

By: Representatives Oliver, Read, Arnold,
Boyd (19th), Hines, Mangold, Massengill,
Roberson, Scoggin

To: Appropriations E;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1824

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL
3 TELEVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
10 June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,567,542.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Authority for
14 Educational Television which is comprised of special source funds
15 collected by or otherwise available to the Authority, for the
16 purpose of defraying the expenses of the Authority for the fiscal
17 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
18\$ 6,355,627.00.



19 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
20 Section 1 and Section 2, the following positions are authorized:

21 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22 Permanent: 79

23 Time-Limited: 7

24 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
25 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
26 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds
27 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
28 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi
29 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal
30 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall
31 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency
32 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the
33 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to
34 the personal services amount must be approved by the State
35 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation
36 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be
37 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate
38 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services
39 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved
40 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active
41 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's
42 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are
43 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,



44 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
45 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board
46 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any
47 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board
48 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in
49 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the
50 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the
51 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the
52 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel
53 Board.

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

63 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
64 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
65 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
66 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
67 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
68 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written



69 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
70 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
71 appropriated level.

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

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

80 **SECTION 4.** Funds appropriated herein shall first be used for
81 the continuation of a full and complete broadcast schedule of
82 educational and instructional, professional growth, and public
83 service programs, with the production of new films and programs to
84 be secondary thereto.

85 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
86 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall maintain
87 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
88 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
89 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as
90 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of
91 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
92 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
93 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level



94 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request
95 process.

96 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
97 Section 2, Two Million One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred
98 Sixty-six Dollars (\$2,118,966.00) shall be derived from the
99 Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75
100 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

101 **SECTION 7.** No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be
102 transferred to, expended by, or used, directly or indirectly, for
103 the benefit of any public relations, publicity or publication
104 activities of any other state agency, department or officer, nor
105 shall any personnel paid or equipment purchased with funds
106 appropriated hereby be transferred or assigned to any other state
107 agency, department or officer for public relations, publicity or
108 publication activities of such office.

109 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
110 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall have the
111 authority to expend funds in the Capital Equipment Replacement
112 Revolving Fund, in accordance with Section 37-63-17, Mississippi
113 Code of 1972, for the purpose of purchasing technical equipment
114 for operating the educational radio and television facilities.

115 **SECTION 9.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
116 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
117 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
118 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the



119 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
120 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
121 performance measures provided below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
124 Content Operations	
125 Number of Locally Produced TV Programs	100
126 Number of Locally Produced Radio Programs	1,092
127 Number of Monthly Average Number of Web	
128 Site Users	25,000
129 Number of New Programs Produced and	
130 Broadcast Related to Fit to Eat	
131 Programming	8
132 Percent Increase in Visitors Viewing the	
133 Healthy Living Related Items on MPB	
134 Site	0.00
135 Percent of Radio Broadcasts and TV	
136 Alerts During Times of Emergency	100.00
137 Education Services	
138 Percent Increase in Users Using MPB	
139 Education Online Resources for Pre-K	
140 Children and Families	20.00
141 Number of Students Served by the Digital	
142 Education Network (DEN) Classroom	2,000
143 Number of School Districts Participating	



144	in the DEN Classroom	30
145	Number of Teachers Taking e-Learning Courses	1,800
146	Number of Teacher Continuing Education	
147	Units (CEUs) Provided by e-Learning	
148	Courses Offered	1,950
149	Percent Increase of Visitors to the MPB	
150	Education Website	10.00
151	Number of Rotary Clubs Sponsoring with MPB	0.00
152	Number of Early Childhood Educators	
153	Attending MPB Resource Workshops	
154	Involving PBS and MPB Programs/Content	200
155	Number of Childcare Centers Using PBS	
156	Content	0.00
157	Number of Parents Participating in	
158	Parents Are Teachers Too (PATT)	
159	Initiative	300
160	Technical Services	
161	Number of Transmitters On Air	8
162	On-Air Reliability	99.95
163	Number of IT Help Desk Orders Filled	600
164	Administration	
165	Number of Community Engagements/Outreach	
166	Events Including Virtual Engagements	350
167	Number of State Agency Partners	40
168	New Grant Dollars Acquired	150,000.00



169 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
170 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
171 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
172 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

173 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
174 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
175 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
176 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
177 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
178 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
179 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
180 made without competitive bids.

181 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that an
182 amount equal to One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per square foot
183 shall be paid to the Executive Office of the State Board of
184 Institutions of Higher Learning to defray utility costs.

185 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
186 Authority for Educational Television may fund a program to focus
187 on the manufacturing industry in Mississippi.

188 **SECTION 13.** Mississippi Authority for Educational Television
189 is authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or
190 contribution from any individual, public, or private organization,
191 or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational
192 costs of the department. Such grants, donations or contributions
193 shall be received and expended under the rules and regulations of



194 the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner
195 consistent with the escalation of federal funds not to exceed Two
196 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

197 **SECTION 14.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
198 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education
199 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational
200 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the
201 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House
202 Bill No. 1614, 2023 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning
203 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,019,000.00.

204 This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
205 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

- 206 a) Tower maintenance and upgrades.....\$ 3,060,000.00.
- 207 b) Digitalization of Educational Content and Mississippi
208 History.....\$ 668,000.00.
- 209 c) Production of a Medgar Evers documentary
210\$ 291,000.00.

211 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
212 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
213 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
214 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
215 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
216 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

217 **SECTION 15.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
218 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital



219 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational
220 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the
221 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds as authorized in House Bill
222 No. 1614, 2023 Regular Session provide for tower maintenance and
223 upgrades for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
224 June 30, 2025.....\$ 260,000.00.

225 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under the
226 provisions of this section, in no event shall the amount expended
227 exceed the unexpended balances as of June 30, 2024. In addition,
228 this reappropriation shall not change the purpose for which the
229 funds were originally authorized.

230 **SECTION 16.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
231 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
232 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
233 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
234 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
235 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

236 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
237 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2024.

