

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

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3017
(As Sent to Governor)

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.....\$ 1,800,000.00.

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.....\$ 136,805,708.00.

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



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 423

21 Time-Limited: 70

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
28 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
29 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
30 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
31 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024
32 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
33 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
34 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
35 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
36 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
37 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
38 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

39 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
40 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
41 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
42 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
43 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If



44 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
45 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
46 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
47 essential for the agency.

48 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
49 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
50 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
51 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
52 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
53 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
54 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
55 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
56 appropriated level.

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

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

65 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
66 Section 2 of this act, the following sum shall be derived from
67 money in the Unemployment Trust Fund, made available to this state
68 under Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 USCA



69 Section 1103), to the Mississippi Department of Employment
70 Security to be deposited in the Employment Security Administration
71 Fund and used by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security
72 for the following purposes:

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

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

80 (ii) Equipment and resources for resource rooms.

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

84 (iv) Payment of shared costs for operation of
85 local One-Stop Career Centers, including payment for One-Stop
86 operators.

87 (v) Purchase of computer equipment, network
88 equipment, telecommunications equipment, application development
89 and other technology resources.

90 (vi) Training, technical assistance, and
91 professional development of staff who deliver employment and
92 workforce information services.



93 (vii) Access Improvement costs for individuals
94 with disabilities, including remodeling or retrofitting One-Stop
95 Career Centers and purchasing appropriate software, hardware,
96 furniture and supplies.

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

100 (i) ES and UI automation. This includes
101 purchases, modifications, or automation of computer-related
102 systems and related costs.

103 (ii) UI and ES Performance Improvement costs.

104 (iii) Fraud and Abuse Reduction costs.

105 (iv) UI Claims Filing and Payment Methods
106 Improvement costs.

107 (v) Under the direction of the Bureau of Building,
108 Grounds and Real Property Management to acquire lands and
109 construct buildings thereon or improve existing buildings to be
110 used as offices. The funds in this section are authorized for the
111 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
112\$ 33,047,000.00.

113 The funds authorized in this section shall be requisitioned
114 by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security from the
115 Unemployment Trust Fund maintained by the Secretary of the
116 Treasury of the United States as needed for the payment of
117 obligations incurred under this appropriation, and such monies



118 shall be deposited in the Employment Security Administration Fund
119 in accordance with the provisions of Section 71-5-457, Mississippi
120 Code of 1972.

121 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
122 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
123 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
124 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
125 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
126 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
127 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
128 made without competitive bids.

129 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, a sum not
130 to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) is made
131 available for Pathways2Possibilities from the Mississippi Works
132 Fund collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of
133 1972.

134 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
135 act, an amount not to exceed One Million Four Hundred Thousand
136 Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) is authorized for the Mississippi
137 Integrated Education and Workforce State Longitudinal Data System
138 (SLDS).

139 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
140 act, Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) is provided to
141 the Mississippi Department of Employment Security for the purpose



142 of providing administrative support to the Office of Workforce
143 Development.

144 **SECTION 9.** In addition to all other funds appropriated
145 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
146 is appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund, not
147 otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the expenses
148 of the Office of Workforce Development for the fiscal year
149 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
150\$ 20,986,205.00.

151 **SECTION 10.** In addition to all other funds appropriated
152 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
153 is hereby authorized for expenditure out of any special source
154 funds which are collected by or otherwise become available to the
155 Office of Workforce Development for support of workforce programs,
156 grants, and other similar activities for the fiscal year beginning
157 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 19,400,000.00.

158 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 9, Three
159 Million Eight Hundred Eighty-six Thousand Two Hundred Five Dollars
160 (\$3,886,205.00) is authorized for defraying the operating expenses
161 of the Office of Workforce Development.

162 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 9, Fifteen
163 Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) is authorized for operating the
164 Career Coaching Program at the Office of Workforce Development.

165 **SECTION 13.** Unless otherwise specifically appropriated for
166 that purpose by the Legislature, none of the funds authorized in



167 Section 10 of this act shall be used for operational expenditures
168 of the Office of Workforce Development except for reasonable
169 administrative fees for grant oversight as provided by law.

170 **SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 10 of this
171 act, the Office of Workforce Development is authorized to expend
172 up to Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the State
173 Workforce Investment Funds from the State Workforce Investment
174 Board, collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of
175 1972.

176 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
177 of Section 10 of this act, the Office of Workforce Development is
178 authorized to expend up to Fifteen Million Dollars
179 (\$15,000,000.00) from the Mississippi Works Fund collected
180 pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of 1972.

181 **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
182 Mississippi Department of Employment Security and the Office of
183 Workforce Development shall maintain complete accounting and
184 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
185 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
186 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
187 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that each
188 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
189 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
190 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
191 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.



192 **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
193 of Section 9 of this act, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars
194 (\$600,000.00) is authorized for Jobs for America's
195 Graduates-Mississippi.

196 **SECTION 18.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
197 of Section 10 of this act, Four Hundred Thousand Dollars
198 (\$400,000.00), or so much thereof, shall be derived out of any
199 money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense
200 Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,
201 and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.
202 These funds are provided to the Skills Foundation of Mississippi.

203 **SECTION 19.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 9 of this
204 act, One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) is
205 provided to the Office of Workforce Development for a new
206 Information Management and Financial Tracking System to enhance
207 the tracking of funding provided for workforce development and
208 provide data outcomes reports on active workforce training
209 programs and participants.

210 **SECTION 20.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 10, One
211 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), or so much thereof as may be
212 necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
213 to the credit of the Project Poppy Fund, as created in Senate Bill
214 2001, 1st Extraordinary Session of 2024, and allocated in a manner
215 as determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided
216 to expedite the services needed for Project Poppy.



217 **SECTION 21.** Of the funds appropriated in Sections 11 of this
218 act, funds are provided to the Office of Workforce Development to
219 coordinate workforce development programs at the Mississippi
220 Department of Corrections.

221 **SECTION 22.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
222 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
223 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
224 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
225 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
226 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
227 actions contrary to this provision.

228 **SECTION 23.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
229 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
230 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
231 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
232 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
233 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

234 **SECTION 24.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
235 and after July 1, 2024.

