

23 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal
24 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall
25 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency
26 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the
27 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to
28 the personal services amount must be approved by the State
29 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation
30 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be
31 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate
32 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services
33 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved
34 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active
35 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's
36 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are
37 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,
38 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
39 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board
40 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any
41 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board
42 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in
43 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the
44 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the
45 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the
46 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel
47 Board.

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

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

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

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

74 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
75 Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family
76 Therapists shall maintain complete accounting and personnel
77 records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under
78 this act and that such records shall be in the same format and
79 level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further
80 the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request
81 for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative
82 Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the
83 format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025
84 budget request process.

85 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
86 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
87 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
88 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
89 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
90 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
91 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
92 made without competitive bids.

93 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
94 Section 1, Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) is
95 provided for the upgrade and maintenance of the Board's Licensing
96 and Regulatory System (LARS) to a CLOUD based system.

97 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
98 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
99 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency

100 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
101 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
102 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
103 actions contrary to this provision.

104 **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
105 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
106 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
107 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
108 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
109 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

110 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
111 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 29, 2024.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
4 THERAPISTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

SS15\HB1810A.J

Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate