

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, Frazier,
Branning, Parker, Robinson

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3017

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF SPECIAL FUNDS TO DEFRAY THE
2 EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY FOR
3 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 Department of Employment Security for
9 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending

10 June 30, 2025.....\$ 1,400,000.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
13 Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Department of Employment
14 Security, or its successor, for the purpose of defraying the
15 expenses incurred by said department for the fiscal year beginning
16 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 136,255,576.00.

17 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
18 this act, the following positions are authorized:



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 367

21 Time-Limited: 126

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



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

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

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



68 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
69 appropriated level.

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

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

78 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
79 Section 2 of this act, the following sum shall be derived from
80 money in the Unemployment Trust Fund, made available to this state
81 under Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 USCA
82 Section 1103), to the Mississippi Department of Employment
83 Security to be deposited in the Employment Security Administration
84 Fund and used by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security
85 for the following purposes:

86 (a) Payment of various One-Stop Administration expenses
87 that support the service delivery of employment and workforce
88 information services. This includes, but is not limited to, the
89 following activities:

90 (i) Staff for delivery of reemployment services to
91 UI claimants, including group job search assistance and
92 staff-assisted referrals to jobs.



93 (ii) Equipment and resources for resource rooms.

94 (iii) Payment for rent, utilities and maintenance
95 of facilities, including common spaces such as resource rooms,
96 reception areas, conference areas, etc.

97 (iv) Payment of shared costs for operation of
98 local One-Stop Career Centers, including payment for One-Stop
99 operators.

100 (v) Purchase of computer equipment, network
101 equipment, telecommunications equipment, application development
102 and other technology resources.

103 (vi) Training, technical assistance, and
104 professional development of staff who deliver employment and
105 workforce information services.

106 (vii) Access Improvement costs for individuals
107 with disabilities, including remodeling or retrofitting One-Stop
108 Career Centers and purchasing appropriate software, hardware,
109 furniture and supplies.

110 (b) Administration of the Unemployment Compensation
111 (UC) law and its public employment service (ES) offices. This
112 includes, but is not limited to, the following uses:

113 (i) ES and UI automation. This includes
114 purchases, modifications, or automation of computer-related
115 systems and related costs.

116 (ii) UI and ES Performance Improvement costs.

117 (iii) Fraud and Abuse Reduction costs.



118 (iv) UI Claims Filing and Payment Methods
119 Improvement costs.
120 (v) Under the direction of the Bureau of Building,
121 Grounds and Real Property Management to acquire lands and
122 construct buildings thereon or improve existing buildings to be
123 used as offices. The funds in this section are authorized for the
124 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
125\$ 33,047,000.00.

126 The funds authorized in this section shall be requisitioned
127 by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security from the
128 Unemployment Trust Fund maintained by the Secretary of the
129 Treasury of the United States as needed for the payment of
130 obligations incurred under this appropriation, and such monies
131 shall be deposited in the Employment Security Administration Fund
132 in accordance with the provisions of Section 71-5-457, Mississippi
133 Code of 1972.

134 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
135 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
136 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
137 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
138 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
139 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
140 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
141 made without competitive bids.



142 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, a sum not
143 to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) is made
144 available for Pathways2Possibilities from the Mississippi Works
145 Fund collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of
146 1972.

147 **SECTION 7.** In addition to all other funds appropriated
148 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
149 is appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund, not
150 otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the expenses
151 of the Office of Workforce Development for the fiscal year
152 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
153\$ 15,805,130.00.

154 **SECTION 8.** In addition to all other funds appropriated
155 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
156 is hereby authorized for expenditure out of any special source
157 funds which are collected by or otherwise become available to the
158 Office of Workforce Development for support of workforce programs,
159 grants, and other similar activities for the fiscal year beginning
160 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
161\$ 18,000,540.00.

162 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 7, Three
163 Million Two Hundred Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Dollars
164 (\$3,205,130.00) is authorized for defraying the operating expenses
165 of the Office of Workforce Development.



166 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 7, Twelve
167 Million Dollars (\$12,000,000.00) is authorized for operating the
168 Career Coaching Program at the Office of Workforce Development.

169 **SECTION 11.** Unless otherwise specifically appropriated for
170 that purpose by the Legislature, none of the funds authorized in
171 Section 8 of this act shall be used for operational expenditures
172 of the Office of Workforce Development except for reasonable
173 administrative fees for grant oversight as provided by law.

174 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 8 of this
175 act, the Office of Workforce Development is authorized to expend
176 up to Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the State
177 Workforce Investment Funds from the State Workforce Investment
178 Board, collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of
179 1972.

180 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
181 of Section 8 of this act, the Office of Workforce Development is
182 authorized to expend up to Fifteen Million Dollars
183 (\$15,000,000.00) from the Mississippi Works Fund collected
184 pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of 1972.

185 **SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
186 act, an amount not to exceed One Million Four Hundred Thousand
187 Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) is authorized for the Mississippi
188 Integrated Education and Workforce State Longitudinal Data System
189 (SLDS).



190 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
191 of Section 7 of this act, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars
192 (\$600,000.00) is authorized for Jobs for Mississippi Graduates.

193 **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
194 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
195 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
196 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
197 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
198 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
199 actions contrary to this provision.

200 **SECTION 17.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
201 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
202 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
203 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
204 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
205 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

206 **SECTION 18.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
207 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed from and after
208 June 30, 2024.

