

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, Michel, Turner- Ford, Wiggins To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3048

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE
2 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

4 SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
5 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
6 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and
7 maintenance of the Secretary of State for the fiscal year
8 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
9 .....\$ 12,844,299.00.

10 SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
11 necessary, is hereby authorized for expenditure out of any special
12 source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available
13 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Secretary of
14 State for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
15 June 30, 2025.....\$ 17,420,640.00.

16 SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
17 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

18 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:



19 Permanent: 88

20 Time-Limited: 12

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



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

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

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



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

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

77 **SECTION 4.** None of the funds appropriated by this act shall  
78 be expended for any purpose that is not actually required or  
79 necessary for performing any of the powers or duties of the Office  
80 of the Secretary of State that are authorized by the Mississippi  
81 Constitution of 1890, state or federal law, or rules or  
82 regulations that implement state or federal law.

83 **SECTION 5.** No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be  
84 used, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of paying any  
85 clerk, stenographer, assistant, deputy, or other person who may be  
86 related by blood or marriage within the third degree, computed by  
87 the rules of the civil law, to the official employing or having  
88 the right of employment or selection thereof; and in the event of  
89 any such payment, then the official or person approving and making  
90 or receiving such payment shall be jointly and severally liable to  
91 return to the State of Mississippi and to pay into the State  
92 Treasury three (3) times any such amount so paid or received, to  
93 be recovered at suit of the Attorney General; provided that when



94 the relationship is by affinity and the person through whom the  
95 relationship was established is dead, this provision shall not  
96 apply.

97 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
98 act, the Secretary of State may use funds appropriated for the  
99 purposes of defraying litigation expenses associated with the  
100 enforcement of the Mississippi Securities Act, the Regulation of  
101 Charitable Solicitations Act, and the administration of the Public  
102 Trust.

103 **SECTION 7.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
104 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
105 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
106 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
107 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
108 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
109 performance measures provided below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Business Services	
Percent of Business Services Customer	
Phone Calls Answered	95.00
Elections	
Number of Poll Workers to Successfully	
Complete the Online Training Program	82
Number of Voter Registrations Updated on	



119	Secure Online Website	1,433
120	Percent of Poll Workers who Successfully	
121	Complete the Online Poll Manager	
122	Training on Their First Attempt	60.00
123	Publications	
124	Number of Visits to the Secretary of	
125	State's Website	9,000,000
126	Public Lands	
127	Number of Tax-Forfeited Properties Sold	2,000
128	Support Services	
129	Support Services as a Percent of Total	
130	Agency Expenditures	16.00
131	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
132	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	
133	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget	
134	Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.	

135       **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
136 act, no more than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is  
137 provided for paying principal and interest on bond issues for  
138 county voting systems.

139       **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this  
140 act, One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
141 (\$1,750,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is  
142 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit  
143 of the Land Records Maintenance Fund, for the purpose of making



144 distributions to local governments for taxes owed during the  
145 fiscal year.

146       **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this  
147 act, Four Million Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred  
148 Ninety-three Dollars (\$4,215,393.00), or so much thereof as may be  
149 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury  
150 to the credit of the Elections Support Fund, for the purpose of  
151 acquiring, upgrading, maintaining, or repairing voting equipment,  
152 systems, and supplies, hiring temporary technical support,  
153 conducting elections using such voting equipment or systems and  
154 training election officials during the fiscal year.

155       **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this  
156 act, Eleven Million Dollars (\$11,000,000.00), or so much thereof  
157 as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State  
158 Treasury to the credit of the Public Trust Tidelands Fund, and is  
159 authorized to be transferred by the Secretary of State to the  
160 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

161       **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
162 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
163 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
164 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
165 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
166 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
167 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
168 made without competitive bids.



169           **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
170 act, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) is for the purpose of  
171 expenses related to cybersecurity and election integrity.

172           **SECTION 14.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
173 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
174 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
175 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
176 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
177 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

178           **SECTION 15.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
179 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed from and after  
180 June 30, 2024.

