

By: Representatives Oliver, Read, Arnold,
Boyd (19th), Hines, Mangold, Massengill,
Roberson, Scoggin

To: Appropriations E;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1769

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL
3 TELEVISION 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 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 Authority for Educational Television
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
10 June 30, 2026.....\$ 4,547,938.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Authority for
14 Educational Television which is comprised of special source funds
15 collected by or otherwise available to the Authority, for the
16 purpose of defraying the expenses of the Authority for the fiscal
17 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
18\$ 6,353,694.00.



19 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
20 Section 1 and Section 2, the following positions are authorized:

21 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22 Permanent: 78

23 Time-Limited: 7

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

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



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

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

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

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

67 **SECTION 4.** Funds appropriated herein shall first be used for
68 the continuation of a full and complete broadcast schedule of



educational and instructional, professional growth, and public service programs, with the production of new films and programs to be secondary thereto.

SECTION 5. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television 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 6. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 2, Two Million One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-six Dollars (\$2,118,966.00) shall be derived from the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 7. No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be transferred to, expended by, or used, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of any public relations, publicity or publication activities of any other state agency, department or officer, nor shall any personnel paid or equipment purchased with funds appropriated hereby be transferred or assigned to any other state



agency, department or officer for public relations, publicity or publication activities of such office.

SECTION 8. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall have the authority to expend funds in the Capital Equipment Replacement Revolving Fund, in accordance with Section 37-63-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the purpose of purchasing technical equipment for operating the educational radio and television facilities.

SECTION 9. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided below:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Content Operations	
Number of Locally Produced TV Programs	100
Number of Locally Produced Radio Programs	1,092
Number of Monthly Average Number of Web	
Site Users	25,000
Percent of Radio Broadcasts and TV	
Alerts During Times of Emergency	100.00
Education Services	



119	Percent Increase in Users Using MPB	
120	Education Online Resources for Pre-K	
121	Children and Families	15.00
122	Number of Students Served by the Digital	
123	Education Network (DEN) Classroom	2,000
124	Number of School Districts Participating	
125	in the DEN Classroom	30
126	Number of Teachers Taking e-Learning Courses	1,300
127	Number of Teacher Continuing Education	
128	Units (CEUs) Provided by e-Learning	
129	Courses Offered	3,500
130	Percent Increase of Visitors to the MPB	
131	Education Website	20.00
132	Number of Early Childhood Educators	
133	Attending MPB Resource Workshops	
134	Involving PBS and MPB Programs/Content	250
135	Technical Services	
136	Number of Transmitters On Air	8
137	On-Air Reliability	99.95
138	Number of IT Help Desk Orders Filled	835
139	Administration	
140	Number of Community Engagements/Outreach	
141	Events Including Virtual Engagements	100
142	Number of State Agency Partners	40
143	New Grant Dollars Acquired	75,000.00



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

148 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
149 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
150 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
151 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
152 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
153 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
154 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
155 made without competitive bids.

156 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that an
157 amount equal to One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per square foot
158 shall be paid to the Executive Office of the State Board of
159 Institutions of Higher Learning to defray utility costs.

160 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
161 Authority for Educational Television may fund a program to focus
162 on the manufacturing industry in Mississippi.

163 **SECTION 13.** Mississippi Authority for Educational Television
164 is authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or
165 contribution from any individual, public, or private organization,
166 or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational
167 costs of the department. Such grants, donations or contributions
168 shall be received and expended under the rules and regulations of



169 the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner
170 consistent with the escalation of federal funds not to exceed Two
171 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

172 **SECTION 14.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
173 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education
174 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational
175 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the
176 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House
177 Bill No. 1824, 2024 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning
178 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 899,202.00.

179 This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
180 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

181 a) Tower maintenance and upgrades.....\$ 175,394.00.
182 b) Digitalization of Educational Content
183 and Mississippi History.....\$ 522,968.00.
184 c) Production of a Medgar Evers
185 documentary.....\$ 200,840.00.

186 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
187 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
188 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
189 remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the
190 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
191 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

192 **SECTION 15.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
193 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the



194 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
195 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
196 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
197 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

198 **SECTION 16.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
199 and after July 1, 2025.

