

By: Representatives Read, Martinson,
Broomfield, Brown, Davis, Denny, Huddleston,
Middleton, Miles, Weathersby

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1603
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007.

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 Treasury to the credit of the Public Utilities Staff Regulation
8 Fund, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Public
9 Utilities Staff for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, and
10 ending June 30, 2007..... \$ 2,298,033.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
12 Section 1, not more than the amounts set forth below shall be
13 expended for the respective major objects or purposes of
14 expenditure:

15 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

16 Personal Services:

17	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits..	\$	1,967,953.00
18	Travel and Subsistence.....		80,000.00
19	Contractual Services.....		228,080.00
20	Commodities.....		17,000.00
21	Capital Outlay:		
22	Other Than Equipment.....		0.00
23	Equipment.....		5,000.00
24	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....		0.00
25	Total.....	\$	2,298,033.00

26 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

27 Permanent: Full Time..... 30

28	Part Time.....	0
29	Time-Limited: Full Time.....	0
30	Part Time.....	0

31 Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable Compensation
32 Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a pay increase
33 equal to the realignment component of the Variable Compensation
34 Plan or Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00), whichever is greater,
35 with not more than one-half (1/2) to be awarded on July 1, 2006,
36 with the remainder to be awarded on January 1, 2007.

37 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of
38 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to
39 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal
40 Services" for Fiscal Year 2008 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2007
41 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions
42 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2008 budget by the
43 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the
44 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall
45 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all
46 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this
47 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure
48 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual
49 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2007 appropriation for "Personal
50 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds.
51 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal
52 Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency
53 has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this
54 projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2007 "Personal Services"
55 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which
56 reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation
57 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until
58 such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

59 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
60 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or

61 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
62 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
63 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
64 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
65 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
66 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
67 appropriated level.

68 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
69 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
70 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
71 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

72 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
73 Public Utilities Staff shall maintain complete accounting and
74 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
75 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
76 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
77 2006. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
78 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2008 shall be submitted to
79 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
80 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
81 during the Fiscal Year 2007 budget request process.

82 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
83 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
84 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
85 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
86 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
87 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
88 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
89 made without competitive bids.

90 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds provided under the provisions of
91 this act, Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) shall be used to
92 increase the salary of the executive director (PIN 3) from the
93 start step of the salary range for the position.

94 **SECTION 6.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
95 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
96 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
97 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
98 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
99 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

100 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
101 and after July 1, 2006.