

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk,
McCaughn, Berry, Tate, Thompson

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2020

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD
3 OF EXAMINERS FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS FOR FISCAL YEAR
4 2026.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
8 Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi State Board of Examiners
9 for Licensed Professional Counselors, for the purpose of defraying
10 the expenses of the board for the fiscal year beginning
11 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 378,795.00.

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

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 2

16 Time-Limited: 0

17 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
18 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are



19 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
20 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

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

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

36 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, One
37 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) is allocated for expenses
38 related to updating the Licensing Management System.

39 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
40 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
41 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
42 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
43 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind



44 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
45 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
46 made without competitive bids.

47 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
48 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
49 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
50 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
51 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
52 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
53 actions contrary to this provision.

54 **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
55 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
56 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
57 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
58 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
59 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

60 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after July 1, 2025.

