

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1613: Appropriation; Education, Department of.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- 1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
7 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in the State
8 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
9 funding K-12 and other related educational activities, including
10 certain agencies and programs, in the State of Mississippi, for
11 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024,
12 as follows:

13 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
14 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education, and
15 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
16 Division.....\$ 445,799,190.00.

17 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
18 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
19 Division of the State Department of Education.....

45 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
46 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Adequate Education
47 Program.....\$ 245,112,197.00.

48 TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPECIAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
49 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,280,548,975.00.

50 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One
51 Hundred Twenty-six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-two Dollars
52 (\$126,472.00), or so much of that sum as may be necessary, is
53 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit
54 of the Health Care Expendable Fund to the State Department of
55 Education for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
56 department for the Mississippi Eye Screening Program for providing
57 vision safety services.

58 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the
59 following sums, or so much of those sums as may be necessary, are
60 derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of
61 the Education Enhancement Fund pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and
62 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as follows:

63 (a) To the State Department of Education, excluding the
64 expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division, for
65 the following purposes:

66 Literacy Initiative and Assessment.....\$ 6,805,774.00
67 Educable Child.....\$ 7,000,000.00
68 Grants to school districts for
69 capital facilities and buses.....\$ 16,000,000.00

70	Instructional materials.....	\$ 25,000,000.00
71	Students with Special Needs.....	\$ 1,800,000.00
72	Implementing Performance-Based Data	
73	Collection and Accreditation	
74	Model.....	\$ 274,937.00
75	Testing.....	\$ 6,125,670.00
76	Mississippi School for Math and	
77	Science.....	\$ 725,000.00
78	Mississippi School for Fine Arts.	\$ 777,632.00
79	Early Learning Collaboratives.....	\$ 16,210,526.00
80	Other Early Learning Programs.....	\$ 20,000,000.00
81	Early Learning Coaches.....	\$ 3,251,533.00
82	Math Coaches.....	\$ 5,000,000.00
83	WorkKeys.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
84	Advanced Placement, Dual Credits,	
85	International Baccalaureate,	
86	Cambridge Diploma Endorsements.....	\$ 300,000.00
87	Vocational Technical Grants.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
88	Mississippi School for the Deaf	
89	and Blind.....	\$ 1,407,037.00
90	TOTAL.....	\$ 112,678,109.00
91	(b) To the State Department of Education to defray the	
92	expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division.....	
93	\$ 6,637,258.00.

94 (c) To the State Department of Education to provide
95 funding for the Mississippi Adequate Education Program.....
96\$ 245,112,197.00.

97 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, the
98 following positions are authorized for the State Department of
99 Education, excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical
100 Education Division:

101 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

102 Permanent: 342

103 Time-Limited: 143

104 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
105 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
106 Services for Fiscal Year 2025 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2024 funds
107 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
108 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 budget by the Mississippi
109 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
110 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
111 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
112 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
113 2024 that may not be utilized for active Fiscal Year 2023
114 Headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
115 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
116 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
117 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
118 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee

119 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
120 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

121 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
122 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
123 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
124 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 do
125 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
126 the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 projected cost exceeds the
127 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
128 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
129 essential for the agency.

130 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
131 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
132 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
133 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
134 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
135 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
136 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
137 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
138 appropriated level.

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

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

147 **SECTION 6.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
148 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
149 the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be
150 utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to
151 achieve the intended mission of the State Department of Education,
152 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
153 Division. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make
154 every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided
155 below:

	FY2024
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
158 Special Education	
159 Number of Special Education Teachers (FTE)	5,963
160 Number of Gifted Education Teachers	805
161 Percent Increase of Children with	
162 Disabilities in General Education Early	
163 Childhood Programs while Decreasing the	
164 Percent in Self-Contained Special	
165 Education Early Childhood Classrooms	76.00
166 General Administration	
167 Total Dollars Spent on General	

168	Administration	14,807,862.00
169	Percent of Total Budget Spent on General	
170	Administration	15.70
171	Create a Public-Facing Data System for	
172	All Stakeholders	100.00
173	Create a User-Friendly Website for the	
174	Public and School Districts to Access	
175	Data to Make Decisions	100.00
176	Create a Roadmap to Improve the	
177	Mississippi Student Information System	100.00
178	Number of Research Results Published to	
179	Support Improved Student Outcomes and	
180	Teacher Effectiveness	9
181	Graduation & Career Readiness	
182	Percent Increase of Students Graduating	
183	from High School Ready for College or	
184	Career in Each Subgroup	88.50
185	Early Childhood Education	
186	Percent Increase of Kindergarten	
187	Students Achieving End-Of-Year Target	
188	Score on Kindergarten Readiness	
189	Post-Test	69.05
190	Percent Increase of Early Learning	
191	Collaborative Sites Meeting Required	
192	Rate of Readiness	95.00

