

By: Representatives Bounds, Read, Anderson
(122nd), Clark, Eure, Hale, Jackson (11th),
Paden, Pigott

To: Appropriations B;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1731

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE PAT HARRISON WATERWAY
3 DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6 necessary, is authorized and approved for expenditure out of any
7 funds which are received by or otherwise become available to the
8 Pat Harrison Waterway District, for the purpose of defraying the
9 expenses of the district for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
10 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 7,595,440.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds approved for expenditure under the
12 provisions of Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

13 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

14 Permanent: 42

15 Time-Limited: 0

16 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
17 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
18 Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds



19 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
20 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi
21 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
22 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
23 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
24 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
25 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025
26 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
27 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
28 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
29 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
30 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
31 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
32 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

33 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
34 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
35 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
36 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do
37 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
38 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the
39 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
40 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
41 essential for the agency.

42 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
43 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or



allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated level.

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

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

SECTION 3. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Pat Harrison Waterway District shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.



69 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
70 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
71 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
72 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
73 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
74 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
75 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
76 made without competitive bids.

77 **SECTION 5.** The funds herein approved for expenditure, except
78 and less an amount approved by the State Fiscal Officer which
79 shall be sufficient to cover disbursements for current operations,
80 shall be deposited at interest with any official depository of the
81 state at a rate of interest numerically not less than one percent
82 (1%) below the bank discount rate on United States Treasury bills
83 of comparable maturity as determined by the State Treasurer.

84 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Seven
85 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) is authorized to be
86 expended to defray the cost of park facilities repairs only.
87 These repairs are to include bath houses and cabins and to exclude
88 any Flint Creek Horse Trail repairs.

89 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Four
90 Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000.00) is authorized to be
91 expended to defray the cost of dam repairs.

92 **SECTION 8.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide
93 a report on completed park facilities repairs. This report shall



94 be provided to the Legislature by December 1, 2025, and shall
95 include photos of stated repairs. The Pat Harrison Waterway
96 District shall provide the Joint Legislative Budget Committee a
97 copy of this report with the subsequent fiscal year's budget
98 submission.

99 **SECTION 9.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide
100 an annual five-year plan containing a prioritized list detailing
101 the purposes, goals and projected costs of projects which it
102 intends to implement or is in the process of implementing. This
103 report shall be provided to the Legislature on or before July 15
104 of each year as required in Section 51-15-119(2). The Pat
105 Harrison Waterway District shall provide the Joint Legislative
106 Budget Committee a copy of this report with the current year's
107 budget submission.

108 **SECTION 10.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide
109 an annual audit of the district operations. This report shall be
110 provided to the Legislature as required in Section 51-15-119(3).
111 The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide the Joint
112 Legislative Budget Committee a copy of this report with the
113 current year's budget submission.

114 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
115 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
116 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
117 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
118 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally



119 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
120 actions contrary to this provision.

121 **SECTION 12.** The money herein approved for expenditure shall
122 be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper person, officer
123 or officers, in the manner provided by law.

124 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
125 and after July 1, 2025.

