

By: Representatives Harness, Holloway
(76th), Paden, Denton, Karriem, Butler-
Washington, Gibbs (36th), Jackson (45th),
Thompson

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1718

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF STATE GENERAL OBLIGATION
2 BONDS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH REPAIR,
3 RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF AND UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
4 DAVID L. WHITNEY ARENA COMPLEX AND WELLNESS CENTER AT ALCORN STATE
5 UNIVERSITY; AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF AND
6 UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO CAMPUS BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND
7 INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE LORMAN, VICKSBURG AND NATCHEZ CAMPUSES OF
8 ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this act, the following words
11 shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context clearly
12 requires otherwise:

13 (a) "State" means the State of Mississippi.

14 (b) "Commission" means the State Bond Commission.

15 (2) The principal of and interest on the bonds authorized
16 under this act shall be payable in the manner provided in this
17 subsection. Such bonds shall bear such date or dates, be in such
18 denomination or denominations, bear interest at such rate or rates
19 (not to exceed the limits set forth in Section 75-17-101,
20 Mississippi Code of 1972), be payable at such place or places
21 within or without the State of Mississippi, shall mature



absolutely at such time or times not to exceed twenty-five (25) years from date of issue, be redeemable before maturity at such time or times and upon such terms, with or without premium, shall bear such registration privileges, and shall be substantially in such form, all as shall be determined by resolution of the commission.

(3) The bonds authorized by this act shall be signed by the chairman of the commission, or by his facsimile signature, and the official seal of the commission shall be affixed thereto, attested by the secretary of the commission. The interest coupons, if any, to be attached to such bonds may be executed by the facsimile signatures of such officers. Whenever any such bonds shall have been signed by the officials designated to sign the bonds who were in office at the time of such signing but who may have ceased to be such officers before the sale and delivery of such bonds, or who may not have been in office on the date such bonds may bear, the signatures of such officers upon such bonds and coupons shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes and have the same effect as if the person so officially signing such bonds had remained in office until their delivery to the purchaser, or had been in office on the date such bonds may bear. However, notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, such bonds may be issued as provided in the Registered Bond Act of the State of Mississippi.



46 (4) All bonds and interest coupons issued under the
47 provisions of this act have all the qualities and incidents of
48 negotiable instruments under the provisions of the Uniform
49 Commercial Code, and in exercising the powers granted by this act,
50 the commission shall not be required to and need not comply with
51 the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code.

52 (5) The commission shall act as issuing agent for the bonds
53 authorized under this act, prescribe the form of the bonds,
54 determine the appropriate method for sale of the bonds, advertise
55 for and accept bids or negotiate the sale of the bonds, issue and
56 sell the bonds so authorized to be sold, pay all fees and costs
57 incurred in such issuance and sale, and do any and all other
58 things necessary and advisable in connection with the issuance and
59 sale of such bonds. The commission is authorized and empowered to
60 pay the costs that are incident to the sale, issuance and delivery
61 of the bonds authorized under this act from the proceeds derived
62 from the sale of such bonds. The commission may sell such bonds
63 on sealed bids at public sale or may negotiate the sale of the
64 bonds for such price as it may determine to be for the best
65 interest of the State of Mississippi. All interest accruing on
66 such bonds so issued shall be payable semiannually or annually.

67 If such bonds are sold by sealed bids at public sale, notice
68 of the sale shall be published at least one time, not less than
69 ten (10) days before the date of sale, and shall be so published
70 in one or more newspapers published or having a general



71 circulation in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, selected by the
72 commission.

73 The commission, when issuing any bonds under the authority of
74 this act, may provide that bonds, at the option of the State of
75 Mississippi, may be called in for payment and redemption at the
76 call price named therein and accrued interest on such date or
77 dates named therein.

78 (6) The bonds issued under the provisions of this act are
79 general obligations of the State of Mississippi, and for the
80 payment thereof the full faith and credit of the State of
81 Mississippi is irrevocably pledged. If the funds appropriated by
82 the Legislature are insufficient to pay the principal of and the
83 interest on such bonds as they become due, then the deficiency
84 shall be paid by the State Treasurer from any funds in the State
85 Treasury not otherwise appropriated. All such bonds shall contain
86 recitals on their faces substantially covering the provisions of
87 this subsection.

88 (7) Upon the issuance and sale of bonds under the provisions
89 of this act, the commission shall transfer the proceeds of any
90 such sale or sales to the special fund created in Section 2(1) of
91 this act. The proceeds of such bonds shall be disbursed from the
92 special fund under such restrictions, if any, as may be contained
93 in the resolution providing for the issuance of the bonds.

