

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1491

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2

1 **AMEND** by inserting the following after line 354 as a new
2 **section and renumbering subsequent sections accordingly:**

3 **SECTION *.** (1) The purpose of this act is to establish a
4 Technology Innovation Fund, hereafter referred to as "Fund," to
5 facilitate the development and deployment of innovative
6 technological solutions that enhance the efficiency, transparency
7 and responsiveness of government services. The fund is intended
8 to support collaborative efforts between government agencies,
9 educational institutions, private sector partners and nonprofit
10 organizations in the implementation of digital solutions that
11 drive public sector modernization.

12 (2) (a) There is hereby established the Technology
13 Innovation Fund, which shall be administered by the Mississippi
14 Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) under the
15 authority of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the State of
16 Mississippi.

17 (b) The fund shall provide financial support for
18 projects that utilize technology to address critical needs,

19 improve service delivery, and foster collaboration between public
20 and private entities.

21 (3) The objectives of the fund shall include, but are not
22 limited to, the following:

23 (a) Promote the development of digital solutions that
24 improve government service delivery and operational efficiency;

25 (b) Foster cross-agency and intergovernmental
26 collaboration in the adoption of shared technologies and best
27 practices;

28 (c) Encourage public-private partnerships in the
29 development and deployment of innovative technologies;

30 (d) Facilitate research, prototyping, and piloting of
31 emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain,
32 data analytics, and cloud computing;

33 (e) Ensure equitable access to technological
34 innovations that can benefit underserved communities and regions;
35 and

36 (f) Enhance cybersecurity and protect the integrity of
37 state digital infrastructure.

38 (4) (a) The following entities shall be eligible to apply
39 for funding under this act:

40 (i) State and local government agencies;

41 (ii) Public and private educational institutions;

(iii) Nonprofit organizations engaged in technology-driven public service initiatives; and

(iv) Private sector entities, in partnership with public sector agencies, for collaborative projects.

(b) Applications for funding must demonstrate how the proposed project will contribute to the digital transformation of government services and the achievement of the objectives outlined in Section 3 of this act.

(5) (a) The CIO of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services shall establish criteria for the evaluation of proposals and the allocation of funds, prioritizing projects that:

(i) Provide measurable benefits to the public and improve government operations;

(ii) Demonstrate potential for scalability and sustainability;

(iii) Foster partnerships across government, private, and nonprofit sectors; and

(iv) Address urgent challenges in service delivery, efficiency, and cybersecurity.

(b) The fund may allocate grants, matching funds, or loans to eligible projects, as deemed appropriate by the CIO.

64 (6) (a) Each recipient of funding from the Technology
65 Innovation Fund shall be required to provide periodic reports to
66 the CIO detailing the progress, outcomes, and financial
67 expenditures associated with the funded project.

68 (b) The CIO shall submit an annual report to the
69 Governor and Legislature detailing the use of the Technology
70 Innovation Fund, including descriptions of funded projects, their
71 outcomes, and recommendations for future innovations.

72 (7) (a) The fund shall be initially capitalized with an
73 appropriation of monies from the General Fund, with additional
74 funding to be secured from:

- 75 (i) Public-private partnerships;
- 76 (ii) Federal grants or matching programs;
- 77 (iii) Revenues from technological licensing or
78 commercialization resulting from funded projects; and
- 79 (iv) Donations or contributions from private or
80 philanthropic organizations.

81 (b) The fund may also establish a revolving loan
82 mechanism to replenish available resources through repayments from
83 successful projects.

84 (8) The CIO of the Mississippi Department of Information
85 Technology Services (ITS) is authorized to promulgate any rules

86 and regulations necessary for the implementation and
87 administration of this act.

88 **FURTHER, AMEND the title to conform.**

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Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate