

## House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 3044

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 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

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 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

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:

88		FY2026
89	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
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

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

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

**SECTION 10.** 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 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

**SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

HR13\SB3044A.J

Andrew Ketchings  
Clerk of the House of Representatives