193	Number of Students Enrolled in Title I	
194	or Locally Funded Pre-K Classes	8,691
195	Teacher Tng & Professional Dev	
196	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
197	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
198	That Are High Poverty	31.00
199	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
200	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
201	That Are High Minority	35.00
202	Percent Increase of Districts Reporting	
203	Professional Growth System (PGS) Ratings	
204	for Teachers and Leaders	93.00
205	Percent Increase of Teacher Candidates	
206	Passing Licensure Exams on the First	
207	Attempt	35.00
208	Increase the Number of Licensed, Diverse	
209	Teachers and Leaders	35.00
210	Elementary Education	
211	Percent Increase of Students who Pass	
212	the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment at the	
213	First Administration in Each Subgroup	80.00
214	Secondary Education	
215	Increase the Number of Students	
216	Participating in and Passing Advanced	
217	Placement (AP), International	

218	Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Exams	
219	in Each Subgroup	37.00
220	Percent Increase of Students Ready for	
221	College as Measured by Meeting ACT	
222	Benchmarks in Each Content Area (Public	
223	School Class Data, Grade 11)	11.00
224	Assessment & Development	
225	Increase the Percent of Students	
226	Proficient (Levels 4-5) on Statewide	
227	Assessments (Grades 3-8 & High School	
228	Composite) in Each Subgroup	52.00
229	Decrease the Percent of Students Scoring	
230	Levels 1-3 on Statewide Assessments in	
231	Each Subgroup	57.00
232	Increase Percent of Pre-Kindergarten	
233	Students in Public Schools Attaining	
234	Kindergarten Readiness on the Pre-K	
235	End-Of-Year Assessment	72.00
236	School Performance	
237	Percent of Schools Rated "C" or Higher	80.00
238	Percent of Districts Rated "C" or Higher	80.00
239	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
240	on Statewide ELA Assessments in Each	
241	Subgroup	66.00
242	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	

243	on Statewide Math Assessments in Each	
244	Subgroup	68.00
245	Percent of Students Participating in	
246	Dual Credit in Each Subgroup	50.00
247	Percent of Students Passing Dual Credit	
248	in Each Subgroup	98.00
249	Increase the Growth of D and F Districts	
250	Demonstrating Growth, by Improving the	
251	Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
252	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	76.00
253	Increase the Growth of D and F Schools	
254	by Improving the Letter Grade and/or	
255	Increasing the Number of Points within a	
256	Letter Grade	70.00
257	Increase the Growth of Districts of	
258	Transformation by Improving the Letter	
259	Grade and/or Increasing the Number of	
260	Points within a Letter Grade	100.00
261	Increase the Growth of Schools Under	
262	Districts of Transformation by Improving	
263	the Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
264	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	100.00
265	Decrease the Number of High Schools	
266	Rated D or F	20.00

267 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
268 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
269 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
270 Committee for Fiscal Year 2025.

271 **SECTION 7.** No school district shall expend any funds,
272 received under the School Ad Valorem Reduction Grant, unless such
273 school district has specifically identified the amount of the
274 grant within the published budget as required by Section 37-61-9,
275 Mississippi Code of 1972. The published budget shall include the
276 following statement: "Ad Valorem taxes will be \$_____ less as
277 a result of the Ad Valorem Reduction Grants enacted by the
278 Mississippi Legislature in 1992."

279 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in
280 the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from
281 income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement
282 Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of
283 1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for
284 the School for Math and Science.

285 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
286 this act, the following positions are authorized for the
287 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State
288 Department of Education:

289 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

290 Permanent: 48

291 Time-Limited: 5

292 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
293 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
294 Services for Fiscal Year 2025 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2024 funds
295 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
296 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 budget by the Mississippi
297 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
298 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
299 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
300 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
301 2024 that may not be utilized for active Fiscal Year 2023
302 Headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
303 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
304 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
305 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
306 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
307 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
308 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

309 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
310 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
311 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
312 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 do
313 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
314 the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 projected cost exceeds the
315 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the

316 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
317 essential for the agency.

318 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
319 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
320 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
321 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
322 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
323 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
324 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
325 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
326 appropriated level.

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

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

335 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
336 not to exceed One Million Twenty-three Thousand Five Hundred
337 Seventy-four Dollars (\$1,023,574.00) is authorized for the support
338 of vocational and technical education programs as authorized in
339 Section 37-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a period in excess
340 of ten (10) months in a calendar year.

341 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
342 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State
343 Department of Education shall, with the funds appropriated in
344 Section 1, transfer no more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars
345 (\$75,000.00) to the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation
346 Commission for the purpose of providing matching funds to purchase
347 soil conservation equipment.

