

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, Frazier,
Parker, Robinson, Williams

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3013

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF SPECIAL FUNDS TO DEFRAY THE
2 EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY FOR
3 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 Department of Employment Security for
9 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
10 June 30, 2026.....\$ 1,800,000.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
13 Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Department of Employment
14 Security, or its successor, for the purpose of defraying the
15 expenses incurred by said department for the fiscal year beginning
16 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 134,937,794.00.

17 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
18 this act, the following positions are authorized:



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 389

21 Time-Limited: 64

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

39 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
40 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
41 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
42 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do
43 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 4. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 2 of this act, the following sum shall be derived from money in the Unemployment Trust Fund, made available to this state under Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 USCA



69 Section 1103), to the Mississippi Department of Employment
70 Security to be deposited in the Employment Security Administration
71 Fund and used by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security
72 for the following purposes:

73 (a) Payment of various One-Stop Administration expenses
74 that support the service delivery of employment and workforce
75 information services. This includes, but is not limited to, the
76 following activities:

77 (i) Staff for delivery of reemployment services to
78 UI claimants, including group job search assistance and
79 staff-assisted referrals to jobs.

80 (ii) Equipment and resources for resource rooms.

81 (iii) Payment for rent, utilities and maintenance
82 of facilities, including common spaces such as resource rooms,
83 reception areas, conference areas, etc.

84 (iv) Payment of shared costs for operation of
85 local One-Stop Career Centers, including payment for One-Stop
86 operators.

87 (v) Purchase of computer equipment, network
88 equipment, telecommunications equipment, application development
89 and other technology resources.

90 (vi) Training, technical assistance, and
91 professional development of staff who deliver employment and
92 workforce information services.



93 (vii) Access Improvement costs for individuals
94 with disabilities, including remodeling or retrofitting One-Stop
95 Career Centers and purchasing appropriate software, hardware,
96 furniture and supplies.

97 (b) Administration of the Unemployment Compensation
98 (UC) law and its public employment service (ES) offices. This
99 includes, but is not limited to, the following uses:

100 (i) ES and UI automation. This includes
101 purchases, modifications, or automation of computer-related
102 systems and related costs.

103 (ii) UI and ES Performance Improvement costs.

104 (iii) Fraud and Abuse Reduction costs.

105 (iv) UI Claims Filing and Payment Methods
106 Improvement costs.

107 (v) Under the direction of the Bureau of Building,
108 Grounds and Real Property Management to acquire lands and
109 construct buildings thereon or improve existing buildings to be
110 used as offices. The funds in this section are authorized for the
111 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
112\$ 33,047,000.00.

113 The funds authorized in this section shall be requisitioned
114 by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security from the
115 Unemployment Trust Fund maintained by the Secretary of the
116 Treasury of the United States as needed for the payment of
117 obligations incurred under this appropriation, and such monies



shall be deposited in the Employment Security Administration Fund in accordance with the provisions of Section 71-5-457, Mississippi Code of 1972.

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 this act, a sum not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) is made available for Pathways2Possibilities from the Mississippi Works Fund collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 7. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, an amount not to exceed One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) is authorized for the Mississippi Integrated Education and Workforce State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS).

SECTION 8. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) is provided to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security for the purpose



of providing administrative support to the Office of Workforce Development.

SECTION 9. In addition to all other funds appropriated herein, 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, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Office of Workforce Development for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 19,617,015.00.

SECTION 10. In addition to all other funds appropriated herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized for expenditure out of any special source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available to the Office of Workforce Development for support of workforce programs, grants, and other similar activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 19,000,000.00.

SECTION 11. Of the funds appropriated in Section 9, Four Million One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Fifteen Dollars (\$4,117,015.00) is authorized for defraying the operating expenses of the Office of Workforce Development.

SECTION 12. Of the funds appropriated in Section 9 of this act, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is provided to the Office of Workforce Development for recurring costs of the Information Management and Financial Tracking System to enhance the tracking of funding provided for workforce development and



provide data outcomes reports on active workforce training programs and participants.

SECTION 13. Of the funds appropriated in Section 9, Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) is authorized for operating the Career Coaching Program at the Office of Workforce Development.

SECTION 14. Unless otherwise specifically appropriated for that purpose by the Legislature, none of the funds authorized in Section 10 of this act shall be used for operational expenditures of the Office of Workforce Development except for reasonable administrative fees for grant oversight as provided by law.

SECTION 15. Of the funds appropriated in Section 10 of this act, the Office of Workforce Development is authorized to expend up to Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the State Workforce Investment Funds from the State Workforce Investment Board, collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 16. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 10 of this act, the Office of Workforce Development is authorized to expend up to Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) from the Mississippi Works Fund collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 17. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Department of Employment Security and the Office of Workforce Development shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds



192 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
193 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
194 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that each
195 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to
196 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
197 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
198 during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

199 **SECTION 18.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 10, Eight
200 Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$870,000.00), or so much thereof
201 as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the
202 State Treasury to the credit of the Project Poppy Fund, as created
203 in Section 57-1-631, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a
204 manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are
205 provided to expedite the services needed for Project Poppy.

206 **SECTION 19.** Of the funds appropriated in Sections 11 of this
207 act, funds are provided to the Office of Workforce Development to
208 coordinate workforce development programs at the Mississippi
209 Department of Corrections pursuant to Section 47-5-541,
210 Mississippi code of 1972.

211 **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
212 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
213 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
214 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
215 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally



216 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
217 actions contrary to this provision.

218 **SECTION 21.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
219 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
220 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
221 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
222 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
223 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

224 **SECTION 22.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
225 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after
226 June 30, 2025.

