

By: Representatives Bounds,  
Anderson (122nd), Clark, Eure,  
Hale, Jackson (11th), Paden,  
Pigott, Read

To: Appropriations A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 7

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING  
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT  
3 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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 Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport, for the purpose of  
9 defraying the expenses of the authority for the fiscal year  
10 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....  
11 .....\$ 78,539,426.00.

12 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
13 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 39

16 Time-Limited: 0

17 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
18 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law.



19       No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
20       used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are  
21       being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this  
22       act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

23       **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
24       Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport shall maintain  
25       complete accounting and personnel records related to the  
26       expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such  
27       records shall be in the same format and level of detail as  
28       maintained for Fiscal Year 2025. It is further the intention of  
29       the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year  
30       2027 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
31       in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level  
32       of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request  
33       process.

34       **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
35       whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
36       purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
37       stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
38       quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
39       shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
40       the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
41       made without competitive bids.



42           **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated herein, One Hundred  
43 Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000.00) is provided for the  
44 purpose of funding overtime, callback or standby pay.

45           **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
46 Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport shall only expend  
47 funds on activities directly related to the operation of the state  
48 port.

49           **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
50 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
51 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
52 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
53 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
54 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
55 actions contrary to this provision.

56           **SECTION 8.** The money appropriated under the provisions of  
57 Section 1 shall be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper  
58 person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

59           **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
60 and after July 1, 2025.

