

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk,
Wiggins, DeBar, Hickman, Norwood

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2015

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE
2 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** The following sum of money, or so much thereof as
5 may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State
6 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expenses of
7 the Department of Public Safety for the fiscal year beginning
8 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 168,604,209.00.

9 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
10 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury
11 to the credit of the Department of Public Safety for the purpose
12 of defraying the expenses incurred in the operation of the various
13 divisions of the department for the fiscal year beginning
14 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 117,126,547.00.

15 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
16 this act, not more than the following amount of funds, with the
17 exception of the provisions in this section, shall be expended



18 only for "Personal Services," which includes "Vacancy Funding,"
19 for the following authorized number of employment headcount:

20 FUNDING:

21	General Funds:	\$ 130,570,571.00
22	Special Funds:	\$ 24,121,389.00
23	Total Funds:	\$ 154,691,960.00

24 PERSONAL SERVICES:

25	Employee Salaries, Wages, and	
26	Fringe Benefits:	\$ 153,986,960.00
27	Progressions:	\$ 0.00
28	Vacancy Funding:	\$ 705,000.00
29	Total Personal Services:	\$ 154,691,960.00

30 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

31	Permanent:	1,698
32	Time-Limited:	74

33 As used in this section, the term "Personal Services" shall
34 mean funds provided under the major object of expenditure category
35 Personal Services for Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits. Funds
36 in this category shall not be transferred to any other category.

37 It is the intention of the Legislature to ensure compliance
38 with the Variable Compensation Plan, as outlined in Section
39 25-9-147, Mississippi Code of 1972. Payment from these funds shall
40 be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan promulgated
41 by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the Legislature's



intention that no employee's salary falls below the minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

The State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the projected annual cost of "Personal Services" based on monthly and year-to-date payroll expenditures in compliance with the provisions of this act.

With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that no single personnel action or combination of personnel actions, when annualized, exceeds the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation for "Personal Services" with the exception of escalated funds. Further, it shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that funds required to be appropriated 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.

If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when annualized for Fiscal Year 2026 or increase the need for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2027, when annualized, the State Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with



the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the agency.

When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and designated for approved vacancies in Fiscal Year 2026. These funds are to be utilized to increase the number of filled headcounts that were authorized but unfilled as of the last day of Fiscal Year 2025. If the agency fills additional headcounts after May 1, 2025, until the end of Fiscal Year 2025, the amount of available Vacancy Funding may be proportionally reduced to reflect the updated number of filled headcounts. The agency shall be responsible for ensuring that "Vacancy Funding" is used to increase headcounts and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current employees.

Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or headcounts without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated level. Unless specifically noted, all Fiscal Year



2025 escalated headcounts have been accounted for and shall be converted to authorized time-limited headcounts.

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

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

If the agency's total authorized headcount decreases from Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026, it will be the agency's discretion as to what headcounts are removed.

The Legislature authorized four (4) new headcounts, which are included in the authorized headcount above for Fiscal Year 2026.

New Headcount Titles Authorized:

Medical Examiner for North MS Office - Medical
Examiner - 1

Pathology Assistant for North MS Office - Forensic
Laboratory - 1

Sexual Assault Kits Personnel - Forensic Laboratory - 2

SECTION 4. The Commissioner of Public Safety may, on a case-by-case basis, within funds available, recommend that corrective salary adjustments be made to the compensation of employees of the Department of Public Safety where an inequity was



created between employees of equivalent capacity by previous application of the agency appropriation acts. Any such corrective salary adjustment plan must have prior approval by the State Personnel Board. Such adjustments will not be retroactive.

Any funds in the Salary, Wages and Fringe Benefits major object of expenditure may be used to purchase accumulated compensatory time within funds available.

SECTION 5. It is the intention of the Legislature, that the Department of Public Safety shall receive Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) from the Mississippi Department of Transportation, for the operations of the Office of Commercial Transportation Enforcement Division that is authorized in Section 77-7-330, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 6. It is the intent of the Legislature that the local governments pay for part of the computer cost of the Mississippi Justice Information Center by maintaining their contribution to the Department of Public Safety.

SECTION 7. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Public Safety designate certain employees to aid the Office of Forensics Laboratories in the billing and collecting of all fees charged for services rendered by the Office of Forensics Laboratories.

