

**Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1821**

**TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:**

**THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE 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:**

6           **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
8 Treasury to the credit of the Veterans' Home Purchase Board's  
9 revolving fund, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the  
10 Veterans' Home Purchase Board and making new home loans as  
11 authorized by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and  
12 ending June 30, 2025.....\$       74,607,732.00.

13           **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
14 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

15       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16           Permanent:                   19

17           Time-Limited:                0

18           With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
19 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
20 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds  
21 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
22 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi

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

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

92           **SECTION 5.** The funds herein appropriated shall be expended  
93 in compliance with Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
94 that no state agency shall incur obligations or indebtedness in  
95 excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers,  
96 either personally or upon their official bonds, shall be held  
97 responsible for actions contrary to this provision.

98           **SECTION 6.** The Veterans' Home Purchase Board is hereby  
99 authorized to escalate, budget and expend funds from any source,

100 not to exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00), for the  
101 purpose of making new home loans as authorized by law, in  
102 accordance with rules and regulations of the Department of Finance  
103 and Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of  
104 federal funds.

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

111         **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
112 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 VETERANS' HOME PURCHASE BOARD AND MAKING NEW HOME LOANS AS  
4 AUTHORIZED BY LAW FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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Amanda White  
Secretary of the Senate