

By: Representatives Deweese, Read, Bennett,  
Creekmore IV, Currie, McGee, Mickens, Scott,  
Turner

To: Appropriations C;  
Appropriations A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1742

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
5 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General  
6 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of Human  
7 Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending  
8 June 30, 2026.....\$ 78,116,522.00.

9 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
10 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in  
11 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Human  
12 Services which is comprised of special source funds collected by  
13 or otherwise available to the department for the support of the  
14 various divisions of the department, for the purpose of defraying  
15 the expenses of the department for the fiscal year beginning  
16 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 1,572,880,450.00.

17 **SECTION 3.** None of the funds appropriated by this act shall  
18 be expended for any purpose that is not actually required or



19 necessary for performing any of the powers or duties of the  
20 Department of Human Services that are authorized by the  
21 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, state or federal law, or rules  
22 or regulations that implement state or federal law.

23       **SECTION 4.** With the funds appropriated in this act, the  
24 following positions are authorized:

25       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

26           Permanent:       Full Time.....       1,202

27           Time-Limited:   Full Time.....       353

28       With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
29 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
30 Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds  
31 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
32 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi  
33 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
34 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board  
35 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may  
36 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year  
37 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025  
38 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that  
39 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount  
40 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments  
41 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current  
42 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee



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

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

54       Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
55 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
56 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
57 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
58 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
59 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
60 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
61 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
62 appropriated level.

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



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

71       **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
72 Department of Human Services shall maintain complete accounting  
73 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
74 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
75 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
76 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
77 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to  
78 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
79 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
80 during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

81       **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 herein to  
82 the Department of Human Services, One Million Dollars  
83 (\$1,000,000.00) shall be transferred to the Department of Health,  
84 Child Care Licensure Program from the Child Care Development Fund  
85 or other appropriate special fund. These funds are to be  
86 transferred to the Board of Health no later than July 31, 2024.  
87 The Department of Health shall make a complete accounting to the  
88 Department of Human Services detailing the uses of these funds in  
89 accordance with federal and state regulations.

90       **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
91 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the



92 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
93 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
94 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
95 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
96 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
97 made without competitive bids.

98       **SECTION 8.** The Department of Human Services is authorized to  
99 expend available funds on technology or equipment upgrades or  
100 replacements when it will generate savings through efficiency or  
101 when the savings generated from such upgrades or replacements  
102 exceed expenditures thereof.

103       **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none  
104 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain  
105 utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such  
106 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,  
107 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,  
108 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance  
109 with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall  
110 include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not  
111 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities  
112 shall be prohibited.

113       **SECTION 10.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
114 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
115 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
116 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the



117 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
118 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
119 performance measures provided below:

120		FY2026
121	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
122	Support Services	
123	Percent of Referred/Directed	
124	Investigative Audits Conducted	100.00
125	Percent of Special Investigations Conducted	95.00
126	Percent of Referred/Obtained Fraud	
127	Investigations Conducted Timely	100.00
128	Percent of Referred Administrative	
129	Disqualification Hearings & Fair	
130	Hearings Conducted Timely	99.00
131	Percent of Monitoring Reviews Conducted	
132	within Acceptable Timeframes	98.00
133	Total Amount of Funds Recovered	3,500,000.00
134	Aging & Adult Services	
135	In-Home Services - Age 60 + (Persons Served)	18,680
136	Community Services - Age 60 + (Persons	
137	Served)	193,617
138	Number of Congregate Meals	468,272
139	Number of Home Delivered Meals	2,700,000
140	Substantiated Incidences of Abuse of	
141	Vulnerable Adults per 1,000 Population	0.17



142	Home Delivered Meals, Percent Reduction	
143	of Persons on Waiting list	1.00
144	Child Support Enforcement	
145	Increase the Number of Paternities	
146	Established	15,500
147	Percent Change in Paternities Established	3.30
148	Number of Obligations Established	16,000
149	Percent Change in Obligations Established	12.50
150	Total Collections	378,000,000.00
151	Percent Change in Total Collections	-2.50
152	Number of Absent Parents Located	68,000
153	Percent of Child Support Cases Current	
154	on Payments	-2.53
155	Community Services	
156	Number of Elderly Served by CSBG & LIHEAP	20,352
157	Number of Disabled Served CSBG/LIHEAP	26,762
158	Number of Households Achieving	
159	Self-Sufficiency CSBG/LIHEAP	0
160	Percent Increase in Rate of Households	
161	Attaining Self-Sufficiency	0.00
162	Number of Households Stabilized CSBG/LIHEAP	0
163	Percent Increase in the Number of	
164	Households Stabilized	0.00
165	Number of Households Weatherized	516
166	Early Childhood Care & Dev	



