

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk,  
Blackwell, Norwood, Parks,  
Simmons (13th)

To: Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 2027

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
3 ESTABLISHING A DISASTER RELIEF RESERVE FUND AND DEFRAYING THE  
4 COSTS RELATED TO CERTAIN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL  
5 YEAR 2026.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
8 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the State  
9 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of  
10 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Emergency Management  
11 Agency in accordance with the provisions of Section 33-15-1 et  
12 seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, for the fiscal year beginning  
13 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 5,897,422.00.

14 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
15 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special  
16 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi  
17 Emergency Management Agency which is comprised of special source  
18 funds collected by or otherwise available to the agency, for the



19 support and maintenance of the agency for the fiscal year  
20 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....  
21 .....\$ 28,640,258.00.

22 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
23 this act, not more than the following amount of funds, with the  
24 exception of the provisions in this section, shall be expended  
25 only for "Personal Services," which includes "Vacancy Funding,"  
26 for the following authorized number of employment headcount:

27 FUNDING:

|    |                |                  |
|----|----------------|------------------|
| 28 | General Funds: | \$ 4,273,552.00  |
| 29 | Special Funds: | \$ 14,718,540.00 |
| 30 | Total Funds:   | \$ 18,992,092.00 |

31 PERSONAL SERVICES:

|    |                               |                  |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 32 | Employee Salaries, Wages, and |                  |
| 33 | Fringe Benefits:              | \$ 18,079,972.00 |
| 34 | Progressions:                 | \$ 0.00          |
| 35 | Vacancy Funding:              | \$ 912,120.00    |
| 36 | Total Personal Services:      | \$ 18,992,092.00 |

37 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

|    |               |     |
|----|---------------|-----|
| 38 | Permanent:    | 122 |
| 39 | Time-Limited: | 66  |

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



44       It is the intention of the Legislature to ensure compliance  
45 with the Variable Compensation Plan, as outlined in Section  
46 25-9-147, Mississippi Code of 1972. Payment from these funds shall  
47 be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan promulgated  
48 by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the Legislature's  
49 intention that no employee's salary falls below the minimum salary  
50 established by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

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

55       With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
56 responsibility to ensure that no single personnel action or  
57 combination of personnel actions, when annualized, exceeds the  
58 Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation for "Personal Services" with the  
59 exception of escalated funds. Further, it shall be the agency's  
60 responsibility to ensure that funds required to be appropriated  
61 for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal  
62 Year 2026 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or  
63 positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the  
64 Mississippi Legislature.

65       If, at the time the agency takes any action to change  
66 "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the  
67 agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the  
68 agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when



69 annualized for Fiscal Year 2026 or increase the need for "Personal  
70 Services" for Fiscal Year 2027, when annualized, the State  
71 Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as  
72 the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with  
73 the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the  
74 agency.

75       When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds  
76 included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and  
77 designated for approved vacancies in Fiscal Year 2026. These funds  
78 are to be utilized to increase the number of filled headcounts  
79 that were authorized but unfilled as of the last day of Fiscal  
80 Year 2025. If the agency fills additional headcounts after May 1,  
81 2025, until the end of Fiscal Year 2025, the amount of available  
82 Vacancy Funding may be proportionally reduced to reflect the  
83 updated number of filled headcounts. The agency shall be  
84 responsible for ensuring that "Vacancy Funding" is used to  
85 increase headcounts and not for promotions, title changes,  
86 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing  
87 salaries for current employees.

88       Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
89 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
90 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
91 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
92 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
93 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written



94 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or headcounts  
95 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
96 appropriated level. Unless specifically noted, all Fiscal Year  
97 2025 escalated headcounts have been accounted for and shall be  
98 converted to authorized time-limited headcounts.

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

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

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

110 The Legislature authorized six (6) new headcounts, which are  
111 included in the authorized headcount above for Fiscal Year 2026.  
112 One headcount will be utilized by using one FY 2025 existing  
113 headcount.

114 New Headcount Titles Authorized:

115 General Management - 1

116 Geographic Information Systems - 1

117 Information Technology Project Manager - 3

118 Procurement - 1



**SECTION 4.**

In addition to all other sums herein appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency for the purpose of defraying certain administrative expenses and the state share of the cost of disaster assistance programs, including, but not being limited to, public assistance programs, individual and family grant programs, and mitigation programs, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 585,056.00.

**SECTION 5.**

In addition to all other sums herein appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Fund Nos. 33703, 3725, 3728, 372U, 3729, 37AH, 53730, 6820174300, and 58202 for the purpose of defraying certain administrative expenses and the state and federal share of the cost of disaster assistance programs, including, but not being limited to, public assistance programs, individual and family grant programs, and mitigation programs, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 450,755,692.00.

**SECTION 6.**

The funds appropriated under the provisions of Sections 4 and 5 of this act are provided to defray certain administrative expenses and the state and federal share of the



cost of disaster assistance programs, including public assistance programs, individual and family grant programs, and mitigation programs resulting from, but not being limited to, the following:

|      |                                                                                                                        |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1604 | Hurricane Katrina                                                                                                      |
| 4175 | Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Flooding - Cities of Louisville & Tupelo                                                     |
| -    | Hazard Mitigation                                                                                                      |
| -    | Other Needs Assistance                                                                                                 |
| -    | Mississippi Temporary Housing Program                                                                                  |
| -    | Pre-Disaster Response                                                                                                  |
| -    | Emergency Preparedness Programs                                                                                        |
| 4429 | Feb 22-March 29, 2019 Flooding                                                                                         |
| 4450 | Severe Weather April 13, 2019                                                                                          |
| 4470 | Severe Weather October 26, 2019                                                                                        |
| 4478 | Severe Weather January 10-11, 2020                                                                                     |
| 4528 | Coronavirus Pandemic                                                                                                   |
| 4536 | Severe Weather April 12, 2020 Easter Tornadoes                                                                         |
| 4538 | Flooding Feb 10-18, 2020 (Pearl River Flood)                                                                           |
| 4248 | Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Flooding - North Mississippi/Holly Springs                                                   |
| 4268 | Delta Flooding                                                                                                         |
| 4295 | Pine Belt Tornado/Flooding                                                                                             |
| 4314 | Severe Storms, Flooding in Adams, Calhoun, Carroll, Claiborne, Holmes, Jefferson, Montgomery, Webster & Yazoo Counties |



