

## Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1754

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:

**SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purposes of defraying the expenses of the Department of Rehabilitation Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....

.....\$ 32,555,404.00.

**SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Rehabilitation Services which is comprised of special source funds collected by or otherwise available to the department for the support of the various offices of the department, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....

.....\$ 224,005,132.00.

**SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 2, Three Million Six Hundred Eighty-one Thousand Eight

22 Hundred Two Dollars (\$3,681,802.00) shall be derived from the  
23 Health Care Expendable Fund created in Section 43-13-407,  
24 Mississippi Code of 1972. The above funds shall be allocated as  
25 follows:

26 Fully match all available federal  
27 funds.....\$ 2,826,899.00.  
28 Independent Living Program which  
29 includes the State Attendant  
30 Care Program.....\$ 854,903.00.

31 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
32 this act, the following positions are authorized:

33 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

34 Permanent: 875  
35 Time-Limited: 201

36 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
37 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
38 Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds  
39 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
40 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi  
41 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
42 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board  
43 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may  
44 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year  
45 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025  
46 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that  
47 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount

48 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments  
49 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current  
50 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee  
51 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the  
52 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

53 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
54 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
55 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
56 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do  
57 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
58 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the  
59 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
60 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
61 essential for the agency.

62 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
63 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
64 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
65 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
66 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
67 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
68 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
69 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
70 appropriated level.

71 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
72 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for

73 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are  
74 withdrawn and no longer available.

75 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in  
76 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A  
77 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as  
78 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

79 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
80 Department of Rehabilitation Services shall maintain complete  
81 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all  
82 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be  
83 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal  
84 Year 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that  
85 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be  
86 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
87 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
88 provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

89 **SECTION 6.** The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the  
90 Blind shall remain accredited by using not more than Five Hundred  
91 Dollars (\$500.00) of the funds appropriated along with matching  
92 funds for payment of fees to an accreditation agency recommended  
93 by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

94 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated herein, the Mississippi  
95 Department of Rehabilitation Services through the Office of  
96 Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind is authorized to expend an  
97 amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00)  
98 for the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) News line service

to allow blind and visually impaired persons to access newspapers through toll-free telephone calls.

**SECTION 8.** 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 9.** 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>
Disability Determination Services	
Number of Dispositions	65,000
Processing Time (Days)	130
Voc Rehabilitation For The Blind	
Number of Blind & Visually Impaired	
Persons Served	2,075
Number of Persons Rehabilitated	305

125	Number of Independent Living Persons Served	630
126	Percent Change in Persons Employed	
127	Compared to Persons Served	13.00
128	Vocational Rehabilitation	
129	Number of Clients Served	15,075
130	Number of Clients Rehabilitated	2,555
131	Percent Change of Persons Employed	
132	Compared to Persons Served	16.00
133	Persons Employed with Pay Rate Greater	
134	than Federal or State Minimum Wage	2,555
135	Persons with Significant Disabilities	
136	Leaving VR With Competitive, Self, or	
137	BEP Employment, Wage = or > Than Minimum	1,594
138	Spinal Cord & Head Injury Program	
139	Number of Clients Served	1,050
140	Percent Change in Number of Spinal Cord	
141	& Brain injuries per Year	3.00
142	Special Disability Programs	
143	Number of Clients Served	3,100
144	Percent Change in Persons Receiving HCBW	
145	Services Compared to Waiting List	25.00
146	Ratio of Cost to HCBW Services per	
147	Person Compared to an Institutional	
148	Setting	38.00
149	Support Services	
150	Percent of Total Budget	2.00

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

155 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, it is  
156 the intention of the Legislature that One Million Five Hundred  
157 Sixty-three Thousand Thirty-nine Dollars (\$1,563,039.00) shall be  
158 allocated to the Spinal Cord & Head Injury Trust supported from  
159 General Fund court assessments.

160 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and  
161 Section 2 of this act, it is the intention of the Legislature that  
162 continued funding at or above the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriated  
163 amount shall be provided for up to Forty-one Hundred (4,100) slots  
164 in the Home and Community Based Waiver programs for Independent  
165 Living and Spinal Cord/Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver programs.

166 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
167 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
168 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
169 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
170 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
171 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
172 actions contrary to this provision.

173 **SECTION 13.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
174 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
175 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 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
180 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after  
181 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 DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR  
3 FISCAL YEAR 2026.

SS15\HB1754A.J

Amanda White  
Secretary of the Senate