348 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, no more
349 than One Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) is
350 provided for the purpose of supporting the Future Farmers of
351 America Center.

352 **SECTION 13.** The State Department of Education shall transfer
353 the designated amounts to the appropriate entities, which shall
354 assume full responsibility for the expenditure of these funds in
355 accordance with state laws and accept all responsibility for any
356 improper expenditure, for the following:

357	Detention Centers.....	\$	2,975,000.00.
358	Dyslexia Program.....	\$	225,000.00.
359	Amplify Data Coaching.....	\$	1,100,000.00.
360	Magnolia Speech School.....	\$	1,000,000.00.
361	Principal Corp.....	\$	200,000.00.
362	Sight Savers.....	\$	375,000.00.
363	Teach for America.....	\$	1,250,000.00.
364	Teacher Corp.....	\$	200,000.00.
365	Vision Screening Research.....	\$	225,000.00.

366	Lobaki, Inc.....	\$	300,000.00.
367	Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia.....	\$	200,000.00.
368	Algebra Nation.....	\$	1,100,000.00.
369	Save the Children.....	\$	75,000.00.
370	Mississippi Construction Education Program.....	\$	212,500.00.
371	T. K. Martin Center.....	\$	75,000.00.
372	JumpStart Act.....	\$	250,000.00.
373	Mastery Prep.....	\$	200,000.00.
374	Arts for All Mississippi.....	\$	40,000.00.
375	Total.....	\$	10,002,500.00.

376 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of
377 the funds provided for Other Early Learning Programs in Section
378 4(a), Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) is included for the
379 Mississippi Department of Education to provide grant opportunities
380 for Other Early Learning Programs through public schools including
381 other public school preschool programs not participating in Early
382 Learning Collaboratives.

383 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
384 not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
385 (\$1,500,000.00) shall be used for technological methods for
386 agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic
387 engineering programs and equipment upgrades and Mississippi
388 Elementary (ME) STEM and STEAM programs from the Career and
389 Technical Education Division of the State Department of Education.

390 All programs must meet Mississippi Science Standards and/or
391 College and Career Standards.

392 Of the funds appropriated in this section, an amount not to
393 exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be distributed to
394 the Mississippi State University Center for Cyber Education and
395 used for computer science programs development and teacher
396 training for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools
397 for the purpose of developing K-12 computer science curricula,
398 including both academic and career and technical education
399 programs, developing and delivering teacher training, and working
400 with the State Board of Education and Institutions of Higher
401 Learning in the state to develop teacher preparation programs for
402 computer science endorsements. All programs must meet the 2018
403 Mississippi Computer Science Standards and/or Mississippi College
404 and Career Standards.

405 **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
406 computer science courses may be taught by certified teacher or for
407 elementary level classes, computer science courses may be taught
408 by teachers who are trained by the district in computer science
409 instruction.

410 **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum
411 of Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-one Dollars (\$62,191.00),
412 which is the aggregate sum that the school districts in the
413 Chickasaw Cession receive annually from interest payments from the
414 Chickasaw School Fund under Section 212, Mississippi Constitution

415 of 1890, shall be deducted from the allocations to the school
416 districts as provided in Section 29-3-137, Mississippi Code of
417 1972, and shall be distributed among the school districts in the
418 Chickasaw Cession by the State Department of Education in the
419 manner that those interest payments were distributed during Fiscal
420 Year 1985.

421 **SECTION 18.** Of the funds provided in this act for the
422 purpose of funding the Mississippi Adequate Education Program as
423 determined under Section 37-151-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, the
424 base student cost in Fiscal Year 2024 shall be Six Thousand Seven
425 Hundred Fifty-nine Dollars and Twenty-seven Cents (\$6,759.27).

426 **SECTION 19.** With the funds provided in this act, it is the
427 intention of the Legislature that School Attendance Officers and
428 academic teachers at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the
429 Mississippi School for the Blind shall receive their annual
430 increment.

431 **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
432 State Board of Education shall maintain complete accounting and
433 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
434 appropriated in this act and that those records shall be in the
435 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
436 2023. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
437 budget requests for Fiscal Year 2025 shall be submitted to the
438 Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail
439 comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the

440 Fiscal Year 2024 budget request process for each agency and
441 institution appropriated funds within the provisions of this act.

442 **SECTION 21.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) to the
443 State Board of Education, not less than Twenty-three Million
444 Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$23,080,000.00) shall be used for
445 National Board Certification. Of this amount, Seven Hundred
446 Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be used for the World Class
447 Teacher Program providing instruction and assistance to teachers
448 seeking National Board Certification.