169           4350           Hurricane Nate  
170           4415           Severe Storms, Flooding & Tornado in Clarke,  
171                        Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jasper, Jones,  
172                        Marion, Newton, Perry & Wayne Counties  
173           4551           Severe Weather April 22-23, 2020  
174           3544           Hurricane Sally  
175           3548           Hurricane Delta  
176           4576           Hurricane Zeta  
177           4598           2021 Winter Storm  
178           3582           Water Crisis EM Dec.  
179           4697           Severe Weather March 24-25, 2023

180           **SECTION 7.** None of the funds appropriated in Section 4 of  
181 this act shall be used to establish a special reserve fund in the  
182 State Treasury for disaster relief except as provided for in  
183 Section 33-15-307, Mississippi Code of 1972.

184           **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
185 Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency may, upon  
186 the request of a local public emergency management organization in  
187 an area which has suffered a natural disaster, supply equipment to  
188 rural water associations to enable their continued operation when  
189 the local emergency management organization determines that such  
190 private entities provide services essential to the welfare of the  
191 community.

192           **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
193 Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency shall



194 provide enhanced training to local governments, supervisors,  
195 mayors, civil defense groups and municipal associations in  
196 disaster management.

197       **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
198 Mississippi Emergency Management Agency shall maintain complete  
199 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all  
200 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be  
201 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal  
202 Year 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that  
203 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be  
204 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
205 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
206 provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

207       **SECTION 11.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
208 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
209 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
210 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
211 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
212 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
213 performance measures provided below:

| 214 |                                             | FY2026        |
|-----|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 215 | <u>Performance Measures</u>                 | <u>Target</u> |
| 216 | Emergency Mgmt Preparedness                 |               |
| 217 | Percent of the Affected Population Informed | 100.00        |
| 218 | Average Time to Deliver Goods & Services    | 48.00         |



219 Recovery

|     |                            |    |
|-----|----------------------------|----|
| 220 | Number of Ongoing Projects | 15 |
|-----|----------------------------|----|

|     |                              |       |
|-----|------------------------------|-------|
| 221 | Number of Meetings Conducted | 6,000 |
|-----|------------------------------|-------|

|     |                          |               |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------|
| 222 | Average Cost per Project | 20,000,000.00 |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------|

|     |                                         |        |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| 223 | Percent of Recovery Objectives Complete | 100.00 |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|--------|

224 Mitigation

|     |                               |    |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|
| 225 | Number of Workshops Conducted | 25 |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|

|     |                            |    |
|-----|----------------------------|----|
| 226 | Number of Ongoing Projects | 15 |
|-----|----------------------------|----|

|     |                          |           |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 227 | Average Cost per Project | 50,000.00 |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|

228           Percent Reduction in Damage Due to

|     |                                |      |
|-----|--------------------------------|------|
| 229 | Natural and Man-Made Incidents | 5.00 |
|-----|--------------------------------|------|

230           A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets  
231 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the  
232 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget  
233 Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.

234           **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
235   Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
236   shall have authority to transfer not more than Five Hundred  
237   Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) from any general or special fund  
238   treasury fund and major object budget category to another special  
239   or general fund treasury fund and major object budget category  
240   accordingly under the control of the Mississippi Emergency  
241   Management Agency. The purpose of this authority is to more  
242   efficiently use available cash reserves. It is further the  
243   intention of the Legislature that the Executive Director of the



Mississippi Emergency Management Agency 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.

**SECTION 13.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency shall submit a notification and summary of all state support funding on all disasters that require general funds or state support special funds to the Legislative Budget Office.

**SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that from any funds appropriated in this act, the agency shall maintain a minimum of nine (9) Area Coordinators to provide daily assistance to local jurisdictions with emergency management activities as well as to provide quicker response to incidents and/or disasters. In addition, it is the intent of the Legislature that these Area Coordinators shall reside in or within fifty (50) miles of their assigned districts.

**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.** With funds appropriated herein, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is authorized to make reimbursement payments directly to individual Mississippi citizens who have been or will be approved to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Safe Room Grant Program. All funds paid by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency under this program will be reimbursed to the Agency by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) is provided from the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund as created in Senate Bill 2835, 2025 Regular Session. These funds are provided to pay for reimbursement of eligible expenses.

**SECTION 18.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Seven Hundred Forty-three Thousand Dollars (\$743,000.00) is provided from the State NG911 Fund as created in Senate Bill 2835, 2025 Regular Session, for startup costs for the new State NG 911 program at the agency.

**SECTION 19.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds for the purpose of defraying



293 the expenses for vehicle purchases, as authorized in Senate Bill  
294 3040, 2024 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning  
295 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 47,563.00.

296 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
297 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
298 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
299 remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the  
300 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
301 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

302 **SECTION 20.** The expenditure of the funds appropriated by  
303 this act shall be under the direction of the Governor and shall be  
304 paid by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or  
305 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State  
306 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his  
307 warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or  
308 officers in the manner provided by law.

309 **SECTION 21.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
310 and after July 1, 2025.

