

By: Representative Zuber

To: State Affairs;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1489

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION FUND TO BE
2 ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
3 TECHNOLOGY SERVICES; TO PRESCRIBE THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS
4 TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN PROJECTS THAT
5 ADDRESS CRITICAL NEEDS, IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY AND FOSTER
6 COLLABORATION AMONG PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES; TO FACILITATE THE
7 DEPLOYMENT OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS ARTIFICIAL
8 INTELLIGENCE, BLOCKCHAIN, CLOUD COMPUTING, AND DATA ANALYTICS; TO
9 PROMOTE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY FOR UNDERSERVED
10 COMMUNITIES; TO ENHANCE CYBERSECURITY AND PROTECT STATE DIGITAL
11 INFRASTRUCTURE; TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING MECHANISMS INCLUDING INITIAL
12 APPROPRIATION, CLOUD SERVICE SALES REVENUE, PUBLIC-PRIVATE
13 PARTNERSHIPS, AND FEDERAL GRANTS; TO REQUIRE REPORTING AND
14 ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FUNDED PROJECTS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-53-5 AND
15 25-53-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY WITH THIS ACT;
16 TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 25-53-151 FOR POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; AND
17 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** There is hereby established the Technology
20 Innovation Fund, which shall be administered by the Mississippi
21 Department of Information Technology Services, under the authority
22 of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Mississippi, for
23 the purpose of:

24 (a) Providing financial support for projects that
25 utilize technology to address critical needs, improve service



delivery and foster collaboration between public and private entities;

(b) Facilitating the development and deployment of innovative technological solutions that enhance the efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness of government services;

(c) Supporting collaborative efforts between government agencies, educational institutions, private sector partners and non-profit organizations in the implementation of digital solutions that drive public sector modernization;

(d) Facilitating research, prototyping, and piloting of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, data analytics, and cloud computing;

(e) Ensuring equitable access to technological innovations capable of benefitting underserved communities and regions; and

(f) Enhancing cybersecurity and protecting the integrity of state digital infrastructure.

SECTION 2. (1) The following entities shall be eligible to apply for funding under this act:

(a) State and local government agencies;

(b) Public and private educational institutions;

(c) Non-profit organizations engaged in technology-driven public service initiatives; and

(d) Private sector entities, in partnership with public sector agencies, for collaborative projects.



(2) Applications for funding must demonstrate how the proposed project will contribute to the digital transformation of government services and the achievement of the objectives outlined in Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. (1) The chief information officer of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services shall establish criteria for the evaluation of proposals and the allocation of funds, prioritizing projects that:

(a) Provide measurable benefits to the public and improve government operations;

(b) Demonstrate potential for scalability and sustainability;

(c) Foster partnerships across government, private and non-profit sectors; and

(d) Address urgent challenges in service delivery, efficiency and cybersecurity.

(2) The fund may allocate grants, matching funds or loans to eligible projects, as deemed appropriate by the chief information officer.

SECTION 4. (1) Each recipient of funding from the Technology Innovation Fund shall be required to provide periodic reports to the chief information officer detailing the progress, outcomes, and financial expenditures associated with the funded project.



(2) The chief information officer shall submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature detailing the use of the Technology Innovation Fund, including descriptions of funded projects, their outcomes, and recommendations for future innovations.

SECTION 5. (1) The Technology Innovation Fund shall be initially capitalized with an appropriation of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) from the State General Fund for fiscal year 2026, or other source, as determined by the Legislature. Annually thereafter, there shall be deposited a one percent (1%) share of funds collected on the sales of IaaS (infrastructure as a service), PaaS (platform as a service), SaaS (software as a service) and cloud-related professional services.

(2) Additional funding may be secured from:

- (a) Public-private partnerships;
- (b) Federal grants or matching programs;
- (c) Revenues from technological licensing or commercialization resulting from funded projects; and
- (d) Donations or contributions from private or philanthropic organizations.

(3) The fund may also establish a revolving loan mechanism to replenish available resources through repayments from successful projects.

