

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



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.

