

**Adopted  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 1754**

**BY: Committee**

**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



15 collected by or otherwise available to the department for the  
16 support of the various offices of the department, for the purpose  
17 of defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year  
18 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....  
19 .....\$ 224,005,132.00.

20 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
21 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  
99 to allow blind and visually impaired persons to access newspapers  
100 through toll-free telephone calls.

101           **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
102 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
103 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
104 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
105 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
106 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
107 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
108 made without competitive bids.

109           **SECTION 9.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
110 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
111 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
112 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
113 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,



114 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
115 performance measures provided below:

116 FY2026

117 Performance Measures Target

118 Disability Determination Services

119 Number of Dispositions 65,000

120 Processing Time (Days) 130

121 Voc Rehabilitation For The Blind

122 Number of Blind & Visually Impaired

123 Persons Served 2,075

124 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
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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.

