

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

SENATE BILL NO. 3050

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION 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 purpose of
7 defraying the expenses incurred by the Mississippi Workers'
8 Compensation Commission for the fiscal year beginning
9 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 6,007,624.00.

10 SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
11 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
12 Treasury to the credit of the Second Injury Fund (Fund Number
13 3352300000) for the purpose of making payments under the
14 provisions of Section 71-3-73, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the
15 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
16\$ 50,000.00.

17 SECTION 3. With the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
18 act, the following positions are authorized:



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 55

21 Time-Limited: 0

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.** It is the intention of the Legislature that with
79 the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, the Mississippi
80 Workers' Compensation Commission shall enter into a contract with
81 the industrial private sector for the purpose of implementing a
82 safety education and training program.

83 **SECTION 5.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
84 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
85 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
86 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
87 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
88 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
89 performance measures provided below:

90		FY2025
91	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
92	Adjudication	



93	Number of Cases Resolved at the	
94	Administrative or Commission Level	
95	within 3 Months	900
96	Number of Cases Resolved at the	
97	Administrative or Commission Level	
98	within 6 Months	950
99	Number of Cases Resolved at the	
100	Administrative or Commission Level	
101	within 9 Months	900
102	Number of Cases Resolved at the	
103	Administrative or Commission Level	
104	within 1 Year	900
105	Self-insurance	
106	Percent of Individual Self-Insurers	
107	Reviewed in the Past Fiscal Year	34.00
108	Percent of Individual Self-Insurer	
109	Reviews Conducted in the Past Fiscal	
110	Year Showing That Reserves are	
111	Insufficient to Cover Claims	5.00
112	Percent of Self-Insurance Groups Reviewed	100.00
113	Percent of Self-Insurance Group Reviews	
114	Conducted Showing That Reserves are	
115	Insufficient to Cover Claims	0.00
116	Medical Cost Containment	
117	Fee Schedule Adjustments (Cost in Millions)	35.00



118 Medical Cost Savings to Payers (as a %
119 of Total Billings) 46.00

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

124 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
125 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
126 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
127 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
128 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
129 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
130 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
131 made without competitive bids.

132 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
133 salary of the Workers' Compensation Commission members shall be
134 equal and the salary of the commission chairman shall exceed these
135 salaries as approved by the State Personnel Board.

136 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
137 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
138 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
139 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
140 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
141 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
142 actions contrary to this provision.



143 **SECTION 9.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
144 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
145 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
146 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
147 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
148 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

149 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
150 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed from and after
151 June 30, 2024.

