

By: Representatives Deweese, Read, Bennett, To: Appropriations C;
Creekmore IV, Currie, McGee, Mickens, Scott, Appropriations A
Turner

HOUSE BILL NO. 1741

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
3 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 appropriated out of any money in the State General
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the State Department of Health for the fiscal year
9 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
10\$ 63,044,692.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the State Department of Health
14 which is comprised of special source funds collected by or
15 otherwise available to the department, for the purpose of
16 defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year
17 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
18\$ 535,067,928.00.

19 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
20 Sections 1 and 2, Seven Million Twenty-six Thousand One Hundred
21 Two Dollars (\$7,026,102.00) shall be derived from the State
22 General Fund and Eleven Million Three Hundred Twenty-eight
23 Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-three Dollars (\$11,328,783.00) shall
24 be derived from the Health Care Expendable Fund, created in
25 Section 43-13-407, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the support and
26 maintenance of the State Department of Health. The funds provided
27 in this section shall be allocated as follows:

28	Magnet Community Health Disparity Program....\$	2,000,000.00
29	Early Intervention Program for	
30	increased reimbursements.....\$	2,000,000.00
31	Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.....\$	100,000.00
32	Maternal and Child Health Care Program.....\$	1,242,943.00
33	Mississippi Health Care Alliance for the ST	
34	Elevated Myocardial Infarction Program	
35	(STEMI), Sepsis, and the Stroke System	
36	of Care Plan.....\$	250,000.00
37	Health Department Programs.....\$	12,761,942.00

38 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in this act,
39 Thirty-four Million Dollars (\$34,000,000.00) is allocated to the
40 Trauma Care System. Of the General Fund court assessments
41 provided in Section 1, Thirteen Million Twenty-three Thousand One
42 Hundred Ninety-seven Dollars (\$13,023,197.00) shall be allocated
43 for Trauma Care Systems and One Million Eight Hundred Five



44 Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-nine Dollars (\$1,805,859.00) shall be
45 allocated for Emergency Medical Services. All additional funds
46 are appropriated in Section 2. The State Department of Health may
47 transfer a portion of Trauma Care System funds to the Division of
48 Medicaid for the development and implementation of an enhanced
49 reimbursement fee program related to trauma care and services,
50 used to match federal funds, under a cooperative agreement between
51 the State Department of Health and the Division of Medicaid.

52 It is the intention of the Legislature that none of the funds
53 authorized herein for the Trauma Care System shall be expended to
54 the benefit of any hospital located outside the boundaries of the
55 State of Mississippi, unless otherwise excepted in this paragraph.
56 Funds shall be expended by the Mississippi Department of Health
57 for distribution to the Regional Medical Center or Le Bonheur
58 Children's Hospital at Memphis, located in Memphis, Tennessee, or
59 the University of South Alabama Medical Center located in Mobile,
60 Alabama, or the Joseph M. Still Burn Centers, Inc., located in
61 Augusta, Georgia, or any affiliates or any other Level 1 Trauma
62 Center, or Tertiary Pediatric Trauma Center that participates in
63 the Mississippi Trauma Care System, as determined by the
64 Mississippi Department of Health.

65 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Twenty
66 Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) shall be derived from the Tobacco
67 Control Program Fund, created in Section 41-113-11, Mississippi
68 Code of 1972, and shall be allocated as follows:



69 University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer
 70 Institute.....\$ 4,250,000.00
 71 Department of Education - Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell -
 72 Mary Sprayberry Public School
 73 Nurse Program.....\$ 3,060,000.00
 74 Attorney General's Office - Alcohol and
 75 Tobacco Enforcement Unit.....\$ 680,000.00
 76 University of Mississippi Medical Center -
 77 A Comprehensive Tobacco (ACT)
 78 Center.....\$ 595,000.00
 79 Mississippi Health Care Alliance - ST Elevated
 80 Myocardial Infarction Program (STEMI),
 81 Sepsis, and Stroke System of Care Plan....\$ 595,000.00
 82 Mississippi Qualified Health
 83 Center Grant Program.....\$ 3,400,000.00
 84 Mississippi Health Department Programs.....\$ 7,420,000.00
 85 Of the funds appropriated in this section, the State
 86 Department of Health is authorized to expend funds to create and
 87 administer the Office of Tobacco Control within the department as
 88 outlined and created in Section 41-113-3, Mississippi Code of
 89 1972.
 90 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, One
 91 Million One Hundred Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen Dollars
 92 (\$1,102,915.00) shall be allocated as follows:
 93 Mississippi Health Care Alliance - ST Elevated



