

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



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

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

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

Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section, the amount that may be expended under the authority of this section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not 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.

