

By: Representatives Deweese,
Bennett, Creekmore IV, Currie,
McGee, Mickens, Read, Scott,
Turner

To: Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 26

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY 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 hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
7 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Board of
8 Optometry, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the board
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
10 June 30, 2026.....\$ 256,272.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** Any transfers or escalations shall be made in
12 accordance with the terms, conditions and procedures established
13 by law. No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
14 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
15 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
16 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

17 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
18 State Board of Optometry shall maintain complete accounting and



19 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
20 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
21 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
22 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
23 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to
24 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
25 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
26 during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

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

35 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
36 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
37 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
38 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
39 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
40 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
41 actions contrary to this provision.

42 **SECTION 6.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
43 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the



44 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
45 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
46 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
47 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

48 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
49 and after July 1, 2025.