94 Myocardial Infarction Program (STEMI), Sepsis,
95 and Stroke System of Care Plan.....\$ 279,400.00
96 Mississippi Qualified Health Center
97 Grant Program.....\$ 600,000.00
98 Mississippi Health Department Programs.....\$ 223,515.00

99 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
100 this act, the following positions are authorized:

101 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

102 Permanent: 685

103 Time-Limited: 1,407

104 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
105 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
106 Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds
107 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
108 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi
109 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
110 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
111 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
112 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
113 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025
114 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
115 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
116 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
117 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
118 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee



salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
Mississippi State Personnel Board.

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

Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
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 8. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Department of Health 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.

SECTION 9. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided below:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Health Services	
State Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000	



168	Live Births)	8.80
169	Percent of Women who Received Prenatal	
170	Care in First Trimester	75.80
171	Percent of Live Births Delivered Prior	
172	to 37 Weeks of Gestation	15.50
173	Teenage Live Birth Rate Age 15-19 Years	
174	(per 1,000 Women Age 15-19)	22.20
175	Percent of Newborns with Positive and	
176	Inconclusive Genetic Screens who	
177	Received Recommended Follow-Up	100.00
178	Percent of Adults who are Obese (Body	
179	Mass Index of 30 or More, Regardless of	
180	Sex)	39.10
181	Health Protection	
182	Percent of Mississippi Population	
183	Receiving Water From a Public Water	
184	Supply	92.00
185	Percent of Mississippi Population	
186	Receiving Optimally Fluoridated Water	50.00
187	Transfer Time of Level III and IV Trauma	
188	Centers to Appropriate Facilities for	
189	Treatment (Minutes)	129.00
190	Communicable Disease	
191	Primary and Secondary Syphilis: Case	
192	Rate per 100,000	27.14



193	Tuberculosis: Number of Cases	40
194	Tuberculosis: Case Rate per 100,000	1.20
195	HIV Disease: Number of Cases	450
196	HIV Disease: Case Rate per 100,000	15.31
197	Rate of Two Year Old Children Fully	
198	Immunized (National Immunization Survey:	
199	4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series - 19 to 35 months)	74.00
200	Tobacco Control	
201	Percent of Current Smokers Among Public	
202	Middle School Students	1.50
203	Percent of Current Smokers Among Public	
204	High School Students	2.10
205	Percent of Current Smokers Among Adults	
206	18 Years and Older	17.20
207	Public Health Emerg Prep/resp	
208	Time Required for Command Staff to	
209	Report to Emergency Operations Center in	
210	Response to a National or Man-Made	
211	Disaster (Minutes)	30.00
212	Admin & Support Services	
213	Percent of Mississippi Population Living	
214	in an Area Designated as a Health	
215	Professional Shortage Area: Mental	
216	Health	74.00
217	Percent of Mississippi Population Living	



218	in an Area Designated as a Health	
219	Professional Shortage Area: Dental	47.00
220	Percent of Mississippi Population Living	
221	in an Area Designated as a Health	
222	Professional Shortage Area: Primary	
223	Care	50.00
224	Medical Cannabis	
225	Number of Conditions Added to the List	
226	of Debilitating Medical Conditions	2
227	Number of Qualifying Patients Approved	55,000
228	Number of Designated Caregivers Approved	190
229	Number of Registry Identification Cards	
230	Revoked	25
231	Total Number of Patients with a Registry	
232	Identification Card	50,000
233	Number of Licensed Medical Practitioners	350
234	Number of Licensed Cannabis Cultivation	
235	Facilities	120
236	Number of Licensed Cannabis Processing	
237	Facilities	35
238	Number of Licensed Cannabis Testing	
239	Facilities	4
240	Number of Licensed Cannabis Waste	
241	Disposal Entities	7
242	Number of Licensed Cannabis	



Fund (CWSRF) appropriations and from the supplemental
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) appropriations.