SECTION 6. Section 25-53-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



100 25-53-5. The authority shall have the following powers,
101 duties, and responsibilities:

102 (a) (i) The authority shall provide for the
103 development of plans for the efficient acquisition and utilization
104 of computer equipment and services by all agencies of state
105 government, and provide for their implementation. In so doing,
106 the authority may use the MDITS' staff, at the discretion of the
107 executive director of the authority, or the authority may contract
108 for the services of qualified consulting firms in the field of
109 information technology and utilize the service of such consultants
110 as may be necessary for such purposes. Pursuant to Section
111 25-53-1, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the
112 Department of Human Services for a period of three (3) years
113 beginning on July 1, 2017. Pursuant to Section 25-53-1, the
114 provisions of this section shall not apply to the Department of
115 Child Protection Services for a period of three (3) years
116 beginning July 1, 2017.

117 (ii) [Repealed]

118 (b) The authority shall immediately institute
119 procedures for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and
120 supervise the efficient execution of the powers and duties of the
121 office of executive director of the authority. In the execution
122 of its functions under this chapter, the authority shall maintain
123 as a paramount consideration the successful internal organization
124 and operation of the several agencies so that efficiency existing



therein shall not be adversely affected or impaired. In executing its functions in relation to the institutions of higher learning and junior colleges in the state, the authority shall take into consideration the special needs of such institutions in relation to the fields of teaching and scientific research.

(c) Title of whatever nature of all computer equipment now vested in any agency of the State of Mississippi is hereby vested in the authority, and no such equipment shall be disposed of in any manner except in accordance with the direction of the authority or under the provisions of such rules and regulations as may hereafter be adopted by the authority in relation thereto.

(d) The authority shall adopt rules, regulations, and procedures governing the acquisition of computer and telecommunications equipment and services which shall, to the fullest extent practicable, ensure the maximum of competition between all manufacturers of supplies or equipment or services. In the writing of specifications, in the making of contracts relating to the acquisition of such equipment and services, and in the performance of its other duties the authority shall provide for the maximum compatibility of all information systems hereafter installed or utilized by all state agencies and may require the use of common computer languages where necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. The authority may establish by regulation and charge reasonable fees on a nondiscriminatory basis



149 for the furnishing to bidders of copies of bid specifications and
150 other documents issued by the authority.

151 (e) The authority shall adopt rules and regulations
152 governing the sharing with, or the sale or lease of information
153 technology services to any nonstate agency or person. Such
154 regulations shall provide that any such sharing, sale or lease
155 shall be restricted in that same shall be accomplished only where
156 such services are not readily available otherwise within the
157 state, and then only at a charge to the user not less than the
158 prevailing rate of charge for similar services by private
159 enterprise within this state.

160 (f) The authority may, in its discretion, establish a
161 special technical advisory committee or committees to study and
162 make recommendations on technology matters within the competence
163 of the authority as the authority may see fit. Persons serving on
164 the Information Resource Council, its task forces, or any such
165 technical advisory committees shall be entitled to receive their
166 actual and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance
167 of such duties, together with mileage as provided by law for state
168 employees, provided the same has been authorized by a resolution
169 duly adopted by the authority and entered on its minutes prior to
170 the performance of such duties.

171 (g) The authority may provide for the development and
172 require the adoption of standardized computer programs and may
173 provide for the dissemination of information to and the



174 establishment of training programs for the personnel of the
175 various information technology centers of state agencies and
176 personnel of the agencies utilizing the services thereof.

177 (h) The authority shall adopt reasonable rules and
178 regulations requiring the reporting to the authority through the
179 office of executive director of such information as may be
180 required for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and may
181 also establish such reasonable procedures to be followed in the
182 presentation of bills for payment under the terms of all contracts
183 for the acquisition of computer equipment and services now or
184 hereafter in force as may be required by the authority or by the
185 executive director in the execution of their powers and duties.

186 (i) The authority shall require such adequate
187 documentation of information technology procedures utilized by the
188 various state agencies and may require the establishment of such
189 organizational structures within state agencies relating to
190 information technology operations as may be necessary to
191 effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

192 (j) The authority may adopt such further reasonable
193 rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the
194 purposes of this chapter. All rules and regulations adopted by
195 the authority shall be published and disseminated in readily
196 accessible form to all affected state agencies, and to all current
197 suppliers of computer equipment and services to the state, and to
198 all prospective suppliers requesting the same. Such rules and



199 regulations shall be kept current, be periodically revised, and
200 copies thereof shall be available at all times for inspection by
201 the public at reasonable hours in the offices of the authority.
202 Whenever possible no rule, regulation or any proposed amendment to
203 such rules and regulations shall be finally adopted or enforced
204 until copies of the proposed rules and regulations have been
205 furnished to all interested parties for their comment and
206 suggestions.

