

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

To: Appropriations C;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1749

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE  
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE  
3 STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY 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 hereby appropriated out of any money in the special  
7 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Board of  
8 Optometry, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the board  
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending  
10 June 30, 2026.....\$ 256,272.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
12 this act, the following positions are authorized:

13 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

14 Permanent: 1

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

84           **SECTION 6.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
85 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
86 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
87 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
88 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
89 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

90           **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
91 and after July 1, 2025.

