

By: Representatives Mims, Read, Barton,
Cockerham, Faulkner, Hood, McKnight, Rushing,
Watson

To: Appropriations D;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1762

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE ADMINISTRATIVE
3 EXPENSES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
4 RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE
5 RETIREMENT SYSTEM BUILDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
8 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury
9 to the credit of the Administrative Expense Account of the Public
10 Employees' Retirement System for the purpose of defraying the
11 administrative expenses of the Board of Trustees of the Public
12 Employees' Retirement System, or out of any money in the State
13 Treasury to the credit of the Retirement System Building Account
14 of the Public Employees' Retirement System for the purpose of
15 maintenance and general operation of the Retirement System
16 Building, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
17 June 30, 2026.....\$ 21,052,911.00.

18 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
19 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:



AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 167

Time-Limited: 0

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 3. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System 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 4. In accordance with the purposes of this article, there shall be established in the State Treasury the Public Employees' Retirement System Building Repair and Maintenance Fund, into which shall be deposited all funds collected as rental income from the building owned by the system located at 301 North President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. At the end of each fiscal year, any and all unexpended funds shall be transferred to the Administrative Budget Fund of the system.

SECTION 5. 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 6. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, no more than Three Million Five Hundred Thirty-eight Thousand Dollars



95 (\$3,538,000.00) is provided for the purpose of defraying those
96 expenses associated with maintaining, upgrading and operating the
97 computer system.

98 **SECTION 7.** As a condition of expending the funds
99 appropriated in Section 1 of this act, the Board of Trustees of
100 the Public Employees' Retirement System shall live webcast and
101 record all board and committee meetings, excluding any executive
102 sessions of the board under the provision of the Mississippi Open
103 Meetings Act. Archived footage or a weblink to the archived
104 footage shall be posted on the agency website within Forty-eight
105 (48) hours of the date and time the meeting was held.

106 **SECTION 8.** The Public Employees' Retirement System is
107 further authorized, in its discretion, to expend funds for the
108 purchase of service pins for employees of the Public Employees'
109 Retirement System.

110 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, no more
111 than Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) is provided,
112 only for the explicit purpose of building maintenance and repair.

113 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
114 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
115 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
116 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
117 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
118 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
119 actions contrary to this provision.



120 **SECTION 11.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
121 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
122 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
123 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
124 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
125 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.
126 **SECTION 12.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
127 and after July 1, 2025.

