

By: Senator(s) Williams

To: Highways and  
Transportation;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2505

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI AIRPORT CRITICAL NEEDS GRANT  
2 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE SHALL DEPOSIT  
3 \$10,000,000.00 INTO THE MISSISSIPPI AIRPORT CRITICAL NEEDS GRANT  
4 PROGRAM FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH FUNDS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY  
5 THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; TO PROSCRIBE CERTAIN  
6 CONDITIONS FOR ALLOCATIONS FROM THE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
7 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL PROMULGATE RULES  
8 AND REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM; AND FOR  
9 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
12 "Mississippi Critical Needs Airport Grant Program."

13 **SECTION 2.** (1) There shall be deposited Ten Million Dollars  
14 (\$10,000,000.00) into a special fund at the Mississippi Department  
15 of Transportation for the Mississippi Airport Critical Needs  
16 Grants Program. Funds in the Mississippi Airport Critical Needs  
17 Grant Program are separate and apart from the Multi-Modal  
18 Transportation Improvement Fund and the Strategic Multi-Modal  
19 Investments Fund administered by the Mississippi Department of  
20 Transportation. This shall be a one-time grant program.  
21 Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal



22 year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any unspent  
23 funds shall remain in the Mississippi Airport Critical Needs Grant  
24 Program until they are exhausted for a period not to exceed three  
25 (3) years.

26 (2) Eligible airports under the Mississippi Airport Critical  
27 Needs Grant Program shall be all public-use airports in the state  
28 that are on the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems  
29 maintained by the Federal Aviation Administration.

30 (3) Eligible projects under the Mississippi Airport Critical  
31 Needs Grant Program shall include any project to develop,  
32 construct, enlarge, improve, equip, operate, regulate and protect  
33 airports and air navigation facilities, including any structures,  
34 mechanisms, lights, beacons, markers, communication systems or  
35 other instrumentalities, or devices used or useful as an aid, or  
36 constituting an advantage or convenience, to the safe take-off,  
37 navigation and landing of aircrafts, or the safe and efficient  
38 operation or maintenance of an airport, and any combination of any  
39 or all such facilities, that the airport has certified is critical  
40 to its ability to provide or continue to provide safe and  
41 efficient air navigation facilities.

42 (4) Mississippi Airport Critical Needs Grant Program funds  
43 cannot be used to fund more than ten percent (10%) of a project's  
44 cost. The Mississippi Airport Critical Needs Grant Program funds  
45 may be used to match other federal, state or local funds requested  
46 to cover the cost of the project. There shall be no cap on the



47 amount of funds that can be requested and awarded to each airport.  
48 There shall be no limit as to the number of projects that can be  
49 requested from the Mississippi Airport Critical Needs Program.

50 (5) The Mississippi Department of Transportation shall  
51 promulgate all rules and regulations for the Mississippi Airport  
52 Critical Needs Program. Applicants for the Mississippi Airport  
53 Critical Needs Program shall not need to meet the requirements of  
54 the current Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Fund and the  
55 Strategic Multi-Modal Investments Fund.

56 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
57 and after July 1, 2024.