SECTION 8. No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be transferred to, expended by, or used, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of any public relations, publicity or publication



activities of any other state agency, department or officer, nor shall any personnel paid with funds appropriated herein be transferred or assigned to any other state agency, department or officer for public relations, publicity, or publication activities of such office.

SECTION 9. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Public Safety shall not issue citations for violations of speed limits on a quota basis. No funds expended under this act shall be used for such quota-based citations for violations of speed limits.

SECTION 10. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided below:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Enforcement	
Percent Increased in Enforcement Citations	7.00
Percent Decrease in Fatalities	4.00
Percent Increase in DUI Arrests	
(Includes Felony DUI)	5.00
Number of Criminal Investigations	68,000



165	Number of Highway Fatalities per 100	
166	Million Vehicle Miles of Travel	0.90
167	Number of Alcohol Impaired Driving	
168	Fatalities per 100,000 Population	1.60
169	Number of Driving Under the Influence	
170	(DUI) Arrests per 100,000 Population	230.00
171	Percentage Increase in Seatbelt/Child	
172	Restraint Citations	7.00
173	Driver Service	
174	Number of Driver's License/ID Cards Issued	654,861
175	Cost per License Document Produced	24.00
176	Number of Drivers Suspended	24,300
177	Number of Accident Reports Processed	1,430
178	Average Wait Time (Minutes)	20.00
179	Number of Complaints (Documented)	24
180	Percent Change in Wait Time	-5.00
181	Percent Change in Complaints	1.10
182	Percent Increase in Regular and	
183	Commercial Driver Licenses Issued	10.00
184	Support Services	
185	Number of Financial Transactions Processed	45,402
186	Number of Employees Supported	1,776
187	Forensic Analysis	
188	Number of Reports Issued (Cases)	19,540
189	Number of Court Testimonies (Cases)	200



190	Cost per Case Analyzed	940.00
191	Cost per Testimony	550.00
192	Percent of Days for Reports Issued	45.00
193	Dna Analysis	
194	Number of Known Felony Offender Samples	
195	in Database	159,000
196	Number of Proficiency Samples	800
197	Number of Casework Samples Examined	12,500
198	Cost per Sample	750.00
199	Maintain the Integrity of the CODIS Database	99.00
200	Forensic Pathology	
201	Number of Deaths Investigated	29,250
202	Number of Autopsies Performed SME Office	1,400
203	Cost per Autopsy Performed	1,600.00
204	Percent Change in the Number of Deaths	
205	Investigated	3.00
206	Percent of Coroners Educated by ME's Office	100.00
207	Percent Change in the Number of	
208	Autopsies Performed at SME Office	5.00
209	Training Academy	
210	Number of Basic Students to Graduate	225
211	Number of Basic Refresher Students to	
212	Graduate	15
213	Number of In-Service and Advanced	
214	Students to Graduate	1,400



215	Percent of Law Enforcement Officers Trained	100.00
216	Drug Enforcement	
217	Number of Drug Suspects Arrested	1,300
218	Number of Drug Cases Prosecuted	600
219	Number of Drug Organization Disrupted	
220	and/or Dismantled	4
221	Percent Change in Number of Drug	
222	Suspects Arrested	1.00
223	Percent Change in Number of Drug Cases	
224	Prosecuted	1.00
225	Percent Change in Number of Drug	
226	Organization Disrupted and/or Dismantled	1.00
227	Jail Officer Training	
228	Number of Jail and Youth Detention	
229	Officers Certified	350
230	Number of Certification Transactions	1,500
231	Number of Administrative Review Actions	15
232	Percent of Appointed Jail and Youth	
233	Detention Officers Obtaining	
234	Certification	80.00
235	Percent of Administrative Review Actions	
236	Taken Within One Year	1.00
237	Law Enforcement Training	
238	Number of Basic Law Enforcement Officers	
239	Certified	354



240	Number of Certification Transactions	2,534
241	Number of Training Quality Monitoring	1,030
242	Percent of Appointed Law Enforcement	
243	Officers Obtaining Certification	75.00
244	Percent of Appointed Part-Time, Reserve,	
245	and Auxiliary Officers Obtaining	
246	Certification	80.00
247	Percent of Administrative Disciplinary	
248	Actions Taken Within One Year	3.00
249	Highway Safety	
250	Number of Federal Applications Funded	
251	and Statewide Pgms Supported	10
252	Percent Decrease in the Number of	
253	Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant	
254	Fatalities by 5%	2.00
255	Percent Decrease in the Number of	
256	Fatalities in Crashes Involving a Driver	
257	or Motorcycle Operator with a BAC of	
258	.08 and above	1.00
259	Justice	
260	Number of Juvenile Jail/Detention	
261	Alternatives	3
262	Number of Hot Spots Policing Programs Funded	4
263	Emerg Telecommunications Tng	
264	Number of Emergency Telecommunicators	