207 (k) The authority shall establish rules and regulations
208 which shall provide for the submission of all contracts proposed
209 to be executed by the executive director for computer equipment
210 and/or telecommunications or services, including cloud computing,
211 to the authority for approval before final execution, and the
212 authority may provide that such contracts involving the
213 expenditure of less than such specified amount as may be
214 established by the authority may be finally executed by the
215 executive director without first obtaining such approval by the
216 authority.

217 (l) The authority is authorized to consider new
218 technologies, such as cloud computing, to purchase, lease, or rent
219 computer equipment or services and to operate that equipment and
220 use those services in providing services to one or more state
221 agencies when in its opinion such operation will provide maximum
222 efficiency and economy in the functions of any such agency or
223 agencies.



224 (m) Upon the request of the governing body of a
225 political subdivision or instrumentality, the authority shall
226 assist the political subdivision or instrumentality in its
227 development of plans for the efficient acquisition and utilization
228 of computer equipment and services. An appropriate fee shall be
229 charged the political subdivision by the authority for such
230 assistance.

231 (n) The authority shall adopt rules and regulations
232 governing the protest procedures to be followed by any actual or
233 prospective bidder, offeror or contractor who is aggrieved in
234 connection with the solicitation or award of a contract for the
235 acquisition of computer equipment or services. Such rules and
236 regulations shall prescribe the manner, time and procedure for
237 making protests and may provide that a protest not timely filed
238 shall be summarily denied. The authority may require the
239 protesting party, at the time of filing the protest, to post a
240 bond, payable to the state, in an amount that the authority
241 determines sufficient to cover any expense or loss incurred by the
242 state, the authority or any state agency as a result of the
243 protest if the protest subsequently is determined by a court of
244 competent jurisdiction to have been filed without any substantial
245 basis or reasonable expectation to believe that the protest was
246 meritorious; however, in no event may the amount of the bond
247 required exceed a reasonable estimate of the total project cost.
248 The authority, in its discretion, also may prohibit any



249 prospective bidder, offeror or contractor who is a party to any
250 litigation involving any such contract with the state, the
251 authority or any agency of the state to participate in any other
252 such bid, offer or contract, or to be awarded any such contract,
253 during the pendency of the litigation.

254 (o) The authority shall make a report in writing to the
255 Legislature each year in the month of January. Such report shall
256 contain a full and detailed account of the work of the authority
257 for the preceding year as specified in Section 25-53-29(3).

258 All acquisitions of computer equipment and services involving
259 the expenditure of funds in excess of the dollar amount
260 established in Section 31-7-13(c), or rentals or leases in excess
261 of the dollar amount established in Section 31-7-13(c) for the
262 term of the contract, shall be based upon competitive and open
263 specifications, and contracts therefor shall be entered into only
264 after advertisements for bids are published in one or more daily
265 newspapers having a general circulation in the state not less than
266 fourteen (14) days prior to receiving sealed bids therefor. The
267 authority may reserve the right to reject any or all bids, and if
268 all bids are rejected, the authority may negotiate a contract
269 within the limitations of the specifications so long as the terms
270 of any such negotiated contract are equal to or better than the
271 comparable terms submitted by the lowest and best bidder, and so
272 long as the total cost to the State of Mississippi does not exceed
273 the lowest bid. If the authority accepts one (1) of such bids, it



shall be that which is the lowest and best. Through June 30, 2024, the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to acquisitions of information technology equipment and services made by the Mississippi Department of Health and the Mississippi Department of Revenue for the purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing the provisions of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act.

(p) When applicable, the authority may procure equipment, systems and related services in accordance with the law or regulations, or both, which govern the Bureau of Purchasing of the Office of General Services or which govern the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services procurement of telecommunications equipment, software and services.

(q) The authority is authorized to purchase, lease, or rent information technology and services for the purpose of establishing pilot projects to investigate emerging technologies. These acquisitions shall be limited to new technologies and shall be limited to an amount set by annual appropriation of the Legislature. These acquisitions shall be exempt from the advertising and bidding requirement.

