

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, Michel, Turner- Ford, Wiggins To: Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 3044

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
5 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
6 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of  
7 defraying the expenses incurred by the Mississippi Workers'  
8 Compensation Commission for the fiscal year beginning  
9 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 6,039,432.00.

10 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
11 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
12 Treasury to the credit of the Second Injury Fund (Fund Number  
13 3352300000) for the purpose of making payments under the  
14 provisions of Section 71-3-73, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the  
15 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....  
16 .....\$ 25,000.00.

17 **SECTION 3.** With the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
18 act, the following positions are authorized:



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 54

21 Time-Limited: 0

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.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such



69 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as  
70 maintained for Fiscal Year 2025. It is further the intention of  
71 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year  
72 2027 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
73 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level  
74 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request  
75 process.

76       **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that with  
77 the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, the Mississippi  
78 Workers' Compensation Commission shall enter into a contract with  
79 the industrial private sector for the purpose of implementing a  
80 safety education and training program.

81       **SECTION 6.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
82 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
83 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
84 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
85 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
86 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
87 performance measures provided below:

|                                    | FY2026        |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Performance Measures</u>        | <u>Target</u> |
| Adjudication                       |               |
| Number of Cases Resolved at the    |               |
| Administrative or Commission Level |               |
| within 3 Months                    | 900           |



|     |   |        |
|-----|---|--------|
| 94  | Number of Cases Resolved at the             |        |
| 95  | Administrative or Commission Level          |        |
| 96  | within 6 Months                             | 950    |
| 97  | Number of Cases Resolved at the             |        |
| 98  | Administrative or Commission Level          |        |
| 99  | within 9 Months                             | 900    |
| 100 | Number of Cases Resolved at the             |        |
| 101 | Administrative or Commission Level          |        |
| 102 | within 1 Year                               | 900    |
| 103 | Self-insurance                              |        |
| 104 | Percent of Individual Self-Insurers         |        |
| 105 | Reviewed in the Past Fiscal Year            | 34.00  |
| 106 | Percent of Individual Self-Insurer          |        |
| 107 | Reviews Conducted in the Past Fiscal        |        |
| 108 | Year Showing That Reserves are              |        |
| 109 | Insufficient to Cover Claims                | 5.00   |
| 110 | Percent of Self-Insurance Groups Reviewed   | 100.00 |
| 111 | Percent of Self-Insurance Group Reviews     |        |
| 112 | Conducted Showing That Reserves are         |        |
| 113 | Insufficient to Cover Claims                | 0.00   |
| 114 | Medical Cost Containment                    |        |
| 115 | Fee Schedule Adjustments (Cost in Millions) | 35.00  |
| 116 | Medical Cost Savings to Payers (as a %      |        |
| 117 | of Total Billings)                          | 46.00  |



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

122 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
123 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
124 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
125 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
126 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
127 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
128 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
129 made without competitive bids.

130 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
131 salary of the Workers' Compensation Commission members shall be  
132 equal and the salary of the commission chairman shall exceed these  
133 salaries as approved by the State Personnel Board.

134 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
135 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
136 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
137 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
138 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
139 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
140 actions contrary to this provision.

141 **SECTION 10.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
142 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the



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

147       **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
148 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after  
149 June 30, 2025.