SECTION 12. In addition to all other sums heretofore
appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury
to the credit of the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems
Emergency Loan Fund, and the Local Governments and Rural Water
System Improvements Revolving Loan Fund as authorized in Chapter
521, Laws of 1995, to the State Department of Health for the
purpose of defraying the expenses of the Local Governments and
Rural Water Systems Improvements Board, for the fiscal year
beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
.....\$ 175,050,130.00.

SECTION 13. Of the funds appropriated under Sections 11 and
12 of this act, the following positions are authorized:

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 5

Time-Limited: 8

With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds
appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi
Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board



shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

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

Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with 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 14. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from the Department of Human Services, Child Care Development Fund or other appropriate special funds for the purpose of child care licensure. These funds are to be transferred to the State Department of Health no later than July 31, 2025. The State Department of Health shall make a complete accounting of the uses of these funds to the Department of Human Services.

SECTION 15. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Department of Health shall expend not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) of the funds appropriated herein for providing the oil known as "Lorenzo's Oil" for the treatment of the genetic disorder adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), to children and Mississippi residents over the age of twenty-one (21) who have the



genetic disorder adrenoleukodystrophy and for whom Medicaid does not reimburse the cost of providing the oil. The department may also provide needed pathology and biannual MRI exams.

SECTION 16. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) are provided for the purpose of purchasing AIDS drugs and other necessary AIDS related medical services.

SECTION 17. Of the funds appropriated herein, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

SECTION 18. In addition to all other funds heretofore appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act at the Department of Health for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 7,787,845.00.

SECTION 19. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 18 of this act, the following positions are authorized:

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 0

Time-Limited: 34

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



368 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
369 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi
370 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
371 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
372 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
373 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
374 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025
375 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
376 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
377 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
378 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
379 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
380 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
381 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

382 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
383 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
384 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
385 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do
386 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
387 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the
388 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
389 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
390 essential for the agency.

391 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
392 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 20. In addition to all other funds heretofore appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Burn Care Fund which is comprised of special source funds collected by or otherwise available to the department, for the purpose of funding reimbursement for uncompensated medical care to Mississippi burn victims through the trauma care system at in-state burn facilities including the Baptist Medical Center, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and any designated Burn Center associated with a Level I



Trauma Center in the Mississippi Trauma Care System or for uncompensated aero medical transportation to out-of-state qualified United States Burn Care facilities, and such other provisions necessary to provide burn care for Mississippi residents, including reimbursement for travel, lodgings, meals and other reasonable travel-related expenses incurred by burn victims, family members and/or caregivers, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 5,000,000.00.

SECTION 21. It is the intention of the Legislature that whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price, quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids.

SECTION 22. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Department of Health shall implement same day service to receive birth and death certificates.

SECTION 23. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi State Department of Health shall provide the Joint Legislative Budget Committee a report of all grants received by September 15, 2025. This notification will consist of the name of the grant and agency or nonprofit making the award, the award amount, and a short list of goals to be achieved.



443 **SECTION 24.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
444 Mississippi State Department of Health shall be the fiscal agent
445 in all allowable grants awarded.

446 **SECTION 25.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Seven
447 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall come from the
448 Department of Education for the purpose of maintenance of effort
449 for the Early Intervention Program. These funds are to be
450 transferred to the State Department of Health no later than
451 December 31, 2025. The State Department of Health shall make a
452 complete accounting of the uses of these funds to the Department
453 of Education.

