

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

To: Appropriations D;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1764

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SUPREME COURT WHICH IS
3 COMPRISED OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE OFFICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
4 CLERK AND THE STATE LAW LIBRARY AND TO PAY EXPENSES OF SPECIAL
5 JUDGES, CHANCELLORS AND CIRCUIT JUDGES, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF
6 DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS AND
7 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION, COURT OF
8 APPEALS AND THE BOARD OF BAR ADMISSIONS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026;
9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
13 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the
14 expenses of the Mississippi State Supreme Court for the fiscal
15 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
16\$ 7,651,428.00.

17 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
18 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
19 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi State Supreme
20 Court which is comprised of special source funds collected by or
21 otherwise available to the Mississippi State Supreme Court, for



22 the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Mississippi State
23 Supreme Court for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and
24 ending June 30, 2026\$ 1,004,093.00.

25 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
26 this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
27 Mississippi State Supreme Court, the following positions are
28 authorized:

29 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

30 Permanent: 70

31 Time-Limited: 0

32 **SECTION 4.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
33 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
34 Fund not otherwise appropriated to the Mississippi State Supreme
35 Court for the purpose of defraying the expenses of special judges,
36 chancellors and circuit judges for the fiscal year beginning
37 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 36,921,111.00.

38 **SECTION 5.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
39 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
40 the State Treasury to the credit of the trial judges, for the
41 purpose of defraying the expenses of special judges, chancellors
42 and circuit judges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and
43 ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 4,286,025.00.

44 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under Sections 4 and 5
45 of this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of special



46 judges, chancellors and circuit judges, the following positions
47 are authorized:

48 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

49 Permanent: 109

50 Time-Limited: 0

51 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under Sections 4 and 5
52 of this act, Fourteen Million One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars
53 (\$14,170,000.00) is provided for the purpose of employing support
54 staff in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thirty Thousand
55 Dollars (\$130,000.00) per fiscal year per judge.

56 **SECTION 8.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
57 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
58 Fund, not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of funding the
59 Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal year beginning
60 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 17,343,629.00.

61 **SECTION 9.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
62 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
63 the State Treasury to the credit of the Administrative Office of
64 Courts for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
65 Administrative Office of Courts and the Board of Certified Court
66 Reporters for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
67 June 30, 2026.....\$ 28,159,106.00.

68 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
69 of this act for the purpose of funding the Administrative Office
70 of Courts, the following positions are authorized:



AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 48

Time-Limited: 0

SECTION 11. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the Continuing Legal Education Fund, a special fund hereby created in the State Treasury, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of providing continuing legal education programs to lawyers in Mississippi, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026..

.....\$ 172,366.00.

SECTION 12. It is the intention of the Legislature that interest earned from any investment or deposit to the Continuing Legal Education Fund made pursuant to Section 27-105-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the Continuing Legal Education Fund and shall not be paid into the General Fund of Mississippi.

SECTION 13. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act for the purpose of providing continuing legal education programs, the following positions are authorized:

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 2

Time-Limited: 0

SECTION 14. 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 to the Mississippi State Supreme



Court for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court of Appeals for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 5,503,789.00.

SECTION 15. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi State Supreme Court, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court of Appeals for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 1,684,865.00.

SECTION 16. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court of Appeals, the following positions are authorized:

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 58

Time-Limited: 0

SECTION 17. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Board of Bar Admissions, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 371,804.00.

SECTION 18. It is the intention of the Legislature that interest earned from any investment or deposit to the Board of Bar Admissions Fund made pursuant to Section 27-105-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the



Board of Bar Admissions Fund and shall not be paid into the
General Fund of Mississippi.

SECTION 19. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
of this act for the purpose of funding the Board of Bar
Admissions, the following positions are authorized:

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 3

Time-Limited: 0

Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
the terms, conditions and procedures established by law.

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

SECTION 20. No part of the funds herein appropriated shall
be used in the payment of attorney's fees, nor shall any of such
funds be used, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of
paying any clerk, stenographer, assistant, deputy or other person
who may be related by blood or marriage within the third degree,
computed by the rules of civil law, to the official employing or
having the right of employment or selection thereof; and in the
event of any such payment, then the official or person approving
and making or receiving such payment shall be jointly and
severally liable to return to the State of Mississippi and to pay
into the State Treasury three (3) times any such amount so paid or



received, to be recovered at suit of the Attorney General;
however, when the relationship is by affinity and the person
through whom the relationship was established is dead, this
provision shall not apply.

SECTION 21. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
Mississippi State Supreme Court shall charge the maximum amount
allowable by law for services rendered where charges for such
services are provided for by statute, and for any other services
rendered, shall charge an amount consistent with the cost of
providing such services. The funds derived from these charges
shall be deposited into a special fund account in the State
Treasury to the credit of the Office of the Mississippi State
Supreme Court.

SECTION 22. It is the intent of the Legislature that no part
of the funds herein appropriated shall be required to be used for
the payment of rent for the public space in the Law Library.

SECTION 23. In accordance with Section 9-21-13, Mississippi
Code of 1972, the Director of the Administrative Office of Courts
is authorized to direct expenditures of state monies appropriated
to the Administrative Office of Courts or any courts of the state
for any and all functions or projects directly or indirectly
affecting the operation of any court and may transfer monies
appropriated for the office or any account to any one or more
other accounts or office. The Director of the Administrative
Office of Courts shall notify, in writing, the Lieutenant



Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of the House Appropriations A Committee, and the Legislative Budget Office of any transfer. The written notification shall include the justification for the transfer of funds, an explanation of need, the amount, and where the funds will be used. This written notification shall be sent on or before the fifteenth day of the month prior to the effective date of the transfer.

SECTION 24. Of the funds appropriated in Section 8 of this act, Seven Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars (\$732,539.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is provided for the operations of the CCID inferior court established in Section 9-12-1, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 25. 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 26. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act, an amount not to exceed Two Million Four Hundred Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,460,500.00) may be



provided for the Comprehensive Electronic Court Systems Fund
administered by the Administrative Office of Courts.

SECTION 27. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
Mississippi State Supreme Court 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 28. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
of this act, Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
(\$2,500,000.00) shall be provided for the Youth Court Support Fund
administered by the Administrative Office of Courts.

SECTION 29. Of the funds appropriated in Section 8, Nine
Million Dollars (\$9,000,000.00) is provided to defray the costs of
the Drug Court Program.

Of the funds allocated above, Six Million Five Hundred
Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000.00) of this amount may be allocated
for this program from General Fund court assessments.

SECTION 30. It is the intention of the Legislature that in
the event there are not sufficient funds in the Judicial System
Operation Fund created under Section 9-21-45, Mississippi Code of



220 1972, in any given year with which to pay the annual salary
221 supplements set forth in Section 25-3-35, Mississippi Code of
222 1972, then the county treasury shall not be obligated to fund such
223 salary supplements and the salary of county court judges shall be
224 that in place prior to the passage of Section 9-9-11, Mississippi
225 Code of 1972.

226 **SECTION 31.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 8, it is
227 the intention of the Legislature that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars
228 (\$200,000.00) may be allocated for the Civil Legal Assistance
229 Program supported by General Fund court assessments.

230 **SECTION 32.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
231 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
232 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -
233 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing
234 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB
235 1820, 2024 Regular Session, for temporary Intake Officers for the
236 Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal
237 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
238\$ 332,246.

239 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
240 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
241 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
242 remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the
243 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
244 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.



245 **SECTION 33.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
246 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
247 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
248 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
249 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
250 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

251 **SECTION 34.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
252 and after July 1, 2025.

