

House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 3050

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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 the
79 Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission shall maintain
80 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
81 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
82 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as
83 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of
84 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
85 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
86 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
87 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request
88 process.

89 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that with
90 the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, the Mississippi
91 Workers' Compensation Commission shall enter into a contract with
92 the industrial private sector for the purpose of implementing a
93 safety education and training program.

94 **SECTION 6.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
95 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
96 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
97 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the

98 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
 99 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
 100 performance measures provided below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
103 Adjudication	
104 Number of Cases Resolved at the	
105 Administrative or Commission Level	
106 within 3 Months	900
107 Number of Cases Resolved at the	
108 Administrative or Commission Level	
109 within 6 Months	950
110 Number of Cases Resolved at the	
111 Administrative or Commission Level	
112 within 9 Months	900
113 Number of Cases Resolved at the	
114 Administrative or Commission Level	
115 within 1 Year	900
116 Self-insurance	
117 Percent of Individual Self-Insurers	
118 Reviewed in the Past Fiscal Year	34.00
119 Percent of Individual Self-Insurer	
120 Reviews Conducted in the Past Fiscal	
121 Year Showing That Reserves are	
122 Insufficient to Cover Claims	5.00
123 Percent of Self-Insurance Groups Reviewed	100.00

124	Percent of Self-Insurance Group Reviews	
125	Conducted Showing That Reserves are	
126	Insufficient to Cover Claims	0.00
127	Medical Cost Containment	
128	Fee Schedule Adjustments (Cost in Millions)	35.00
129	Medical Cost Savings to Payers (as a %	
130	of Total Billings)	46.00

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

143 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
144 salary of the Workers' Compensation Commission members shall be
145 equal and the salary of the commission chairman shall exceed these
146 salaries as approved by the State Personnel Board.

147 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
148 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
149 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency

150 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
151 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
152 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
153 actions contrary to this provision.

154 **SECTION 10.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
155 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
156 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
157 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
158 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
159 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

160 **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
161 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed from and after
162 June 29, 2024.

HR13\SB3050A.J

Andrew Ketchings
Clerk of the House of Representatives