265	Certified	400
266	Number of Certification Transactions	3,000
267	Percent of Appointed Emergency	
268	Telecommunicators Obtaining	
269	Certification	75.00
270	Percent of Appointed Emergency	
271	Telecommunicators Obtaining	
272	Recertification	75.00
273	Percent of Administrative Review Actions	
274	Taken Within One Year	1.00
275	Council On Aging	
276	Number of Triad Programs Established	2
277	Number of Training Programs Conducted	0
278	Provide On-Site-Training	0
279	Percent Change in the Number of	
280	Operational Triad Programs	3.00
281	Percent Increase in Funding to Counties	
282	to Educate Senior Citizens	0.00
283	Juvenile Facility Monitoring Unit	
284	Number of Facilities Inspected	80
285	Number of Strategic Plans Implemented	20
286	Percent of Admin Review Actions Taken	
287	Within One Year	85.00
288	Homeland Security	
289	Number of OHS Grants for Jurisdictions	325



290	Number of First Responder Classes	210
291	Percent Increase in Emergency Task Force	
292	Responder Training and Exercises	5.00
293	Percent Increase in Citizen and	
294	Community Preparedness Training and	
295	Exercises	10.00
296	Percent Increase in Requests for Information	3.08
297	Percent Increase in National Incident	
298	Management Training and Exercises	1.49
299	Investigations	
300	Number of Human Trafficking Cases Initiated	172
301	Number of Human Trafficking Arrests	41
302	Number of Human Trafficking Child Recoveries	20
303	Capitol Police	
304	Number of Patrols	80
305	Number of Emergencies (Medical, Weather,	
306	Active Shooter, etc.)	6,000
307	Average Time to Respond to an Emergency	
308	(Minutes)	5.00
309	Motor Carrier	
310	Number of Compliance Reviews	160,000
311	Number of On-site Examinations at Scales	30,000
312	Number of Trucks Weighed	6,000,000
313	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
314	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	



agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.

SECTION 11. It is the intention of the Legislature that all divisions within the Mississippi Department of Public Safety shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

SECTION 12. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 2 of this act, funds may be expended to defray the costs of clothing for sworn nonuniform law enforcement officers in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) annually per officer.

SECTION 13. It is the intention of the Legislature that whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price, quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to



the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids.

SECTION 14. The department is authorized to expend available funds on technology or equipment upgrades or replacements when it will generate savings through efficiency or when the savings generated from such upgrades or replacements exceed expenditures thereof.

SECTION 15. Of the funds provided herein, and in addition to the One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) authorized in Section 45-3-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, Department of Public Safety Officers who are licensed commercial pilots shall receive an additional Nine Hundred Dollars (\$900.00), for a total of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), additional compensation for such service.

SECTION 16. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Public Safety shall provide an annual report to the Mississippi Legislature detailing any elected official or any other person who is not an employee of the Department of Public Safety who was transported in Highway Patrol aircraft during the fiscal year. The report shall be provided to each member of the Mississippi Legislature on or before January 15, 2026.

SECTION 17. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall have the authority to transfer any funds from any division within the Department of Public Safety to any other division of the Department of Public Safety Special Funds, including, but not limited to, Funds 3711, 371C, 371E, 3713, 3714, 3715, 3740, 3741,



3742, 3744, 3747 and 3718, not to exceed Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) collectively during Fiscal Year 2026. However, none of the funds appropriated by this act shall be expended unless the Department of Public Safety provides prior written notification of any transfer of funds provided in this section.

SECTION 18. The Bureau of Narcotics is authorized to expend a sum, not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) from account No. 3371800000, for purposes of effectuating the provisions of Section 41-29-179, Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 1 of this act. Expenditures authorized by this section may include, but not be limited to, costs associated with contracting with one or more vendors, contractors or other persons or entities to create, operate and maintain the forfeiture website and to provide continuing support in relation thereto. In the event an amount less than Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) is required to effectuate the purposes of this section, the Bureau is authorized to expend the remainder of such authorized funds for the purchase of commodities, vehicles and/or other equipment necessary in the furtherance of the needs of the Bureau.