(r) To promote the maximum use and benefit from technology and services now in operation or which will in the future be placed in operation and to identify opportunities, minimize duplication, reduce costs and improve the efficiency of



298 providing common technology services the authority is authorized
299 to:

300 (i) Enter into master agreements for computer or
301 telecommunications equipment or services, including cloud
302 computing, available for shared use by state agencies, * * *
303 institutions of higher learning and governing authorities; and

304 (ii) Enter into contracts for the acquisition of
305 computer or telecommunications equipment or services, including
306 cloud computing, that have been acquired by other entities,
307 located within or outside of the State of Mississippi, so long as
308 it is determined by the authority to be in the best interest of
309 the state. The acquisitions provided in this paragraph (r) shall
310 be exempt from the advertising and bidding requirements of Section
311 25-53-1 et seq.

312 (s) All fees collected by the Mississippi Department of
313 Information Technology Services shall be deposited into the
314 Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
315 Revolving Fund unless otherwise specified by the Legislature.

316 (t) The authority shall work closely with the council
317 to bring about effective coordination of policies, standards and
318 procedures relating to procurement of remote sensing and
319 geographic information systems (GIS) resources. In addition, the
320 authority is responsible for development, operation and
321 maintenance of a delivery system infrastructure for geographic



information systems data. The authority shall provide a warehouse for Mississippi's geographic information systems data.

(u) The authority shall manage one or more State Data Centers to provide information technology services on a cost-sharing basis. In determining the appropriate services to be provided through the State Data Center, the authority should consider those services that:

- (i) Result in savings to the state as a whole;
- (ii) Improve and enhance the security and reliability of the state's information and business systems; and
- (iii) Optimize the efficient use of the state's information technology assets, including, but not limited to, promoting partnerships with the state institutions of higher learning and community colleges to capitalize on advanced information technology resources.

(v) The authority shall increase federal participation in the cost of the State Data Center to the extent provided by law and its shared technology infrastructure through providing such shared services to agencies that receive federal funds. With regard to state institutions of higher learning and community colleges, the authority may provide shared services when mutually agreeable, following a determination by both the authority and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community College Board, as the case may be, that the sharing of services is mutually beneficial.



(w) The authority, in its discretion, may require new or replacement agency business applications to be hosted at the State Data Center. With regard to state institutions of higher learning and community colleges, the authority and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community College Board, as the case may be, may agree that institutions of higher learning or community colleges may utilize business applications that are hosted at the State Data Center, following a determination by both the authority and the applicable board that the hosting of those applications is mutually beneficial. In addition, the authority may establish partnerships to capitalize on the advanced technology resources of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community College Board, following a determination by both the authority and the applicable board that such a partnership is mutually beneficial.

(x) The authority shall provide a periodic update regarding reform-based information technology initiatives to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency Committees.

From and after July 1, 2018, the expenses of this agency shall be defrayed by appropriation from the State General Fund. In addition, in order to receive the maximum use and benefit from information technology and services, expenses for the provision of statewide shared services that facilitate cost-effective



information processing and telecommunication solutions shall be defrayed by pass-through funding and shall be deposited into the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services Revolving Fund unless otherwise specified by the Legislature. These funds shall only be utilized to pay the actual costs incurred by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services for providing these shared services to state agencies. Furthermore, state agencies shall work in full cooperation with the Board of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services to identify computer equipment or services to minimize duplication, reduce costs, and improve the efficiency of providing common technology services across agency boundaries.

(y) The authority shall have the sole discretion to expend or reallocate funds appropriated or deposited into the Technology Innovation Funds, established in Section 1 of this act in order to carry out the provisions of Sections 1 through 5 of this act.

SECTION 7. Section 25-53-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

25-53-29. (1) For the purposes of this section the term "bureau" shall mean the "Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services." The authority shall have the following powers and responsibilities to carry out the establishment of policy and provide for long-range planning and consulting:



396 (a) Provide a high level of technical expertise for
397 agencies, institutions, political subdivisions and other
398 governmental entities as follows: planning; consulting; project
399 management; systems and performance review; system definition;
400 design; application programming; training; development and
401 documentation; implementation; maintenance; and other tasks as may
402 be required, within the resources available to the bureau.

