

House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 3042

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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 support and
7 maintenance of the Secretary of State for the fiscal year
8 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
9\$ 16,924,899.00.

10 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
11 necessary, is hereby authorized for expenditure out of any special
12 source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available
13 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Secretary of
14 State for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
15 June 30, 2026.....\$ 16,690,305.00.

16 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
17 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

18 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

19 Permanent: 95

20 Time-Limited: 11

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.

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 Office of the Secretary of State 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 5. None of the funds appropriated by this act shall be expended for any purpose that is not actually required or necessary for performing any of the powers or duties of the Office of the Secretary of State that are authorized by the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, state or federal law, or rules or regulations that implement state or federal law.

SECTION 6. No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be used, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of paying any clerk, stenographer, assistant, deputy, or other person who may be related by blood or marriage within the third degree, computed by the rules of the civil law, to the official employing or having the right of employment or selection thereof; and in the event of any such payment, then the official or person approving and making or receiving such payment shall be jointly and severally liable to return to the State of Mississippi and to pay into the State Treasury three (3) times any such amount so paid or received, to be recovered at suit of the Attorney General; provided that when the relationship is by affinity and the person through whom the relationship was established is dead, this provision shall not apply.

SECTION 7. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, the Secretary of State may use funds appropriated for the purposes of defraying litigation expenses associated with the enforcement of the Mississippi Securities Act, the Regulation of

98 Charitable Solicitations Act, and the administration of the Public
99 Trust.

100 **SECTION 8.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
101 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
102 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
103 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
104 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
105 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
106 performance measures provided below:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Business Services	
Percent of Business Services Customer	
Phone Calls Answered	95.00
Elections	
Number of Poll Workers to Successfully	
Complete the Online Training Program	650
Number of Voter Registrations Updated on	
Secure Online Website	6,400
Percent of Poll Workers who Successfully	
Complete the Online Poll Manager	
Training on Their First Attempt	60.00
Publications	
Number of Visits to the Secretary of	
State's Website	9,000,000
Public Lands	

Number of Tax-Forfeited Properties Sold	1,000
Support Services	
Support Services as a Percent of Total	
Agency Expenditures	25.00

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

SECTION 9. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, no more than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is provided for paying principal and interest on bond issues for county voting systems.

SECTION 10. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,750,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Land Records Maintenance Fund, for the purpose of making distributions to local governments for taxes owed during the fiscal year.

SECTION 11. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, Four Million Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-three Dollars (\$4,215,393.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Elections Support Fund, for the purpose of acquiring, upgrading, maintaining, or repairing voting equipment, systems, and supplies, hiring temporary technical support,

conducting elections using such voting equipment or systems and training election officials during the fiscal year.

SECTION 12. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, Eleven Million Dollars (\$11,000,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Public Trust Tidelands Fund, and is authorized to be transferred by the Secretary of State to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

SECTION 13. 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 14. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) is for the purpose of expenses related to cybersecurity and election integrity.

SECTION 15. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Six Million Two Hundred Ninety-nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-two Dollars (\$6,299,732.00) is provided for defraying expenses related to the Broadwater Marina Restoration Project.

SECTION 16. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon

176 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
177 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
178 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

179 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
180 and after July 1, 2025.

HR13\SB3042A.J

Andrew Ketchings
Clerk of the House of Representatives