

By: Senator(s) Thompson

To: Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 3055

1       AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

4       **SECTION 1.** The following sum of money, or so much thereof as  
5 may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the  
6 State General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of  
7 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Department of Tourism  
8 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending  
9 June 30, 2026.....\$ 0.00.

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 Mississippi Department of Tourism or  
13 the appropriate special fund for the purpose of defraying the  
14 expenses of the department, for the fiscal year beginning  
15 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 0.00.

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

18       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:



19           Permanent:                   0

20           Time-Limited:               0

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

38           Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
39 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
40 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
41 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do  
42 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
43 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the

44 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
45 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
46 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

64 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
65 Mississippi Department of Tourism shall maintain complete  
66 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all  
67 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be  
68 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal

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

74 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
75 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
76 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
77 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
78 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
79 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
80 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
81 made without competitive bids.

82 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
83 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
84 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
85 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
86 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
87 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
88 actions contrary to this provision.

89 **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
90 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
91 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
92 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal

93      Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
94      proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

95      **SECTION 8.**    This act shall be contingent upon the passage of  
96      Senate Bill 2573, 2025 Regular Session, which creates the  
97      Mississippi Department of Tourism, and shall take effect and be in  
98      force from and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from  
99      and after June 30, 2025

