

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

To: Appropriations C;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1744

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE FOR THE
3 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 appropriated out of any money in the State General
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the fiscal
9 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
10\$ 13,292,671.00.

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 Mississippi Department of
14 Insurance which is comprised of special source funds collected by
15 or otherwise available to the department, for the support of the
16 various offices of the department for the fiscal year beginning
17 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 5,130,000.00.



18 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
19 this act, the following positions are authorized:

20 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

21 Permanent: 124

22 Time-Limited: 0

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

40 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
41 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
42 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to



43 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do
44 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
45 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the
46 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
47 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
48 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

66 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
67 Mississippi Department of Insurance shall maintain complete



68 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all
69 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be
70 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal
71 Year 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that
72 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be
73 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format
74 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail
75 provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

76 **SECTION 5.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
77 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
78 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
79 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
80 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
81 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
82 performance measures provided below:

83		FY2026
84	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
85	Lic & Reg MS Ins Co's & Agents	
86	Number of (Producer, Etc) Licenses Issued	150,000
87	Average Cost per License Issued	100.00
88	Number of Agent's C/A's Issued	580,000
89	Average Cost per Agent C/A Issued	25.00
90	Number of Requests for Assistance	24,500
91	Average Cost per Customer I/C Addressed	55.00
92	Number of Fire Marshal Fire Investigations	538



93	Cost per Fire Marshal Investigation	900.00
94	Number of Fire Marshal Inspections	8,000
95	Average Cost per Fire Marshal Inspection	60.00
96	Liquefied Compressed Gas	
97	Number of Accidents/Injuries/Deaths Due	
98	to Incidents Involving LCG	1
99	Number of Inspections	7,000
100	Average Cost per Inspection	105.00
101	Number of Safety Training Schools/Seminars	225
102	Average Cost per Safety Training School	160.00

103 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
 104 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
 105 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
 106 Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.

107 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
 108 Section 1, Fifteen Thousand Seventy-nine Dollars (\$15,079.00) is
 109 provided for the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards and
 110 Certification Board.

111 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
 112 Section 1, funds in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars
 113 (\$20,000.00) is provided and shall be expended to pay the annual
 114 dues for the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

115 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
 116 of the funds appropriated above shall be expended unless members
 117 of the Mississippi House of Representatives and Mississippi Senate



are notified at least five (5) days prior to a public ceremony announcing the award of any grant in their district or any public announcement or ceremony regarding any project for which the Legislature has made funds available. Any signage regarding any public event or project shall include the following language:
"Funds were made available for this project by the Mississippi State Legislature."

SECTION 9. 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 10. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Comprehensive Hurricane Damage Mitigation Program Fund, as created in Section 83-1-191(4), Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office to the Department of Insurance. The Department of Insurance shall utilize these funds for the purpose of administering the Comprehensive Hurricane Damage Mitigation Program created in Section 83-1-191, Mississippi Code of 1972. As



a condition of expending the funds provided in this section, the Department shall limit the amount of grants provided to an individual as provided in Section 83-1-191(1)(c), Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 11. Within the limits of the funds available to the Mississippi Insurance Department for such purpose, the Commissioner of Insurance for the Mississippi Insurance Department may grant a paid internship to students pursuing junior or senior undergraduate level year coursework toward a bachelor's degree in risk management insurance or graduate level coursework towards a master's degree in business administration. Those applicants deemed qualified by the Mississippi Department of Insurance shall receive funds that may be used to pay for tuition, books and related fees to pursue their degree. It is the intent of the Legislature that the paid internship program shall be used as incentive for risk management insurance careers at the Mississippi Insurance Department.

SECTION 12. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided for the State Fire Marshal's Office for fire safety prevention and services, including, but not limited to, fire protection supplies and materials, smoke alarms, and public service announcements providing fire prevention information.

SECTION 13. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 2, 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 Propane Education and Research Program Fund, for the purpose of research and development of more cost effective uses of propane and on educational programs, safety programs, and market development of propane for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 130,000.00.

SECTION 14. In addition to all other sums heretofore appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Annual Fire Fund to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the purposes allowed in Section 17-23-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 9,000,000.00.

SECTION 15. In addition to all other funds appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance Fund which was created in Section 17-23-1 (4), Mississippi Code of 1972 to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance Program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 2,000,000.00.

SECTION 16. 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



193 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
194 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
195 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

196 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
197 and after July 1, 2025.

