

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

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2026

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR
3 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 State
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and
8 maintenance of the Mississippi Department of Corrections for the
9 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
10\$ 438,203,210.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
13 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi
14 Department of Corrections which is collected by or otherwise
15 becomes available for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
16 department, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
17 June 30, 2026.....\$ 30,750,389.00.



SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this act, not more than the amounts set forth below shall be expended:

CENTRAL OFFICE

Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act, the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	28,070,824.00
Special Funds.....		<u>5,565,922.00</u>
Total.....	\$	33,636,746.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	174
Time-Limited:	8

FARMING OPERATIONS

Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act, the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	0.00
Special Funds.....		<u>4,010,355.00</u>
Total.....	\$	4,010,355.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	4
Time-Limited:	0

PAROLE BOARD



Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	759,228.00
Special Funds.....		<u>0.00</u>
Total.....	\$	759,228.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	8
Time-Limited:	0

PRIVATE PRISONS

Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	69,464,004.00
Special Funds.....		<u>0.00</u>
Total.....	\$	69,464,004.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	0
Time-Limited:	0

MEDICAL SERVICES

Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	121,647,214.00
Special Funds.....		<u>375,447.00</u>



67 Total.....\$ 122,022,661.00

68 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

69 Permanent: 1

70 Time-Limited: 2

71 **REGIONAL FACILITIES**

72 Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
73 the following funding and positions are authorized:

74 FUNDING:

75 General Funds.....\$ 54,806,825.00

76 Special Funds..... 0.00

77 Total.....\$ 54,806,825.00

78 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

79 Permanent: 0

80 Time-Limited: 0

81 **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

82 Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
83 the following funding and positions are authorized:

84 FUNDING:

85 General Funds.....\$ 27,493,893.00

86 Special Funds..... 13,232,724.00

87 Total.....\$ 40,726,617.00

88 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

89 Permanent: 486

90 Time-Limited: 83

91 **LOCAL CONFINEMENT**



Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	10,064,537.00
Special Funds.....		<u>0.00</u>
Total.....	\$	10,064,537.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	0
Time-Limited:	0

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI CORRECTIONAL

Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	37,014,481.00
Special Funds.....		<u>1,593,780.00</u>
Total.....	\$	38,608,261.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	606
Time-Limited:	5

PARCHMAN

Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	36,613,206.00
Special Funds.....		<u>2,323,298.00</u>



117 Total.....\$ 38,936,504.00

118 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

119 Permanent: 617

120 Time-Limited: 9

121 **SOUTH MISSISSIPPI CORRECTIONAL**

122 Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
123 the following funding and positions are authorized:

124 FUNDING:

125 General Funds.....\$ 25,805,505.00

126 Special Funds..... 1,398,282.00

127 Total.....\$ 27,203,787.00

128 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

129 Permanent: 473

130 Time-Limited: 4

131 **Marshall County Correctional**

132 Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
133 the following funding and positions are authorized:

134 FUNDING:

135 General Funds.....\$ 9,060,720.00

136 Special Funds..... 750,180.00

137 Total.....\$ 9,810,900.00

138 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

139 Permanent: 140

140 Time-Limited: 0

141 **Walnut Grove Correctional**



Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	9,968,509.00
Special Funds.....		<u>750,204.00</u>
Total.....	\$	10,718,713.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	161
Time-Limited:	0

Delta Correctional

Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
the following funding and positions are authorized:

FUNDING:

General Funds.....	\$	7,434,264.00
Special Funds.....		<u>750,197.00</u>
Total.....	\$	8,184,461.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	114
Time-Limited:	0

Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act,
not more than the following amount of funds, with the exception of
the provisions in this section, shall be expended only for
"Personal Services," which includes "Vacancy Funding," for the
following authorized number of employment headcount:

FUNDING:



167 General Funds: \$ 124,920,664.00
168 Special Funds: \$ 19,079,081.00
169 Total Funds: \$ 143,999,745.00

170 PERSONAL SERVICES:

171 Employee Salaries, Wages, and
172 Fringe Benefits: \$ 139,685,536.00
173 Progressions: \$ 0.00
174 Vacancy Funding: \$ 4,314,209.00
175 Total Personal Services: \$ 143,999,745.00

176 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

177 Permanent: 2,784
178 Time-Limited: 111

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

183 It is the intention of the Legislature to ensure compliance
184 with the Variable Compensation Plan, as outlined in Section
185 25-9-147, Mississippi Code of 1972. Payment from these funds shall
186 be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan promulgated
187 by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the Legislature's
188 intention that no employee's salary falls below the minimum salary
189 established by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

190 The State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the
191 projected annual cost of "Personal Services" based on monthly and



192 year-to-date payroll expenditures in compliance with the
193 provisions of this act.

194 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
195 responsibility to ensure that no single personnel action or
196 combination of personnel actions, when annualized, exceeds the
197 Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation for "Personal Services" with the
198 exception of escalated funds. Further, it shall be the agency's
199 responsibility to ensure that funds required to be appropriated
200 for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal
201 Year 2026 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or
202 positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the
203 Mississippi Legislature.

