

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1769

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 Authority for Educational Television
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
10 June 30, 2026.....\$ 4,547,938.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Authority for
14 Educational Television which is comprised of special source funds
15 collected by or otherwise available to the Authority, for the
16 purpose of defraying the expenses of the Authority for the fiscal
17 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
18\$ 6,353,694.00.

19 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
20 Section 1 and Section 2, the following positions are authorized:

21 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22 Permanent: 78

23 Time-Limited: 7

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. Funds appropriated herein shall first be used for the continuation of a full and complete broadcast schedule of educational and instructional, professional growth, and public service programs, with the production of new films and programs to be secondary thereto.

SECTION 5. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television 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 6. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 2, Two Million One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-six Dollars (\$2,118,966.00) shall be derived from the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 7. No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be transferred to, expended by, or used, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of any public relations, publicity or publication activities of any other state agency, department or officer, nor shall any personnel paid or equipment purchased with funds appropriated hereby be transferred or assigned to any other state agency, department or officer for public relations, publicity or publication activities of such office.

SECTION 8. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall have the authority to expend funds in the Capital Equipment Replacement Revolving Fund, in accordance with Section 37-63-17, Mississippi

Code of 1972, for the purpose of purchasing technical equipment for operating the educational radio and television facilities.

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>
Content Operations	
Number of Locally Produced TV Programs	100
Number of Locally Produced Radio Programs	1,092
Number of Monthly Average Number of Web	
Site Users	25,000
Percent of Radio Broadcasts and TV	
Alerts During Times of Emergency	100.00
Education Services	
Percent Increase in Users Using MPB	
Education Online Resources for Pre-K	
Children and Families	15.00
Number of Students Served by the Digital	
Education Network (DEN) Classroom	2,000
Number of School Districts Participating	
in the DEN Classroom	30

126	Number of Teachers Taking e-Learning Courses	1,300
127	Number of Teacher Continuing Education	
128	Units (CEUs) Provided by e-Learning	
129	Courses Offered	3,500
130	Percent Increase of Visitors to the MPB	
131	Education Website	20.00
132	Number of Early Childhood Educators	
133	Attending MPB Resource Workshops	
134	Involving PBS and MPB Programs/Content	250
135	Technical Services	
136	Number of Transmitters On Air	8
137	On-Air Reliability	99.95
138	Number of IT Help Desk Orders Filled	835
139	Administration	
140	Number of Community Engagements/Outreach	
141	Events Including Virtual Engagements	100
142	Number of State Agency Partners	40
143	New Grant Dollars Acquired	75,000.00
144	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
145	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	
146	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget	
147	Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.	
148	SECTION 10. It is the intention of the Legislature that	
149	whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the	
150	purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things	
151	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. It is the intention of the Legislature that an amount equal to One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per square foot shall be paid to the Executive Office of the State Board of Institutions of Higher Learning to defray utility costs.

SECTION 12. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Authority for Educational Television may fund a program to focus on the manufacturing industry in Mississippi.

SECTION 13. Mississippi Authority for Educational Television is authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or contribution from any individual, public, or private organization, or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational costs of the department. Such grants, donations or contributions shall be received and expended under the rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of federal funds not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

SECTION 14. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House

Bill No. 1824, 2024 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning
July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 899,202.00.

This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

a) Tower maintenance and upgrades.....\$ 175,394.00.

b) Digitalization of Educational Content
and Mississippi History.....\$ 522,968.00.

c) Production of a Medgar Evers
documentary.....\$ 200,840.00.

Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the
previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

SECTION 15. 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 16. 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 AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL
3 TELEVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

SS15\HB1769A.J

Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate