

## 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

26 delivery and foster collaboration between public and private  
27 entities;

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 (a) State and local government agencies;

46 (b) Public and private educational institutions;

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

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

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

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

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

61 (b) Demonstrate potential for scalability and  
62 sustainability;

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

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

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

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



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

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

88 (2) Additional funding may be secured from:

89 (a) Public-private partnerships;

90 (b) Federal grants or matching programs;

91 (c) Revenues from technological licensing or

92 commercialization resulting from funded projects; and

93 (d) Donations or contributions from private or  
94 philanthropic organizations.

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

98           **SECTION 6.** Section 25-53-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
99       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



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

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

136 (d) The authority shall adopt rules, regulations, and  
137 procedures governing the acquisition of computer and  
138 telecommunications equipment and services which shall, to the  
139 fullest extent practicable, ensure the maximum of competition  
140 between all manufacturers of supplies or equipment or services.  
141 In the writing of specifications, in the making of contracts  
142 relating to the acquisition of such equipment and services, and in  
143 the performance of its other duties the authority shall provide  
144 for the maximum compatibility of all information systems hereafter  
145 installed or utilized by all state agencies and may require the  
146 use of common computer languages where necessary to accomplish the  
147 purposes of this chapter. The authority may establish by  
148 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.



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



274 shall be that which is the lowest and best. Through June 30,  
275 2024, the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to  
276 acquisitions of information technology equipment and services made  
277 by the Mississippi Department of Health and the Mississippi  
278 Department of Revenue for the purposes of implementing,  
279 administering and enforcing the provisions of the Mississippi  
280 Medical Cannabis Act.

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

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

294 (r) To promote the maximum use and benefit from  
295 technology and services now in operation or which will in the  
296 future be placed in operation and to identify opportunities,  
297 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

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

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

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

337 (v) The authority shall increase federal participation  
338 in the cost of the State Data Center to the extent provided by law  
339 and its shared technology infrastructure through providing such  
340 shared services to agencies that receive federal funds. With  
341 regard to state institutions of higher learning and community  
342 colleges, the authority may provide shared services when mutually  
343 agreeable, following a determination by both the authority and the  
344 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the  
345 Mississippi Community College Board, as the case may be, that the  
346 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.

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

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



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

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

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

391                   25-53-29. (1) For the purposes of this section the term  
392 "bureau" shall mean the "Mississippi Department of Information  
393 Technology Services." The authority shall have the following  
394 powers and responsibilities to carry out the establishment of  
395 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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

510 25-53-151. (1) There is established in the State Treasury  
511 the "Electronic Government Services Fund," into which shall be  
512 deposited specific funds appropriated by the Legislature for  
513 developing and providing electronic government services within the  
514 State of Mississippi. Any funds in the Electronic Government  
515 Services Fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the  
516 State General Fund, but shall be available for expenditure in the  
517 subsequent fiscal year. The funds in the Electronic Government  
518 Fund shall be available for expenditure pursuant to specific



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

521 (2) There is hereby established an Electronic Government  
522 Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation of E-Government  
523 and related technology initiatives. Duties of this committee  
524 would include: (a) prioritize and make recommendations for all  
525 electronic government services, in order to cut across state and  
526 local governmental organizational structures; (b) address policy  
527 issues such as privacy, security, transaction fees and  
528 accessibility; (c) review ongoing fiscal and operational  
529 management and support of portal; (d) provide a mechanism for  
530 gathering input from citizens, businesses and government entities;  
531 (e) encourage self-service models for citizens through state  
532 websites and other electronic services; and (f) promote economic  
533 development and efficient delivery of government services by  
534 encouraging governmental and private sector entities to conduct  
535 their business and transactions using electronic media. The  
536 Electronic Government Oversight Committee shall be composed of the  
537 following: (a) the Executive Director of the Mississippi  
538 Department of Information Technology Services, or his designee;  
539 (b) the State Auditor, or his designee; (c) the State Treasurer,  
540 or his designee; (d) the Secretary of State, or his designee; (e)  
541 the Executive Director of the Department of Finance and  
542 Administration, or his designee; (f) the Commissioner of Public  
543 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

591        From and after July 1, 2018, the expenses of this agency  
592 shall be defrayed by appropriation from the State General Fund.  
593 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.