

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1744

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 purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the fiscal
9 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
10\$ 13,292,671.00.

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 Mississippi Department of
14 Insurance which is comprised of special source funds collected by
15 or otherwise available to the department, for the support of the
16 various offices of the department for the fiscal year beginning
17 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 5,130,000.00.

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

20 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

21 Permanent: 124

Time-Limited: 0

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

Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the 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 Department of Insurance 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. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided below:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Lic & Reg MS Ins Co's & Agents	
Number of (Producer, Etc) Licenses Issued	150,000
Average Cost per License Issued	100.00
Number of Agent's C/A's Issued	580,000
Average Cost per Agent C/A Issued	25.00
Number of Requests for Assistance	24,500
Average Cost per Customer I/C Addressed	55.00
Number of Fire Marshal Fire Investigations	538
Cost per Fire Marshal Investigation	900.00
Number of Fire Marshal Inspections	8,000
Average Cost per Fire Marshal Inspection	60.00
Liquefied Compressed Gas	
Number of Accidents/Injuries/Deaths Due	
to Incidents Involving LCG	1

99	Number of Inspections	7,000
100	Average Cost per Inspection	105.00
101	Number of Safety Training Schools/Seminars	225
102	Average Cost per Safety Training School	160.00

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

107 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
108 Section 1, Fifteen Thousand Seventy-nine Dollars (\$15,079.00) is
109 provided for the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards and
110 Certification Board.

111 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
112 Section 1, funds in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars
113 (\$20,000.00) is provided and shall be expended to pay the annual
114 dues for the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

115 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
116 of the funds appropriated above shall be expended unless members
117 of the Mississippi House of Representatives and Mississippi Senate
118 are notified at least five (5) days prior to a public ceremony
119 announcing the award of any grant in their district or any public
120 announcement or ceremony regarding any project for which the
121 Legislature has made funds available. Any signage regarding any
122 public event or project shall include the following language:
123 "Funds were made available for this project by the Mississippi
124 State Legislature."

125 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
126 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
127 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
128 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
129 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
130 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
131 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
132 made without competitive bids.

133 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Five
134 Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), or so much thereof as may be
135 necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
136 to the credit of the Comprehensive Hurricane Damage Mitigation
137 Program Fund, as created in Section 83-1-191(4), Mississippi Code
138 of 1972, and allocated in a manner as determined by the
139 Treasurer's Office to the Department of Insurance. The Department
140 of Insurance shall utilize these funds for the purpose of
141 administering the Comprehensive Hurricane Damage Mitigation
142 Program created in Section 83-1-191, Mississippi Code of 1972. As
143 a condition of expending the funds provided in this section, the
144 Department shall limit the amount of grants provided to an
145 individual as provided in Section 83-1-191(1)(c), Mississippi Code
146 of 1972.

147 **SECTION 11.** Within the limits of the funds available to the
148 Mississippi Insurance Department for such purpose, the
149 Commissioner of Insurance for the Mississippi Insurance Department
150 may grant a paid internship to students pursuing junior or senior

undergraduate level year coursework toward a bachelor's degree in risk management insurance or graduate level coursework towards a master's degree in business administration. Those applicants deemed qualified by the Mississippi Department of Insurance shall receive funds that may be used to pay for tuition, books and related fees to pursue their degree. It is the intent of the Legislature that the paid internship program shall be used as incentive for risk management insurance careers at the Mississippi Insurance Department.

SECTION 12. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided for the State Fire Marshal's Office for fire safety prevention and services, including, but not limited to, fire protection supplies and materials, smoke alarms, and public service announcements providing fire prevention information.

SECTION 13. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 2, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Propane Education and Research Program Fund, for the purpose of research and development of more cost effective uses of propane and on educational programs, safety programs, and market development of propane for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 130,000.00.

SECTION 14. 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 special

fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Annual Fire Fund to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the purposes allowed in Section 17-23-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
.....\$ 9,000,000.00.

SECTION 15. In addition to all other funds appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance Fund which was created in Section 17-23-1 (4), Mississippi Code of 1972 to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance Program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 2,000,000.00.

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 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 17. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after 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 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE FOR THE
3 FISCAL YEAR 2026.

SS15\HB1744A.J

Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate