

## Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1729

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE 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:

5       **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General  
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and maintenance  
8 of the Department of Marine Resources for the fiscal year  
9 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....  
10 .....\$       3,555,266.00.

11       **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in  
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Marine  
14 Resources for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending  
15 June 30, 2026.....\$       256,844,716.00.

16       Of the funds appropriated in this section, Three Million  
17 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,050,000.00) is derived from the state  
18 excise taxes upon gasoline, oil and other petroleum products.

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

21       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22           Permanent:               108

23           Time-Limited:           65

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

41           Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
42 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
43 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
44 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do  
45 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
46 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the  
47 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 Department of Marine Resources 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.** Each Marine Conservation Officer and Supervisor shall be furnished an allowance for uniforms not to exceed Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) per annum.

**SECTION 6.** In addition to all other sums heretofore appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Tidelands Fund No. 3345200000 to the Department of Marine Resources for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the tidelands projects for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026 .....\$ 11,700,000.00.

This amount is allocated as follows:

Total Public Access Projects.....	\$ 4,576,165.00
Total Management Projects.....	\$ 4,576,164.00
Bond Repayment .....	\$ 1,547,671.00
Prior Year Projects.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
Total Tidelands Funds.....	\$11,700,000.00

Each political subdivision receiving funds authorized in this section shall be held responsible for complying with Section 29-15-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be subject to an audit by the State Auditor and shall submit detailed reports beginning June 30, and every six (6) months thereafter for the duration of the project to the Department of Marine Resources on how funds authorized in this section were expended.

100       It is the intention of the Legislature that any political  
101 subdivision seeking to qualify for tidelands funds for the  
102 subsequent fiscal year shall submit a proposal to the Department  
103 of Marine Resources no later than July 1, 2025. All proposals  
104 submitted will be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of  
105 Marine Resources in accordance to department plans and procedures.  
106 Multiphased projects, multiyear projects, proposed projects with  
107 high dollar value and projects that have a record of stacking  
108 funds shall be considered as low priority projects when evaluated.

109       It is the intention of the Legislature that if the amount of  
110 the Tidelands funds appropriated in this act exceed the actual  
111 amount of tidelands funds available, the available funds shall be  
112 allocated on a pro rata basis between projects listed in this  
113 section.

114       **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
115 department shall place any special trust funds appropriated to the  
116 department in a special trust fund and the interest earned on the  
117 principal shall be credited to the special trust fund. Monies in  
118 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained in the  
119 special trust fund for use in the next succeeding fiscal year.  
120 The department may use the interest earned on the fund to pay  
121 reasonable costs for administering the fund and related projects.

122       **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
123 Department of Marine Resources has the authorization to move  
124 tidelands funds between approved projects upon request from entity  
125 and proper completion of Form TTF-6 documentation.

**SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature for the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality to continue with any agency partnerships, including grant agreements, that provide environmental projects to restore Mississippi's natural resources in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

**SECTION 10.** 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 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Ninety-two Million Seven Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-four Dollars (\$92,725,224.00) is provided for the funding of the following Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) projects for FY 2026:

(a) To assist the City of Waveland with  
Center City Infrastructure Improvements -  
Sewer.....\$ 4,000,000.00

(b) To assist the City of D'Iberville with  
Working Waterfront Marina Expansion Project  
Phase II.....\$ 2,500,000.00

(c) To assist the City of Ocean Springs

152 with Washington Avenue and Front Beach Utility  
 153 Improvement.....\$ 1,200,000.00  
 154 (d) To assist the City of Gautier with  
 155 Marin Bluff and Hickory Hills Sewer Improvements....\$ 2,701,150.00  
 156 (e) To assist the City of Moss Point with  
 157 Riverfront Coastal River Protection.....\$ 3,750,000.00  
 158 (f) To assist the City of Moss Point with  
 159 Storm Water Park.....\$ 118,500.00  
 160 (g) To assist the Jackson County Utility  
 161 Authority with Poticaw Road Sewer Extension.....\$ 1,200,000.00  
 162 (h) To assist Mississippi State University  
 163 with Fixed Lab Equipment.....\$ 865,000.00  
 164 (i) To assist the Diamondhead Water and Sewer  
 165 District Sewer Improvements Phase III.....\$ 1,000,000.00  
 166 (j) To assist the Hancock County Water and  
 167 Sewer District with Asbestos Water Pipe Replacement  
 168 And Port Bienville Water Improvements.....\$ 1,000,000.00  
 169 (k) To assist the Kiln Utility and Fire  
 170 District with Hwy 603 Sewer Expansion from  
 171 Hwy 43 To Cuevas Town Road.....\$ 2,452,575.00  
 172 (l) To assist The Nature Conservancy with  
 173 Using Brood Stock Reefs to Enhance Oyster  
 174 Production on Commercial Leases.....\$ 1,000,000.00  
 175 (m) To assist the City of Ocean Springs  
 176 with Front Beach Bulkhead.....\$ 1,600,000.00  
 177 (n) To assist the City of Pascagoula with

