

By: Senator(s) Butler, Simmons (13th),  
Brumfield

To: Finance

## SENATE BILL NO. 2878

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF STATE GENERAL OBLIGATION  
2 BONDS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
3 CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF A SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,  
4 ENGINEERING, AGRICULTURE AND MATH (STEAM) OUTREACH CENTER AT  
5 ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) The provisions of this section shall apply  
8 to every section of this act that relates to the issuance of bonds  
9 unless otherwise provided in this act.

10 (2) As used in this act, the following words shall have the  
11 meanings ascribed herein unless the context clearly requires  
12 otherwise:

13 (a) "State" means the State of Mississippi.

14 (b) "Commission" means the State Bond Commission.

15 (3) The principal of and interest on the bonds authorized  
16 under this act shall be payable in the manner provided in this  
17 subsection. Such bonds shall bear such date or dates, be in such  
18 denomination or denominations, bear interest at such rate or rates  
19 (not to exceed the limits set forth in Section 75-17-101,



20 Mississippi Code of 1972), be payable at such place or places  
21 within or without the State of Mississippi, shall mature  
22 absolutely at such time or times not to exceed twenty-five (25)  
23 years from date of issue, be redeemable before maturity at such  
24 time or times and upon such terms, with or without premium, shall  
25 bear such registration privileges, and shall be substantially in  
26 such form, all as shall be determined by resolution of the  
27 commission.

28       (4) The bonds authorized by this act shall be signed by the  
29 chairman of the commission, or by his facsimile signature, and the  
30 official seal of the commission shall be affixed thereto, attested  
31 by the secretary of the commission. The interest coupons, if any,  
32 to be attached to such bonds may be executed by the facsimile  
33 signatures of such officers. Whenever any such bonds shall have  
34 been signed by the officials designated to sign the bonds who were  
35 in office at the time of such signing but who may have ceased to  
36 be such officers before the sale and delivery of such bonds, or  
37 who may not have been in office on the date such bonds may bear,  
38 the signatures of such officers upon such bonds and coupons shall  
39 nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes and have the  
40 same effect as if the person so officially signing such bonds had  
41 remained in office until their delivery to the purchaser, or had  
42 been in office on the date such bonds may bear. However,  
43 notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, such bonds may be



44 issued as provided in the Registered Bond Act of the State of  
45 Mississippi.

46 (5) All bonds and interest coupons issued under the  
47 provisions of this act have all the qualities and incidents of  
48 negotiable instruments under the provisions of the Uniform  
49 Commercial Code, and in exercising the powers granted by this act,  
50 the commission shall not be required to and need not comply with  
51 the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code.

52 (6) The commission shall act as issuing agent for the bonds  
53 authorized under this act, prescribe the form of the bonds,  
54 determine the appropriate method for sale of the bonds, advertise  
55 for and accept bids or negotiate the sale of the bonds, issue and  
56 sell the bonds so authorized to be sold, pay all fees and costs  
57 incurred in such issuance and sale, and do any and all other  
58 things necessary and advisable in connection with the issuance and  
59 sale of such bonds. The commission is authorized and empowered to  
60 pay the costs that are incident to the sale, issuance and delivery  
61 of the bonds authorized under this act from the proceeds derived  
62 from the sale of such bonds. The commission may sell such bonds  
63 on sealed bids at public sale or may negotiate the sale of the  
64 bonds for such price as it may determine to be for the best  
65 interest of the State of Mississippi. All interest accruing on  
66 such bonds so issued shall be payable semiannually or annually.

67 If such bonds are sold by sealed bids at public sale, notice  
68 of the sale shall be published at least one time, not less than



69 ten (10) days before the date of sale, and shall be so published  
70 in one or more newspapers published or having a general  
71 circulation in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, selected by the  
72 commission.

73 The commission, when issuing any bonds under the authority of  
74 this act, may provide that bonds, at the option of the State of  
75 Mississippi, may be called in for payment and redemption at the  
76 call price named therein and accrued interest on such date or  
77 dates named therein.

78 (7) The bonds issued under the provisions of this act are  
79 general obligations of the State of Mississippi, and for the  
80 payment thereof the full faith and credit of the State of  
81 Mississippi is irrevocably pledged. If the funds appropriated by  
82 the Legislature are insufficient to pay the principal of and the  
83 interest on such bonds as they become due, then the deficiency  
84 shall be paid by the State Treasurer from any funds in the State  
85 Treasury not otherwise appropriated. All such bonds shall contain  
86 recitals on their faces substantially covering the provisions of  
87 this subsection.

88 (8) Upon the issuance and sale of bonds under the provisions  
89 of this act, the commission shall transfer the proceeds of any  
90 such sale or sales to the special fund created in Section 2(1) of  
91 this act. The proceeds of such bonds shall be disbursed from the  
92 special fund under such restrictions, if any, as may be contained  
93 in the resolution providing for the issuance of the bonds.