167	Number of Children Served	33,000
168	Assistance Payments	
169	Dollar Amount of Assistance	6,240,877.00
170	Food Assistance	
171	Number of Average Monthly Households	22,500
172	Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program	
173	- SNAP (\$)	716,413,100.00
174	Percent of Mississippi Households	
175	Receiving SNAP Benefits	22.51
176	Tanf Work Program	
177	Number of Average Monthly TANF Households	8,864
178	Number of Average Monthly Persons Served	
179	in TANF Work Program	1,107
180	TANF Work Program Participation Rate (%)	60.00
181	Number of Persons Employed Through the	
182	TANF Work Program for the Year	832
183	Number of Households Receiving TANF	
184	Benefits During the Year	9,969
185	Percent of Households Receiving TANF	
186	During the Year	49.00
187	Percent of TANF Participants in Job Trng	
188	Who Enter Employment	30.00
189	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
190	Training Who Enter Employment at A	
191	Salary Sufficient to Be Ineligible for	





192	TANF	19.00
193	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
194	Training Who Remain Employed For: One	
195	Year After Leaving the Program	75.00
196	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
197	Training Who Remain Employed For: Five	
198	Years After Leaving the Program	65.00
199	Social Services Block Grant	
200	Number of Clients Served, Division of	
201	Family & Children's Services	75,611
202	Number of Clients Served, Aging & Adult	
203	Services	21,178
204	Number of Clients Served, Youth Services	12,880
205	Youth Services	
206	Community Services (Children Served)	6,000
207	Institutional Component (Children Served)	130
208	Number of Volunteers - Community	
209	Services/Institution	0
210	Number of Children Placed in Alternative	
211	Placement	95
212	Percent of Children Diverted from	
213	Institutional Care	95.00
214	Recidivism Rate (%)	4.00
215	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
216	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	



agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.

**SECTION 11.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support Enforcement, make a concentrated effort to increase collections of past due child support payments. On or before January 1, 2026, the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services shall submit a report to the Legislative Budget Office detailing year-to-date performance measures in the Child Support Enforcement Program compared with the prior year.

**SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Human Services shall have the authority to spend such additional funds as it shall receive from the federal government in incentives or the federal match on those incentives for the purpose of child support enforcement.

**SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be transferred to the Juvenile Facility Monitoring Unit at the Department of Public Safety no later than July 31, 2025.

**SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated herein, to the Department of Human Services One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), is provided for the support of the Home Delivered Meals Program and any additional funds that may be appropriated to this program.

**SECTION 15.** Of the funds provided in Section 1, herein to the Department of Human Services, an amount not to exceed One



Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) is provided to fund the Senior Olympics Program.

**SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the Governor's Office, Division of Medicaid and the Department of Human Services shall continue to work together to implement Section 43-12-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, known as the "Medicaid and Human Services Transparency and Fraud Prevention Act".

**SECTION 17.** As a condition of receiving and expending any funds appropriated under this act, the Department of Human Services:

(a) Shall use a competitive procurement process for entering into all TANF subgrant agreements with non-state entities when the federal government does not direct to whom the funds must be subgranted;

(b) Upon awarding of a grant to any subgrantee of the department, shall require the subgrantee to submit a monthly report to the department that contains, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(i) A listing of all costs incurred by the subgrantee during the previous month;

(ii) A listing of all clients served by the subgrantee, with an explanation of which services were provided to the clients;



265 (iii) A listing of all lower-tier subgrantees, who must  
266 be approved by the department before the execution of any such  
267 agreement by the prime subgrantee; and

268 (iv) Any other data required by the department to  
269 provide sufficient evidence of budgetary compliance;

270 (c) Shall not advance funds to a subgrantee for more than  
271 sixty (60) days; and

272 (d) Shall reimburse a subgrantee for expenses only after the  
273 required documentation is provided and is approved by the  
274 department.

275 **SECTION 18.** It is the intent of the Legislature, that within  
276 the funds available, the Department of Human Services may provide  
277 any qualifying grants of CARES Act or American Rescue Act funding  
278 in an amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand  
279 Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) to the three (3) regional food banks that  
280 serve Mississippi, including Feed the Gulf Coast, Mid-South Food  
281 Bank, and Mississippi Food Network.

282 **SECTION 19.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
283 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
284 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of  
285 Human Services for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of  
286 Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1797, 2024 Regular  
287 Session to defray expenses of the Department of Human Services for  
288 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026  
289 .....\$ 56,188,624.00.



290       This appropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing  
291 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

292       (a) To defray the Department's computer expenses.....  
293 .....\$    2,188,624.00.

294       (b) To secure federal funding for a new computer system.....  
295 .....\$   54,000,000.00.

296       Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
297 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
298 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
299 remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the  
300 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
301 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

302       **SECTION 20.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
303 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
304 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
305 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
306 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
307 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

308       **SECTION 21.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
309 and after July 1, 2025.