178 the Live Oak Corridor Drainage to Remedy  
 179 Flooding.....\$ 2,000,000.00  
 180 (o) To assist the City of Gulfport with the  
 181 North Gulfport Wastewater Treatment Plant UV  
 182 Disinfection.....\$ 376,650.00  
 183 (p) To assist the Department of Marine  
 184 Resources with GOMESA project management,  
 185 development and mitigation.....\$ 699,022.00  
 186 (q) To assist the Hancock County Utility  
 187 Authority with the Stennis Space Center  
 188 Wastewater Conveyance Project.....\$ 7,934,956.00  
 189 (r) To assist the City of Long Beach with  
 190 the Small Craft Harbor Eastern Bulkhead  
 191 Improvements.....\$ 583,835.00  
 192 (s) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
 193 with the West Breakwater Wall Hurricane  
 194 Mitigation Improvements.....\$ 2,518,900.00  
 195 (t) To assist the Department of Marine  
 196 Resources with Oyster Spat.....\$ 1,756,128.00  
 197 (u) To assist the Institute for Marine  
 198 Mammal Studies with Monitoring and Evaluation of  
 199 Sea Turtle Nesting in Mississippi.....\$ 856,364.00  
 200 (v) To assist the University of Southern  
 201 Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery  
 202 Resource Assessment.....\$ 55,110.00  
 203 (w) To assist the Hancock County Port and



204 Harbor Commission with Sewer Construction and  
 205 Improvements to Site 1 at Port Bienville  
 206 Industrial Park.....\$ 1,749,220.00  
 207       (x) To assist the University of Southern  
 208 Mississippi with Oak Island Oyster Company in the  
 209 Development and Testing of an Off Bottom Oyster  
 210 Structure.....\$ 1,195,571.00  
 211       (y) To assist Jackson County with Coastal  
 212 Roadway Hurricane Protection.....\$ 750,000.00  
 213       (z) To assist the Institute for Marine  
 214 Mammal Studies with Monitoring/Gauging Habitat  
 215 Suitability for Dolphins and Turtles.....\$ 1,298,793.00  
 216       (aa) To assist the Kiln Utility District  
 217 with Jourdan River Shores Sewer Improvements  
 218 Phase II.....\$ 2,163,216.00  
 219       (bb) To assist Harrison County with Sand  
 220 Beach Outfall Coordination.....\$ 1,568,001.00  
 221       (cc) To assist the City of Ocean Springs  
 222 with Sewer Rehabilitation.....\$ 1,960,000.00  
 223       (dd) To assist the Department of Marine  
 224 Resources with Oyster Cultch.....\$ 1,000,000.00  
 225       (ee) To assist the City of Pass Christian  
 226 with Highway 90 Hurricane Mitigation  
 227 Improvements.....\$ 1,092,205.00  
 228       (ff) To assist Coastal Mississippi with  
 229 the promotion of the Seafood Industry and its

230	Economic Contributions to the State.....	\$ 444,941.00
231	(gg) To assist the City of Diamondhead	
232	with Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water	
233	Quality Improvements Phase II.....	\$ 1,908,664.00
234	(hh) To assist Jackson County with East	
235	Beach Outfalls/Shoreline Protection.....	\$ 1,710,000.00
236	(ii) To assist the City of Gautier with	
237	Hickory Hills/Lagrange Water Quality and	
238	Stormwater Improvements.....	\$ 2,790,271.00
239	(jj) To assist the City of Biloxi with	
240	Keegan Bayou Restoration.....	\$ 2,520,000.00
241	(kk) To assist the Department of Marine	
242	Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall	
243	Pavilion.....	\$ 419,256.00
244	(ll) To assist the City of Long Beach with	
245	Small Craft Harbor Southern Quay Bulkhead	
246	Improvements.....	\$ 2,554,000.00
247	(mm) To assist the Department of Marine	
248	Resources with Bonnet Carre Spillway	
249	Mitigation.....	\$ 926,879.00
250	(nn) To assist the City of D'Iberville with	
251	the Working Waterfront and Seafood Harbor	
252	Project.....	\$ 500,000.00
253	(oo) To assist the University of Southern	
254	Mississippi with the Ocean Enterprise	
255	Project.....	\$ 24,788.00

256	(pp) To assist the Department of Marine	
257	Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall.....\$	21,906.00
258	(qq) To assist the Department of Marine	
259	Resources with the Coffee Creek water quality.....\$	28,073.00
260	(rr) To assist Jackson County Board of	
261	Supervisors with the Front Beach Erosion	
262	Control.....\$	640,243.00
263	(ss) To assist the Department of Marine	
264	Resources with GOMESA project management,	
265	development and mitigation.....\$	472,003.00
266	(tt) To assist the Department of Marine	
267	Resources with artificial reef construction.....\$	31,397.00
268	(uu) To assist the Department of	
269	Environmental Quality with water quality.....\$	837,804.00
270	(vv) To assist the Department of Marine	
271	Resources with Bonnet Carre Response.....\$	4,636.00
272	(ww) To assist the City of Pass Christian	
273	with Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Repairs.....\$	901,375.00
274	(xx) To assist Hancock County with Atlantic	
275	Street Sewer Improvements.....\$	102,929.00
276	(yy) To assist the City of Long Beach with	
277	Small Craft Harbor SE Bulkhead Improvements.....\$	280,214.00
278	(zz) To assist the Kiln Utility District	
279	with the Jordan Shores Sewer Force Main	
280	Relocation.....\$	99,852.00
281	(aaa) To assist the City of Biloxi with	