94           (9) The bonds authorized under this act may be issued  
95 without any other proceedings or the happening of any other  
96 conditions or things other than those proceedings, conditions and  
97 things which are specified or required by this act. Any  
98 resolution providing for the issuance of bonds under the  
99 provisions of this act shall become effective immediately upon its  
100 adoption by the commission, and any such resolution may be adopted  
101 at any regular or special meeting of the commission by a majority  
102 of its members.

103           (10) The bonds authorized under the authority of this act  
104 may be validated in the Chancery Court of the First Judicial  
105 District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in the manner and with the  
106 force and effect provided by Chapter 13, Title 31, Mississippi  
107 Code of 1972, for the validation of county, municipal, school  
108 district and other bonds. The notice to taxpayers required by  
109 such statutes shall be published in a newspaper published or  
110 having a general circulation in the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

111           (11) Any holder of bonds issued under the provisions of this  
112 act or of any of the interest coupons pertaining thereto may,  
113 either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus or other  
114 proceeding, protect and enforce any and all rights granted under  
115 this act, or under such resolution, and may enforce and compel  
116 performance of all duties required by this act to be performed, in  
117 order to provide for the payment of bonds and interest thereon.



118           (12) All bonds issued under the provisions of this act shall  
119 be legal investments for trustees and other fiduciaries, and for  
120 savings banks, trust companies and insurance companies organized  
121 under the laws of the State of Mississippi, and such bonds shall  
122 be legal securities which may be deposited with and shall be  
123 received by all public officers and bodies of this state and all  
124 municipalities and political subdivisions for the purpose of  
125 securing the deposit of public funds.

126           (13) Bonds issued under the provisions of this act and  
127 income therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation in the State of  
128 Mississippi.

129           (14) The proceeds of the bonds issued under this act shall  
130 be used solely for the purposes herein provided, including the  
131 costs incident to the issuance and sale of such bonds.

132           (15) The State Treasurer is authorized, without further  
133 process of law, to certify to the Department of Finance and  
134 Administration the necessity for warrants, and the Department of  
135 Finance and Administration is authorized and directed to issue  
136 such warrants, in such amounts as may be necessary to pay when due  
137 the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, or the  
138 accreted value of, all bonds issued under this act; and the State  
139 Treasurer shall forward the necessary amount to the designated  
140 place or places of payment of such bonds in ample time to  
141 discharge such bonds, or the interest thereon, on the due dates  
142 thereof. As used in this section, the "accreted value" of any



bond means, as of any date of computation, an amount equal to the sum of (a) the stated initial value of such bond, plus (b) the interest accrued thereon from the issue date to the date of computation at the rate, compounded semiannually, that is necessary to produce the approximate yield to maturity shown for bonds of the same maturity.

(16) This act shall be deemed to be full and complete authority for the exercise of the powers granted in this act that relate to the issuance of bonds, but this act shall not be deemed to repeal or to be in derogation of any existing law of this state that relates to the issuance of bonds.

**SECTION 2.** (1) (a) (i) A special fund, to be designated as the "2025 Alcorn State University Science, Technology Engineering, Agriculture and Math (STEAM) Outreach Center Fund," is created within the State Treasury. The fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as a separate and special fund, separate and apart from the General Fund of the state. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be deposited into such fund.

(ii) Monies deposited into the fund shall be disbursed, in the discretion of the Department of Finance and Administration, to pay the costs associated with construction, furnishing and equipping of a Science, Technology, Engineering,



Agriculture and Math (STEAM) Outreach Center at Alcorn State University.

(b) Amounts deposited into such special fund shall be disbursed to pay the costs of the projects described in paragraph (a) of this subsection. Promptly after the commission has certified, by resolution duly adopted, that the projects described in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall have been completed, abandoned, or cannot be completed in a timely fashion, any amounts remaining in such special fund shall be applied to pay debt service on the bonds issued under this section, in accordance with the proceedings authorizing the issuance of such bonds and as directed by the commission.

(2) (a) The commission, at one time, or from time to time, may declare by resolution the necessity for issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Mississippi to provide funds for all costs incurred or to be incurred for the purposes described in subsection (1) of this section. Upon the adoption of a resolution by the Department of Finance and Administration, declaring the necessity for the issuance of any part or all of the general obligation bonds authorized by this section, the department shall deliver a certified copy of its resolution or resolutions to the commission. Upon receipt of such resolution, the commission is authorized to proceed under the provisions of Section 1(6) of this act. The total amount of bonds issued under this section shall not exceed Eleven Million Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars





193 (\$11,920,000.00). No bonds shall be issued under this section  
194 after July 1, 2029.

195 (b) Any investment earnings on amounts deposited into  
196 the special fund created in subsection (1) of this section shall  
197 be used to pay debt service on bonds issued under this section, in  
198 accordance with the proceedings authorizing issuance of such  
199 bonds.

200 (3) The provisions of Section 1 of this act shall apply to  
201 the issuance of bonds authorized under this section.

202 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
203 and after July 1, 2025.

