

**Adopted  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 1739**

**BY: Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

4       **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
5 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General  
6 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of Child  
7 Protection Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025,  
8 and ending June 30, 2026.....\$   134,949,321.00.

9       **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
10 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in  
11 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Child  
12 Protection Services which is comprised of special source funds  
13 collected by or otherwise available to the department for the



support of the various divisions 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.....  
.....\$ 177,475,053.00.

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

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 1,501

Time-Limited: 412

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



38 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the  
39 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

40       Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
41 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
42 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
43 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do  
44 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
45 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the  
46 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
47 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
48 essential for the agency.

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

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



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

66       **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
67 Department of Child Protection Services shall maintain complete  
68 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all  
69 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be  
70 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal  
71 Year 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that  
72 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be  
73 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
74 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
75 provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

76       **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
77 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
78 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
79 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
80 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
81 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
82 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
83 made without competitive bids.

84       **SECTION 6.** The Department of Child Protection Services is  
85 authorized to expend available funds on technology or equipment  
86 upgrades or replacements when it will generate savings through



efficiency or when the savings generated from such upgrades or replacements exceed expenditures thereof.

**SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, herein to the Department of Child Protection Services, it is the intention of the Legislature that Ninety-three Thousand Six Hundred One Dollars (\$93,601.00) shall be allocated to the Mississippi Children's Trust Fund supported from General Fund court assessments.

**SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated by this act, pursuant to Section 97-3-54.9, Mississippi Code of 1972, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided for maintaining a 24-hour hotline that is to be manned at all times, and for a coordinator to work with the Department of Public Safety, and to contract with outside agencies or service providers to organize for the provision of specialized services, including counseling services and other appropriate care to children who have been victims of commercial and sexual exploitation or human trafficking.

**SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and Section 2, an amount not to exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000.00) may be expended for the Department of Child Protection Services for Kinship Care Payments as authorized by Section 43-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972.

**SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Eleven Million Eighty-six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars



112 (\$11,086,239.00) is appropriated to maintain the Adoption  
113 Assistance and Congregate Care Homes Maintenance Payments and One  
114 Million Seven Hundred Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-nine  
115 Dollars (\$1,711,959.00) is provided to maintain the Foster Home  
116 Maintenance Payments. It is the intent of the Legislature that  
117 these funds be expended for said purpose.

118       **SECTION 11.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
119 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
120 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of  
121 Child Protection Services for the purpose of reauthorizing the  
122 expenditure of Capital Expense Fund, as reappropriated in HB 1794,  
123 2024 Regular Session, for information technology system  
124 developments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and  
125 ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 2,500,000.00.

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

132       **SECTION 12.** Notwithstanding any other provision, the  
133 Department of Child Protection Services shall have the authority  
134 to escalate its headcount for any additional operational needs  
135 related to Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds, upon approval



136 of the Department of Finance and Administration and the State  
137 Personnel Board.

138       **SECTION 13.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
139 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
140 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
141 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
142 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
143 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

144       **SECTION 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
145 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after  
146 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 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