454 **SECTION 26.** The Mississippi Department of Health is
455 authorized to obtain a line of credit through the State Treasurer
456 from the Working Cash-Stabilization Fund or any other special
457 source funds maintained in the State Treasury in an amount not
458 exceeding Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) to fund shortfalls
459 which, from time to time, may occur due to insufficient working
460 cash spent in anticipation of receiving federal reimbursement.
461 The length of indebtedness under this provision shall not carry
462 past the end of the quarter following the loan origination. Loan
463 proceeds shall be received by the State Treasurer and shall be
464 placed in a Mississippi Department of Health designated special
465 fund account. The division may pledge as security for such
466 interim financing future funds that will be received by the
467 division. Any such loans shall be repaid from the first available



funds received by the department in the manner of and subject to the same terms provided in this section.

SECTION 27. It is the intention of the Legislature that the funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for actions contrary to this provision.

SECTION 28. With the funds appropriated herein, it is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Department of Health is authorized to set the compensation of all nurse PINs, Epidemiologists and Disease Intervention Specialist Series based on the education and experience of the incumbent not to exceed the end salary as established by the State Personnel Board.

SECTION 29. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Chairman of the Board of Health may appoint an official replacement or representative with voting privileges to the Advisory Board of the Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce.

SECTION 30. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Health Officer shall have the authority to transfer cash from one special fund treasury fund to another special fund treasury fund under the control of the Department of Health. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the State Health Officer shall submit written justification for the transfer to the



493 Legislative Budget Office and the Department of Finance and
494 Administration on or before the fifteenth of the month prior to
495 the effective date of the transfer.

496 **SECTION 31.** Of the funds appropriated in Sections 1 and 2 of
497 this act, One Million Three Hundred Eighty-two Thousand Two
498 Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,382,250.00) is provided for the Office
499 of Mississippi Physician Workforce as described in Section
500 41-123-5, Mississippi Code of 1972.

501 **SECTION 32.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, it is
502 the intention of the Legislature that Eight Hundred Fifty-nine
503 Thousand Nine Hundred Three Dollars (\$859,903.00) shall be
504 allocated to the Domestic Violence program that is supported from
505 General Fund court assessments.

506 **SECTION 33.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the
507 Mississippi State Department of Health shall have authority to
508 escalate the various budgets in both funds and positions, with the
509 approval of the State Fiscal Officer, from any special funds
510 collected or available for HIV medical or support services,
511 clinical quality management, and administrative expenses not to
512 exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), to the agency for
513 expenditure. Upon such approval, the Mississippi State Department
514 of Health may expend such funds in the manner authorized by law.
515 Funds may be made available to local HIV/AIDS service providers.

516 The Executive Director of the Mississippi State Department of
517 Health shall submit to the Department of Finance and



Administration a certified statement providing a detailed explanation for any escalation, including a justification for the establishment of any new positions or reclassification of existing positions.

SECTION 34. Notwithstanding any other provision, the Department of Health shall have the authority to escalate its headcount for any additional operational needs related to Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds, upon approval of the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Personnel Board.

SECTION 35. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Department of Health is hereby authorized to escalate, budget and expend funds for salaries and positions, with the approval of the State Fiscal Officer, from fund numbers 5331400000, 5331500000, and 5820130100, for the purpose of operating the State Department of Health programs as authorized by law, in accordance with rules and regulation of the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of federal funds and when grant requirements have changed that result in staffing needs but do not result in new or additional funds.

The Executive Director of the State Department of Health or designee shall submit to the Department of Finance and Administration a certified statement providing a detailed explanation for any escalation, including a justification for the



establishment of any new positions or reclassification of existing positions.

SECTION 36. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Twelve Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$12,300,000.00) is allocated for the purpose of providing reimbursable grants from the Office of Interpersonal Violence as described in this section.

The funds appropriated under this section shall be expended by the State Department of Health as a reimbursable grant. In determining reimbursable expenses, the State Department of Health shall use allowable costs as defined by the Office of Interpersonal Violence. Of the funds in this section, a minimum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is to be distributed to Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi for the purpose of conducting additional forensic interviews. Of the funds in this section, up to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) may be used by the department for administration of these funds.

SECTION 37. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 38. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