204 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change
205 "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the
206 agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the
207 agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when
208 annualized for Fiscal Year 2026 or increase the need for "Personal
209 Services" for Fiscal Year 2027, when annualized, the State
210 Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as
211 the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with
212 the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the
213 agency.

214 When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds
215 included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and
216 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.

SECTION 4. The Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections is hereby authorized to transfer spending authority between and within budgets, both positions and funds, in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the authorized budgets in the aggregate. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Corrections shall submit written justification for the transfer to the Legislative Budget Office and the Department of Finance and Administration on or before the fifteenth of the month prior to the effective date of the transfer. The department shall provide a report of all transfers made under this section to the Chairmen of Senate and House Appropriations and Corrections Committees and the Legislative Budget Office by December 15 of each fiscal year which shall contain the required information from the previous and current fiscal years.

SECTION 5. 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



267 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
268 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
269 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
270 performance measures provided below:

271		FY2026
272	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
273	General Administration	
274	Support as a Percent of Total Budget	7.20
275	Number of State Prisoners per 100,000	
276	Population (Includes only Inmates	
277	Sentenced to More than a Year)	646.00
278	Average Annual Incarceration Cost per Inmate	58.19
279	Percentage of Offenders Returning to	
280	Incarceration Within 3 Years of Release	34.60
281	Farming Operations	
282	Annual Income from Farm Sales	2,119,870.05
283	Parole Board	
284	Number of Inmates Paroled	3,800
285	Private Prisons	
286	Number of ABE Program Slots Available	302
287	Number of VOC-ED Program Slots Available	127
288	Number of A&D Program Slots Available	148
289	Medical Services	
290	Number of Total Inmate Days in a Hospital	3,836
291	Regional Facilities	



292	Number of ABE program Slots Available	468
293	Number of VOC-ED Program Slots Available	700
294	Number of A&D Program Slots Available	445
295	Probation/parole	
296	Recidivism Rate Within 12 Months of	
297	Release to Field Supervision	8.20
298	Recidivism Rate Within 36 Months of	
299	Release to Field Supervision	17.70
300	Community Work Centers	
301	Recidivism Rate Within 12 Months of Release	17.60
302	Recidivism Rate Within 36 Months of Release	29.80
303	Restitution Centers	
304	Recidivism Rate Within 12 Months	10.30
305	Recidivism Rate Within 36 Months	17.00
306	Local Confinement	
307	Number of Days Offenders Held in County	
308	Jails	360,000
309	Institutional Security	
310	Number of Assaults on Inmates per 100	
311	Inmates	3.90
312	Number of Assaults on Officers per 100	
313	Officers	3.50
314	Youthful Offender School	
315	Recidivism Rate Within 12 Months of Release	7.00
316	Recidivism Rate Within 36 Months of Release	30.00



It is further the intention of the Legislature that none of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain utilities for state-furnished housing for any employees. Such utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane and cable services. Where actual cost cannot be determined, the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance with legislative intent. Such state-furnished housing shall include single-family and multifamily residences but shall not include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities shall be prohibited.

SECTION 7. Of the funds appropriated in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, and authorized for expenditure in Section 3 of this act, payment may be authorized for court-ordered attorney fees and any accrued interest subject to the approval of the Office of the Attorney General.

SECTION 8. None of the money herein appropriated shall be paid to any person who by the provision of Section 47-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, is prohibited from being an employee of the Mississippi Department of Corrections. The State Department of Finance and Administration shall at least annually make a report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review and to the Attorney General stating the name of any person prohibited under the provisions of Section 47-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, from being an employee of the Mississippi Department of Corrections who has



during the preceding year received any money herein appropriated. In the event that any such person prohibited as hereinabove provided from receiving funds herein appropriated should receive any of said funds, the Attorney General shall immediately commence action to recover the monies so paid to said person and to enjoin the further employment of said person at the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

SECTION 9. It is the intent of the Legislature that all prisoners at Parchman shall work a minimum of eight (8) hours per day, excluding prisoners with a physical disability or those incarcerated in maximum security.

SECTION 10. It is the intention of the Legislature that the per diem rates paid to regional facilities shall be Thirty-two Dollars and Seventy-one Cents (\$32.71) per inmate. In no event shall any regional facility's per diem rate exceed Thirty-two Dollars and Seventy-one Cents (\$32.71) per inmate as authorized in Section 47-5-933, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 11. The department or its contracted medical provider will pay to a provider of a medical service for any and all incarcerated persons from a correctional or detention facility an amount based upon negotiated fees as agreed to by the medical care service providers and the department and/or its contracted medical provider. In the absence of a negotiated discounted fee schedule, medical care service providers will be paid by the department or its contracted medical service provider an amount no



greater than the reimbursement rate applicable based on the Mississippi Medicaid reimbursement rate. This limitation applies to all medical care services, durable and nondurable goods, prescription drugs and medications provided to any and all incarcerated persons outside of the correctional or detention facility. None of the monies appropriated herein may be used to pay for cosmetic medical procedures for any prisoner. Cosmetic medical procedure means any medical procedure performed in order to change an individual's appearance without significantly serving to prevent or treat illness or disease or to promote proper functioning of the body.