403 (b) Publish written planning guides, policies and
404 procedures for use by agencies and institutions in planning future
405 electronic information service systems. The bureau may require
406 agencies and institutions to submit data, including periodic
407 electronic equipment inventory listings, information on agency
408 staffing, systems under study, planned applications for the
409 future, and other information needed for the purposes of preparing
410 the state master plan. The bureau may require agencies and
411 institutions to submit any additional data required for purposes
412 of preparing the state master plan.

413 (c) Inspect agency facilities and equipment, interview
414 agency employees and review records at any time deemed necessary
415 by the bureau for the purpose of identifying cost-effective
416 applications of electronic information technology. Upon
417 conclusion of any inspection, the bureau shall issue a management
418 letter containing cost estimates and recommendations to the agency
419 head and governing board concerning applications identified that



would result in staff reductions, other monetary savings and improved delivery of public services.

(d) Conduct classroom and on-site training for end users for applications and systems developed by the bureau.

(e) Provide consulting services to agencies and institutions or Mississippi governmental subdivisions requesting technical assistance in electronic information services technology applications and systems. The bureau may submit proposals and enter into contracts to provide services to agencies and institutions or governmental subdivisions for such purposes.

(2) The bureau shall annually issue a three-year master plan in writing to the Governor, available on request to any member of the Legislature, including recommended statewide strategies and goals for the effective and efficient use of information technology and services in state government. The report shall also include recommended information policy actions and other recommendations for consideration by the Governor and members of the Legislature.

(3) The bureau shall make an annual report in writing to the Governor, available on request to any member of the Legislature, to include a full and detailed account of the work of the authority for the preceding year. The report shall contain recommendations to agencies and institutions resulting from inspections or consulting contracts. The report shall also contain a summary of the master plan, progress made, and



legislative and policy recommendations for consideration by the Governor and members of the Legislature.

(4) The bureau may charge fees to agencies and institutions for services rendered to them. The bureau may charge fees to vendors to recover the cost of providing procurement services and the delivery of procurement awards to public bodies. The amounts of such fees shall be set by the authority upon recommendation of the Executive Director of the MDITS, and all such fees collected shall be paid into the fund established for carrying out the purposes of this section. Except as otherwise provided, the funds received by the department from the collection of one percent (1%) of the total aggregate sales of IaaS (infrastructure as a service), PaaS (platform as a service), SaaS (software as a service) and cloud-related professional services shall be deposited into the Technology Innovation Funds for purposes prescribed in Sections 1 through 5 of this act.

(5) It is the intention of the Legislature that the employees of the bureau performing services defined by this section be staffed by highly qualified persons possessing technical, consulting and programming expertise. Such employees shall be considered nonstate service employees as defined in Section 25-9-107(c) (x) and may be compensated at a rate comparable to the prevailing rate of individuals in qualified professional consulting firms in the private sector. Such compensation rates shall be determined by the State Personnel Director. The number



of such positions shall be set by annual appropriation of the Legislature. Qualifications and compensation of the bureau employees shall be set by the State Personnel Board upon recommendation of the Executive Director of the MDITS. The total number of positions and classification of positions may be increased or decreased during a fiscal year depending upon work load and availability of funds.

(6) The bureau may, from time to time, at the discretion of the Executive Director of the MDITS, contract with firms or qualified individuals to be used to augment the bureau's professional staff in order to assure timely completion and implementation of assigned tasks, provided that funds are available in the fund established for carrying out the purposes of this section. Such individuals may be employees of any agency, bureau or institution provided that these individuals or firms meet the requirements of other individuals or firms doing business with the state through the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. Individuals who are employees of an agency or institution may contract with the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services only with the concurrence of the agency or institution for whom they are employed.

From and after July 1, 2018, the expenses of this agency shall be defrayed by appropriation from the State General Fund. In addition, in order to receive the maximum use and benefit from information technology and services, expenses for the provision of



statewide shared services that facilitate cost-effective information processing and telecommunication solutions shall be defrayed by pass-through funding and shall be deposited into the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services Revolving Fund unless otherwise specified by the Legislature. These funds shall only be utilized to pay the actual costs incurred by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services for providing these shared services to state agencies. Furthermore, state agencies shall work in full cooperation with the Board of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (MDITS) to identify computer equipment or services to minimize duplication, reduce costs, and improve the efficiency of providing common technology services across agency boundaries.

