

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

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2015
(As Sent to Governor)

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
40 shall be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan
41 promulgated by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the
42 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



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



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



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



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



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



291	Number of First Responder Classes	210
292	Percent Increase in Emergency Task Force	
293	Responder Training and Exercises	5.00
294	Percent Increase in Citizen and	
295	Community Preparedness Training and	
296	Exercises	10.00
297	Percent Increase in Requests for Information	3.08
298	Percent Increase in National Incident	
299	Management Training and Exercises	1.49
300	Investigations	
301	Number of Human Trafficking Cases Initiated	172
302	Number of Human Trafficking Arrests	41
303	Number of Human Trafficking Child Recoveries	20
304	Capitol Police	
305	Number of Patrols	80
306	Number of Emergencies (Medical, Weather,	
307	Active Shooter, etc.)	6,000
308	Average Time to Respond to an Emergency	
309	(Minutes)	5.00
310	Motor Carrier	
311	Number of Compliance Reviews	160,000
312	Number of On-site Examinations at Scales	30,000
313	Number of Trucks Weighed	6,000,000
314	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
315	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 Dollars (\$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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390	Adult Driver Training.....\$	75,794.00.
391	Information Exchange Network Fund.....\$	264,007.00.
392	Forensics Laboratory of MS - Implied	
393	Consent Law Fund.....\$	404,795.00.
394	Forensics Laboratory of MS - DNA	
395	Identification Fund.....\$	629,543.00.
396	Law Enforcement and Firefighters Death	
397	Benefits Trust Fund.....\$	191,361.00.
398	Law Enforcement Standards Training - Law	
399	Enforcement Officers Training Fund.....\$	2,276,404.00.
400	Drug Abuse/Driver's License Reinstatement...\$	13,573.00.
401	Federal - State Alcohol Program Fund.....\$	160,431.00.
402	MS Leadership Council on Aging Fund.....\$	197,691.00.

403 **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
404 Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Mississippi Department of Public
405 Safety, shall have the authority to receive, budget and expend
406 special funds from the Drug Evidence Disposition Funds
407 (3372000000), not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
408 (\$500,000.00).

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



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

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

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

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

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



440\$ 6,063,879.00.

441 This reappropriation is for the following purposes:

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

443 (b) R&R to Facilities at MS Law Enforcement Officers'
444 Training Academy.....\$ 96,691.00.

445 (c) Driver Service Bureau:

446 (i) For maintenance and equipment related to the
447 IDEMIA System under Section 63-1-16, Mississippi Code of 1972
448\$ 160,037.00.

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

451 (d) Driver Service Bureau-Canton Building.....
452\$ 161,671.00.

453 (e) Purchase of Forensics Lab Equipment.....
454\$ 308,100.00.

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

461 **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this
462 act, Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) or
463 so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any
464 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 to address the Forensics case backlogs.

SECTION 27. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, 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 of this act, 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 of this act, 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 of this act, 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 of this act, 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



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

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

