

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, Thompson,  
Berry, Jackson, Williams

To: Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 3018

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND  
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE OFFICE OF STATE AID ROAD CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
3 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR 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 Treasury  
7 to the credit of the Office of State Aid Road Construction Fund,  
8 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Office of State  
9 Aid Road Construction of the Mississippi Department of  
10 Transportation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and  
11 ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 220,376,205.00.

12 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
13 this act, the following positions are authorized:

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 54

16 Time-Limited: 0

17 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
18 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal



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

34       Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
35 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
36 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
37 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do  
38 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
39 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the  
40 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
41 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
42 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 3.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, it is the intention of the Legislature that an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is authorized to be expended from funds received from the Mississippi Development Authority as reimbursements for actual expenses incurred by the Office of State Aid Road Construction for administering and providing engineering services to political subdivisions as authorized under Section 65-4-15, Mississippi Code



of 1972. Any such funds shall be deposited into the Office of State Aid Roads Administrative Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

**SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000.00) is provided for the purpose of replacement of structurally deficient bridges on the Local System Bridge Program (LSBP).

**SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the Office of State Aid Road Construction 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.** 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



93	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
94	Administrative	
95	Percent of Administrative Costs as	
96	Compared to Construction Costs	4.00
97	Maintain Level of Administrative Costs	
98	as Compared to Construction Costs at 5%	
99	or Under	5.00
100	Number of Projects Let to Contract	75
101	Percent of Personnel Devoted to	
102	Construction Programs	81.00
103	Federal Percent of Total Project Fund	
104	Obligations	20.00
105	Construction	
106	Percent Increase in Total Miles Paved	1.00
107	Percent of Total State Aid Funds	
108	Available Programmed or Obligated to	
109	Projects	70.00
110	Number of State Aid Projects Let to Contract	75
111	Number of Federal Projects Let to Contract	5
112	Number of State Aid Projects Completed	30
113	Number of Federal Projects Completed	10
114	Average Time from Initiation to	
115	Completion of a Fed Project (Days)	450
116	Number of Bridges Replaced or Repaired	85
117	Number of Structurally Deficient Bridges	



118	on the State Aid System	1,050
119	Average Cost of a State Aid/Federal	
120	Bridge Project	1,550,000.00
121	Local System Bridge	
122	Percent Change in Deficient LSBP Bridges	3.00
123	Average Number of Active LSBP Projects	
124	Per County	1.00
125	Percent of LSBP Funds Available	
126	Programmed or Obligated to Projects	85.00
127	Number of LSBP Projects Let to Contract	40
128	Number of LSBP Projects Completed	70
129	Number of LSBP Bridges Replaced or Repaired	40
130	Number of Eligible Deficient LSBP Bridges	1,050
131	Average Time From Initiation to	
132	Completion of a LSBP Project (Days)	450
133	Percent of Bridges Eligible for LSBP Funds	10.00
134	Percent of Counties Utilizing All of	
135	Their Available LSBP Funds	30.00
136	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
137	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	
138	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget	
139	Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.	

140       **SECTION 7.** With the funds appropriated in this act, the  
141 Office of State Aid Road Construction shall notify members of the  
142 Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives upon the award of



143 projects within their respective districts and at least five (5)  
144 days prior to a public ceremony announcing the award of any grant  
145 in their district or any public announcement or ceremony regarding  
146 the groundbreaking or opening of a facility, roadway or bridge for  
147 which the Legislature has made funds available. Any signage  
148 regarding any public event or any new facility, roadway or bridge  
149 shall include the following language: "Funds were made available  
150 for this project by the Mississippi State Legislature." The  
151 signage shall further state the four-year legislative term in  
152 which the project was funded.

153       **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature to  
154 authorize the State Aid Engineer to utilize funds available to the  
155 Office of State Aid Road Construction, from any source herein  
156 appropriated or made available by the counties or any other  
157 source, to pay for costs necessary to comply with the National  
158 Bridge Inspection Standards and the Federal Highway  
159 Administration's requirements for bridge inspections and/or  
160 special studies necessary to comply with federal laws. The State  
161 Aid Engineer shall follow the same procedures as have heretofore  
162 been established by Sections 65-9-9, 65-9-15 and 65-9-17,  
163 Mississippi Code of 1972, for payment of such costs. The Office  
164 of State Aid Road Construction may accept, budget and expend these  
165 funds subject to and in accordance with rules and regulations of  
166 the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner  
167 consistent with the escalation of federal or state funds.



168       **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that in  
169 the letting of contracts for which the Office of State Aid Road  
170 Construction administers and provides engineering services to  
171 political subdivisions under the Economic Development Highway Act,  
172 bids may be made from the lowest and best bidder after advertising  
173 for competitive sealed bids once in a newspaper published or  
174 having a circulation in the county or municipality where the  
175 contract will be performed, and the date published for the bid  
176 opening may be not less than seven (7) working days after the  
177 advertisement is published.

178       **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
179 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
180 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
181 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
182 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
183 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
184 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
185 made without competitive bids.

186       **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
187 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
188 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
189 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
190 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
191 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
192 actions contrary to this provision.





193           **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Fifty  
194 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or so much thereof as may be  
195 necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury  
196 to the credit of the Project Poppy Fund, as created in Section  
197 57-1-631, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as  
198 determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided  
199 for expediting services needed for Project Poppy.

200           **SECTION 13.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
201 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
202 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
203 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
204 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
205 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

206           **SECTION 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
207 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after  
208 June 30, 2025.