SECTION 8. Section 25-53-151, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

25-53-151. (1) There is established in the State Treasury the "Electronic Government Services Fund," into which shall be deposited specific funds appropriated by the Legislature for developing and providing electronic government services within the State of Mississippi. Any funds in the Electronic Government Services Fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, but shall be available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year. The funds in the Electronic Government Fund shall be available for expenditure pursuant to specific



appropriation by the Legislature beginning in fiscal year 2002, to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services.

(2) There is hereby established an Electronic Government Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation of E-Government and related technology initiatives. Duties of this committee would include: (a) prioritize and make recommendations for all electronic government services, in order to cut across state and local governmental organizational structures; (b) address policy issues such as privacy, security, transaction fees and accessibility; (c) review ongoing fiscal and operational management and support of portal; (d) provide a mechanism for gathering input from citizens, businesses and government entities; (e) encourage self-service models for citizens through state websites and other electronic services; and (f) promote economic development and efficient delivery of government services by encouraging governmental and private sector entities to conduct their business and transactions using electronic media. The Electronic Government Oversight Committee shall be composed of the following: (a) the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, or his designee; (b) the State Auditor, or his designee; (c) the State Treasurer, or his designee; (d) the Secretary of State, or his designee; (e) the Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration, or his designee; (f) the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designee; (g) the Commissioner of Revenue, or his



544 designee. The committee shall annually elect one (1) member to
545 serve as chairman and one (1) member to serve as vice chairman,
546 who shall act as chairman in the absence of the chairman. The
547 committee shall meet monthly or upon the call of the chairman, and
548 shall make necessary reports and recommendations to the
549 Legislature and the appropriate agencies of state government. All
550 agencies of state government shall cooperate with the committee in
551 providing requested information, shall work closely with and
552 provide information to the committee and shall report to the
553 committee at its request. The Mississippi Department of
554 Information Technology Services shall provide administrative
555 support for the committee. Nonlegislative members of the
556 committee shall serve without compensation.

557 (3) The Electronic Government Oversight Committee shall
558 advise and provide direction to the Department of Finance and
559 Administration to develop a procurement portal that will enable
560 potential vendors of goods and services to access relevant and
561 necessary information related to the sale of the following types
562 of goods and services to the State of Mississippi and its
563 agencies:

- 564 (a) Commodities, as defined by Section 31-7-1;
565 (b) Contract personnel, as defined by Sections 25-9-107
566 and 25-9-120; and
567 (c) Computer equipment and services, as defined by
568 Section 25-53-3.



(4) The procurement portal provided for in subsection (3) must provide potential vendors with the following:

(a) A searchable database of business procurement opportunities with the state which includes a breakdown by product or service and by the organization seeking the product or service;

(b) Listings of the published date and closing date for each business procurement opportunity;

(c) A "Frequently Asked Questions" section regarding doing business with the respective agencies;

(d) A breakdown of "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding the selection process with the respective agencies;

(e) An open-air forum for questions and answers relating to the procurement process, in general, as well as specifically relating to a single contract; and

(f) Links to individual agency websites and contacts to enable potential vendors to obtain more specific information, if necessary.

(5) The procurement portal must be linked to the Transparency Mississippi website established in accordance with Sections 27-104-151 through 27-104-163. The Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services shall develop and maintain a link to the procurement portal from the state website.

From and after July 1, 2018, the expenses of this agency shall be defrayed by appropriation from the State General Fund. In addition, in order to receive the maximum use and benefit from



594 information technology and services, expenses for the provision of
595 statewide shared services that facilitate cost-effective
596 information processing and telecommunication solutions shall be
597 defrayed by pass-through funding and shall be deposited into the
598 Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
599 Revolving Fund unless otherwise specified by the Legislature.
600 These funds shall only be utilized to pay the actual costs
601 incurred by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology
602 Services for providing these shared services to state agencies.
603 Furthermore, state agencies shall work in full cooperation with
604 the Board of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology
605 Services (MDITS) to identify computer equipment or services to
606 minimize duplication, reduce costs, and improve the efficiency of
607 providing common technology services across agency boundaries.

608 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
609 and after July 1, 2025.

