

**Adopted  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 1731**

**BY: Committee**

**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 authorized and approved for expenditure out of any  
7 funds which are received by or otherwise become available to the  
8 Pat Harrison Waterway District, for the purpose of defraying the  
9 expenses of the district for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
10 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$       7,595,440.00.

11       **SECTION 2.** Of the funds approved for expenditure under the  
12 provisions of Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

13       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

14       Permanent:                               42



15           Time-Limited:           0

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

33           Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
34 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
35 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
36 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do  
37 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
38 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the  
39 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the



40 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
41 essential for the agency.

42 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
43 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
44 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
45 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
46 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
47 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
48 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
49 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
50 appropriated level.

51 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
52 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for  
53 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are  
54 withdrawn and no longer available.

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

59 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
60 Pat Harrison Waterway District shall maintain complete accounting  
61 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
62 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
63 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
64 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the



65 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to  
66 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
67 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
68 during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

69       **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
70 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
71 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
72 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
73 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
74 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
75 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
76 made without competitive bids.

77       **SECTION 5.** The funds herein approved for expenditure, except  
78 and less an amount approved by the State Fiscal Officer which  
79 shall be sufficient to cover disbursements for current operations,  
80 shall be deposited at interest with any official depository of the  
81 state at a rate of interest numerically not less than one percent  
82 (1%) below the bank discount rate on United States Treasury bills  
83 of comparable maturity as determined by the State Treasurer.

84       **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Seven  
85 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) is authorized to be  
86 expended to defray the cost of park facilities repairs only.  
87 These repairs are to include bath houses and cabins and to exclude  
88 any Flint Creek Horse Trail repairs.



89           **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Four  
90   Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000.00) is authorized to be  
91   expended to defray the cost of dam repairs.

92           **SECTION 8.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide  
93   a report on completed park facilities repairs. This report shall  
94   be provided to the Legislature by December 1, 2025, and shall  
95   include photos of stated repairs. The Pat Harrison Waterway  
96   District shall provide the Joint Legislative Budget Committee a  
97   copy of this report with the subsequent fiscal year's budget  
98   submission.

99           **SECTION 9.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide  
100   an annual five-year plan containing a prioritized list detailing  
101   the purposes, goals and projected costs of projects which it  
102   intends to implement or is in the process of implementing. This  
103   report shall be provided to the Legislature on or before July 15  
104   of each year as required in Section 51-15-119(2). The Pat  
105   Harrison Waterway District shall provide the Joint Legislative  
106   Budget Committee a copy of this report with the current year's  
107   budget submission.

108           **SECTION 10.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide  
109   an annual audit of the district operations. This report shall be  
110   provided to the Legislature as required in Section 51-15-119(3).  
111   The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide the Joint  
112   Legislative Budget Committee a copy of this report with the  
113   current year's budget submission.



114       **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
115 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
116 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
117 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
118 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
119 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
120 actions contrary to this provision.

121       **SECTION 12.** The money herein approved for expenditure shall  
122 be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper person, officer  
123 or officers, in the manner provided by law.

124       **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
125 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after  
126 June 30, 2025.

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

1       AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE PAT HARRISON WATERWAY  
3 DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