SECTION 19. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, it is the intention of the Legislature that Four Million Three Hundred Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Two Dollars (\$4,312,602.00) may be allocated for the programs supported from General Fund court assessments as follows:

State Crime Stoppers Fund.....	\$	99,003.00.
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389	Adult Driver Training.....\$	75,794.00.
390	Information Exchange Network Fund.....\$	264,007.00.
391	Forensics Laboratory of MS - Implied	
392	Consent Law Fund.....\$	404,795.00.
393	Forensics Laboratory of MS - DNA	
394	Identification Fund.....\$	629,543.00.
395	Law Enforcement and Firefighters Death	
396	Benefits Trust Fund.....\$	191,361.00.
397	Law Enforcement Standards Training - Law	
398	Enforcement Officers Training Fund.....\$	2,276,404.00.
399	Drug Abuse/Driver's License Reinstatement...\$	13,573.00.
400	Federal - State Alcohol Program Fund.....\$	160,431.00.
401	MS Leadership Council on Aging Fund.....\$	197,691.00.

402 **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
403 Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Mississippi Department of Public
404 Safety, shall have the authority to receive, budget and expend
405 special funds from the Drug Evidence Disposition Funds
406 (3372000000), not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
407 (\$500,000.00).

408 **SECTION 21.** Of the funds appropriated by this act, pursuant
409 to Section 97-3-54.9, Mississippi Code of 1972, Two Hundred Fifty
410 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided for the duties and
411 operations of a Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator and a data
412 analyst within the Bureau of Investigation in the Department of
413 Public Safety, who shall coordinate all statewide activities and



work with the Department of Child Protection Services for all victims recovered.

SECTION 22. Of the funds appropriated by this act, pursuant to Section 45-1-2(7), Mississippi Code of 1972, Two Hundred Forty-two Thousand Six Hundred Three Dollars (\$242,603.00) is provided for the duties and operations associated with the Mississippi School Safety Act of 2019.

SECTION 23. The department may subgrant a portion of the funds appropriated herein to the Jackson Police Department for eligible activities contingent upon the execution of an operational agreement between the Capitol Police and Jackson Police Department on roles and responsibilities within the Capitol Complex Improvement District.

SECTION 24. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00) is provided to the Capitol Police for the purpose of defraying expenses related to the housing of detainees arrested within the Capital Complex Improvement District.

SECTION 25. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is re-appropriated out of any money in the Capital Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated to the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in Senate Bill No. 3020, 2024 Regular Session, to the Department of Public Safety for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.....



439\$ 6,063,879.00.

440 This reappropriation is for the following purposes:

441 (a) Vehicles for Capitol Police.....\$ 1,465,604.00.

442 (b) R&R to Facilities at MS Law Enforcement Officers'

443 Training Academy.....\$ 96,691.00.

444 (c) Driver Service Bureau:

445 i. For maintenance and equipment related to the IDEMIA
446 System under Section 63-1-16, Mississippi Code of 1972

447\$ 160,037.00.

448 ii. For upgrades to the Driver Service IDEMIA
449 System.....\$ 3,871,776.00.

450 (d) Driver Service Bureau-Canton Building....\$ 161,671.00.

451 (e) Purchase of Forensics Lab

452 Equipment.....\$ 308,100.00.

453 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
454 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
455 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
456 remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the
457 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
458 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

459 **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Two
460 Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) or so much
461 thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in
462 the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as
463 created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and



allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.
These funds are provided to address the Forensics case backlogs.

SECTION 27. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Five Hundred Eighty-seven Thousand Dollars (\$587,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided for furniture and parking lots for the agency's new headquarters building.

SECTION 28. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided for the purchase of bulletproof vests for local law enforcement officers.

SECTION 29. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.



These funds are provided for the Driver Service Bureau to replace the driver license system.

SECTION 30. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,100,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided for a Capitol Security Platform.

SECTION 31. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One Million Two Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,260,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided for the Driver Service Bureau Canton building lease.

SECTION 32. With the funds appropriated herein, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to make payments to certain vendors for expenses incurred during Fiscal Years 2021 through 2024 in the following total amount.....\$ 294,862.00.

SECTION 33. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal



513 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
514 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

515 **SECTION 34.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
516 and after July 1, 2025.

