D;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1821

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 VETERANS' HOME PURCHASE BOARD AND MAKING NEW HOME LOANS AS
4 AUTHORIZED BY LAW 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 thereof as may be
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
8 Treasury to the credit of the Veterans' Home Purchase Board's
9 revolving fund, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
10 Veterans' Home Purchase Board and making new home loans as
11 authorized by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
12 ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 74,607,732.00.

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

15 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16 Permanent: 19
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 Veterans' Home Purchase Board shall maintain complete accounting
76 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
77 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
78 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
79 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
80 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
81 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
82 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
83 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

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

92 **SECTION 5.** The funds herein appropriated shall be expended
93 in compliance with Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972,
94 that no state agency shall incur obligations or indebtedness in



95 excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers,
96 either personally or upon their official bonds, shall be held
97 responsible for actions contrary to this provision.

98 **SECTION 6.** The Veterans' Home Purchase Board is hereby
99 authorized to escalate, budget and expend funds from any source,
100 not to exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00), for the
101 purpose of making new home loans as authorized by law, in
102 accordance with rules and regulations of the Department of Finance
103 and Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of
104 federal funds.

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

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