SECTION 12. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Department of Corrections shall provide a report on all funds clawed back due to a company or individual not meeting the contractual obligations to the department. This report shall contain the name of the entity, the reason why the funds were clawed back, the amount of funds clawed back, and how the department utilized the funds received. As used in this section, the term funds clawed back shall include direct receipt of funds from an entity not meeting their contractual obligation and the reduction of funds owed by the department to an entity due to the entity not meeting their contractual obligation. The report shall be provided to the Chairmen of Senate and House Appropriations, Corrections, and Public Health Committees and the Legislative Budget Office by December 15 of each fiscal year and shall contain



the required information from the previous and current fiscal years.

SECTION 13. Of the funds appropriated in this act, Six Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$690,000.00) shall be made available to the Department for the monitoring and review of the medical services contract. The funds available in this section shall be derived from funds clawed back by the Department as defined in Section 12 of this act. If clawed back funds are unavailable or insufficient, the Department may utilize any other available funds in this act for the purposes provided in this section. The Department shall provide a report of the monitoring and review of the medical services contract to the Chairmen of Senate and House Appropriations, Corrections, and Public Health Committees and the Legislative Budget Office by December 15 of each fiscal year.

SECTION 14. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections shall have the authority to transfer cash from one special fund treasury fund to another special fund treasury fund under the control of the Department of Corrections. The purpose of this authority is to more efficiently use available cash reserves. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Corrections shall submit written justification for the transfer to the Legislative Budget Office and the Department of Finance and Administration on or before the fifteenth of the month prior to



the effective date of the transfer. The department shall provide a report of all transfers made under this section to the Chairmen of Senate and House Appropriations and Corrections Committees and the Legislative Budget Office by December 15 of each fiscal year which shall contain the required information from the previous and current fiscal years.

SECTION 15. 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 16. It is the intention of the Legislature that all funds held by the Inmate Welfare Fund, as created in Section 47-5-158, Mississippi Code of 1972, be placed in a treasury fund. Of the amounts appropriated in Section 2 of this act, an amount not exceeding Nine Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$9,250,000.00) shall be available for expenditure in the Inmate Welfare Fund. Of these funds, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) shall be used to provide for transitional housing and post release reentry programs.

SECTION 17. It is the intention of the Legislature that all funds held by the Inmate Incentive to Work Program Fund, as



created in Section 47-5-371, Mississippi Code of 1972, be placed in a treasury fund. Of the amounts appropriated in Section 2 of this act, an amount not exceeding One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be available for expenditure in the Inmate Incentive to Work Program Fund. The following funds shall be utilized to pay inmates who are participants in the Inmate Incentive to Work Program.

SECTION 18. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Department of Corrections 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 19. It is the intention of the Legislature for the Mississippi Department of Corrections to manage funds budgeted and allocated. In so doing, the commissioner of the department shall have the authority to amend, extend and/or renew the term of any lease agreement or any inmate housing agreement in connection with a correctional facility. Notwithstanding any statutory limits to the contrary, such amendment, extension and/or renewal may be for a length of time up to and including ten (10) years as is



492 necessary for the continued operations of such facilities and
493 implementation of the department's duties and responsibilities in
494 accordance with Title 47 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as
495 amended.

496 **SECTION 20.** With the funds herein appropriated, it is the
497 intent of the Legislature that upon vouchers submitted by the
498 board of supervisors of any county housing offenders in county
499 jails pending a probation or parole revocation hearing, the
500 department shall pay the reimbursement costs as provided for in
501 Section 47-5-901, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended by House
502 Bill No. 585, 2014 Regular Session.

503 **SECTION 21.** With the funds herein appropriated, it is the
504 intent of the Legislature, that for Fiscal Year 2026, the
505 Department of Corrections shall reimburse municipalities, up to
506 Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) a day, for the cost incurred of housing
507 inmates in any jail facility based on time served for the
508 conviction of larceny, shoplifting, or related convictions where
509 the value of the property taken is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)
510 or more but is equal to or less than One Thousand Dollars
511 (\$1,000.00). A copy of the court abstract of record and the jail
512 docket shall be provided to show the total number of days an
513 individual was incarcerated in said jail facility. The
514 reimbursement shall be payable back to the municipality upon
515 receipt of required documentation and an invoice. Total



reimbursements resulting from this section shall not exceed One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00).

SECTION 22. 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 23. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, it is the intention of the Legislature that Five Hundred Ten Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-one Dollars (\$510,261.00) shall be allocated to Victim's Notification Programs supported by General Fund court assessments.

SECTION 24. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000.00) is provided for monitoring technology for probation and parole officers in an effort to increase operational efficiencies and reduce recidivism.

SECTION 25. 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 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 26. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

