

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

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



44 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the
45 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
46 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
47 essential for the agency.

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

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60 withdrawn and no longer available.

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

65 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
66 Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission shall maintain
67 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
68 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

89 Performance Measures Target

90 Adjudication

91 Number of Cases Resolved at the

92 Administrative or Commission Level

93 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.