282	the Point Cadet Living Shoreline.....\$	756,537.00
283	(bbb) To assist the Department of Marine	
284	Resources with MS Reef Fish Monitoring and	
285	Assessment.....\$	43,074.00
286	(ccc) To assist Hancock County Utility	
287	Authority with Oak Harbor Sewer Improvements.....\$	2,719,247.00
288	(ddd) To assist Hancock County Port and	
289	Harbor Commission with Port Bienville	
290	Conservation Management.....\$	235,327.00
291	(eee) To assist the City of Pascagoula	
292	with Buena Vista Area Drainage.....\$	482,340.00
293	(fff) To assist the City of Pass Christian	
294	with Gravity Sewer System Improvements Phase I.....\$	784,782.00
295	(ggg) To assist the City of Pascagoula with	
296	Point Park Pier Repair/Improvements.....\$	31,971.00
297	(hhh) To assist Mississippi State University	
298	with the Evaluation and Monitoring of Marine Mammal	
299	and Sea Turtles after Bonnet Carre Spillway	
300	Opening.....\$	691,428.00
301	(iii) To assist the American Shrimp	
302	Processors Association with the Shrimp	
303	Processors Feasibility Study.....\$	586,126.00
304	(jjj) To assist the Jackson County Utility	
305	Authority with Septic System Abatements.....\$	1,258,817.00
306	(kkk) To assist the University of Southern	
307	Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery	

308	Resource Assessment.....	\$	650.00
309	(lll) To assist the Department of Marine		
310	Resources with the Katrina Key Expansion.....	\$	183,425.00
311	(mmm) To assist the Secretary of State with		
312	the Broadwater Marina Restoration.....	\$	3,578,590.00
313	(nnn) To assist the City of Pass Christian		
314	with Sewer Pump Station Repairs.....	\$	342,585.00
315	(ooo) To assist the City of Diamondhead		
316	with Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water		
317	Quality Improvements.....	\$	1,080,108.00
318	(ppp) To assist the Department of Marine		
319	Resources with the Bonnet Carre and Mid Breton		
320	Response.....	\$	477,407.00
321	(qqq) To assist the City of Ocean Springs		
322	with the Front Beach Pub Access and Storm Water		
323	Mitigation Improvements.....	\$	1,569,365.00
324	(rrr) To assist the City of Pass Christian		
325	with Phase II of the Gravity Sewer System		
326	Improvements.....	\$	4,387,486.00
327	(sss) To assist the Department of Marine		
328	Resources with the Off Bottom Oyster		
329	Aquaculture.....	\$	1,219,050.00
330	(ttt) To assist the Department of Marine		
331	Resources with the Pelican Key Beneficial		
332	Use Site.....	\$	348,220.00
333	(uuu) To assist the Department of Marine		

334 Resources with Phase II of the Katrina Key  
335 Expansion.....\$ 400,000.00  
336 (vvv) To assist the Jackson County Board  
337 of Supervisors with the Pascagoula Beach Open  
338 Channel Outfalls.....\$ 1,339,000.00  
339 (www) To assist the Department of Marine  
340 Resources with water testing for Seafood  
341 Consumption Safety.....\$ 45,262.00

342 **SECTION 12.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
343 Department of Marine Resources shall have the authority to expend  
344 funds in an amount not to exceed Ten Million Dollars  
345 (\$10,000,000.00) from funds for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security  
346 Act (GOMESA) that may become available to the agency in fiscal  
347 year 2026 in accordance with the rules and regulations of the  
348 Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent  
349 with the escalation of federal funds.

350 **SECTION 13.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none  
351 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain  
352 utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such  
353 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,  
354 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,  
355 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance  
356 with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall  
357 include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not  
358 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities  
359 shall be prohibited.

360       **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
361 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
362 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
363 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
364 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
365 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
366 actions contrary to this provision.

367       **SECTION 15.** With the funds appropriated herein, the  
368 Department of Marine Resources is authorized to make payments for  
369 expenses incurred during prior fiscal years for an amount not to  
370 exceed Four Hundred Eight Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-seven Dollars  
371 and Forty Cents (\$408,657.40).

372       **SECTION 16.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
373 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
374 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
375 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
376 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
377 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

378       **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
379 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after  
380 June 30, 2025.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1       AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND  
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL  
3 YEAR 2026.

SS15\HB1729A.J

Amanda White  
Secretary of the Senate