94 (8) The bonds authorized under this act may be issued
95 without any other proceedings or the happening of any other



96 conditions or things other than those proceedings, conditions and
97 things which are specified or required by this act. Any
98 resolution providing for the issuance of bonds under the
99 provisions of this act shall become effective immediately upon its
100 adoption by the commission, and any such resolution may be adopted
101 at any regular or special meeting of the commission by a majority
102 of its members.

103 (9) The bonds authorized under the authority of this act may
104 be validated in the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District
105 of Hinds County, Mississippi, in the manner and with the force and
106 effect provided by Chapter 13, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972,
107 for the validation of county, municipal, school district and other
108 bonds. The notice to taxpayers required by such statutes shall be
109 published in a newspaper published or having a general circulation
110 in the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

111 (10) Any holder of bonds issued under the provisions of this
112 act or of any of the interest coupons pertaining thereto may,
113 either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus or other
114 proceeding, protect and enforce any and all rights granted under
115 this act, or under such resolution, and may enforce and compel
116 performance of all duties required by this act to be performed, in
117 order to provide for the payment of bonds and interest thereon.

118 (11) All bonds issued under the provisions of this act shall
119 be legal investments for trustees and other fiduciaries, and for
120 savings banks, trust companies and insurance companies organized



under the laws of the State of Mississippi, and such bonds shall be legal securities which may be deposited with and shall be received by all public officers and bodies of this state and all municipalities and political subdivisions for the purpose of securing the deposit of public funds.

(12) Bonds issued under the provisions of this act and income therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation in the State of Mississippi.

(13) The proceeds of the bonds issued under this act shall be used solely for the purposes herein provided, including the costs incident to the issuance and sale of such bonds.

(14) The State Treasurer is authorized, without further process of law, to certify to the Department of Finance and Administration the necessity for warrants, and the Department of Finance and Administration is authorized and directed to issue such warrants, in such amounts as may be necessary to pay when due the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, or the accreted value of, all bonds issued under this act; and the State Treasurer shall forward the necessary amount to the designated place or places of payment of such bonds in ample time to discharge such bonds, or the interest thereon, on the due dates thereof. As used in this section, the "accreted value" of any bond means, as of any date of computation, an amount equal to the sum of (i) the stated initial value of such bond, plus (ii) the interest accrued thereon from the issue date to the date of



computation at the rate, compounded semiannually, that is necessary to produce the approximate yield to maturity shown for bonds of the same maturity.

(15) This act shall be deemed to be full and complete authority for the exercise of the powers granted in this act that relate to the issuance of bonds, but this act shall not be deemed to repeal or to be in derogation of any existing law of this state that relates to the issuance of bonds.

SECTION 2. (1) (a) (i) A special fund, to be designated as the "2025 Alcorn State University Improvements Fund", is created within the State Treasury. The fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as a separate and special fund, separate and apart from the General Fund of the state. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be deposited into such fund.

(ii) Monies deposited into the fund shall be disbursed, in the discretion of the Department of Finance and Administration, to pay the costs associated with repair, renovation and expansion of and upgrades and improvements to the David L. Whitney Arena Complex and Wellness Center at Alcorn State University and to pay the costs associated with repair and renovation of and upgrades and improvements to campus buildings, facilities and infrastructure at the Lorman, Vicksburg and Natchez campuses of Alcorn State University.



171 (b) Amounts deposited into such special fund shall be
172 disbursed to pay the costs of the projects described in paragraph
173 (a) of this subsection. Promptly after the commission has
174 certified, by resolution duly adopted, that the projects described
175 in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall have been completed,
176 abandoned, or cannot be completed in a timely fashion, any amounts
177 remaining in such special fund shall be applied to pay debt
178 service on the bonds issued under this section, in accordance with
179 the proceedings authorizing the issuance of such bonds and as
180 directed by the commission.

181 (2) (a) The commission, at one time, or from time to time,
182 may declare by resolution the necessity for issuance of general
183 obligation bonds of the State of Mississippi to provide funds for
184 all costs incurred or to be incurred for the purposes described in
185 subsection (1) of this section. Upon the adoption of a resolution
186 by the Department of Finance and Administration, declaring the
187 necessity for the issuance of any part or all of the general
188 obligation bonds authorized by this section, the department shall
189 deliver a certified copy of its resolution or resolutions to the
190 commission. Upon receipt of such resolution, the commission is
191 authorized to proceed under the provisions of Section 1(5) of this
192 act. The total amount of bonds issued under this section shall
193 not exceed Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000.00). No bonds shall
194 be issued under this section after July 1, 2029.



195 (b) Any investment earnings on amounts deposited into
196 the special fund created in subsection (1) of this section shall
197 be used to pay debt service on bonds issued under this section, in
198 accordance with the proceedings authorizing issuance of such
199 bonds.

200 (3) The provisions of Section 1 of this act shall apply to
201 the issuance of bonds authorized under this section.

202 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
203 and after July 1, 2025.