449 **SECTION 22.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and
450 Section 4(a) not less than Fifteen Million Fifty-eight Thousand
451 Dollars (\$15,058,000.00) shall be used for the Educable Child
452 Program. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State
453 Board of Education shall allocate funding for the Educable Child
454 Program based upon a recalculated formula in a manner to include
455 only those billable days funded through appropriation of state
456 funds and not District funds. It is the intent of the Legislature
457 that the Educable Child funds shall be exempt from budget cuts
458 made to the Department of Education by the Legislature and/or the
459 Office of the Governor.

460 **SECTION 23.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
461 Section 4(a), not less than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00)
462 shall be used for the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) Program.
463 It is the intent of the Legislature that the Education Scholarship

464 Account (ESA) funds shall not be reduced by the State Department
465 of Education and/or the Office of the Governor.

466 **SECTION 24.** The public school districts of the state are
467 authorized at their discretion to pay with local funds one hundred
468 percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance premiums of the
469 State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan for all retired
470 members of the Public Employees' Retirement System who are
471 employed as school bus drivers by the school districts. It is the
472 intention of the Legislature that no state funds shall be used for
473 this purpose.

474 **SECTION 25.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
475 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
476 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
477 stated in those received bids are equal with respect to price,
478 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
479 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
480 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
481 made without competitive bids.

482 **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, not less
483 than Six Million Four Hundred Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred
484 Ninety-eight Dollars (\$6,414,898.00) shall be used for the
485 Compulsory School Attendance Office and School Attendance
486 Officers.

487 **SECTION 27.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the
488 intention of the Legislature that Three Million Sixty Thousand

489 Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) shall be used for the Mary
490 Kirkpatrick-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program. The
491 amount of Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) is
492 provided from the Department of Health.

493 **SECTION 28.** The State Department of Education shall contract
494 with a Certified Public Accountant to calculate components of the
495 Mississippi Adequate Education Program to include the base student
496 cost, school district allocations, total program cost, add-on
497 programs, and any other required components of Section 37-151-7,
498 Mississippi Code of 1972. The contractor shall be responsible for
499 calculating the estimates of these components due to the
500 Legislative Budget Office and the Governor by August 1 and the
501 final estimates due to the Legislative Budget Office and the
502 Governor no later than January 2. A report detailing the funding
503 of this contract shall be submitted by the State Department of
504 Education to the Legislature no later than January 30, 2024.

505 **SECTION 29.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
506 State Board of Education shall charge a fee for room and board for
507 students who enroll in the Mississippi School for Mathematics and
508 Science and the Mississippi School of Arts. Such fees will be
509 waived for any student enrolled in the State Children's Health
510 Insurance Program. The amount of such fees shall be Five Hundred
511 Dollars (\$500.00) for each semester.

512 **SECTION 30.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
513 eligible employee who meets the National Board requirements under

514 Section 37-19-7(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be paid the
515 full supplement and that such supplement shall be included on a
516 prorated basis in the employee's monthly paycheck.

517 **SECTION 31.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
518 Mississippi Department of Education may loan any general or
519 special source fund amount, not to exceed Five Million Dollars
520 (\$5,000,000.00), to any school district for the purpose of
521 providing funds to school districts through the Emergency
522 Assistance Fund as outlined in Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code
523 of 1972, during the period beginning July 1, 2023, and ending
524 June 30, 2024. The school districts receiving these loans shall
525 repay the Mississippi Department of Education the amount of the
526 loan on or before June 30, 2024.

527 **SECTION 32.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Seven
528 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be transferred to the
529 Board of Health no later than December 31, 2023.

530 **SECTION 33.** Any school district receiving funds through Save
531 the Children may provide a ten percent (10%) match from local
532 funds for implementation of the program.

533 **SECTION 34.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
534 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi
535 Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant
536 program. A portion of these funds not to exceed one percent (1%)
537 may be used for training and administrative costs related to
538 oversight and auditing of the program.

539 **SECTION 35.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
540 Section 2(a), Twenty-four Million Dollars (\$24,000,000.00) is
541 provided for an Early Childhood Education Initiative program. The
542 funding shall be provided to early learning collaboratives in
543 Fiscal Year 2024 as follows: no less than Two Thousand Five
544 Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) per student in a full-day program and
545 no less than One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00)
546 per student in a half-day program. Funds must be matched as
547 provided by Section 37-21-51, Mississippi Code of 1972.

548 **SECTION 36.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
549 Section 4(a), Fifteen Million Ninety-four Thousand Five Hundred
550 Dollars (\$15,094,500.00) shall be used for the Literacy Initiative
551 and Assessment and monitoring and evaluating the adoption and
552 implementation of high-quality instructional materials that have
553 been reviewed through the approved state process and distributed
554 through regional textbook depository as outlined in Section
555 37-43-23, Mississippi Code of 1972.

556 **SECTION 37.** Of the funds appropriated herein, funding is
557 provided for the ACT test, which is the college readiness portion
558 of the state accountability model.

559 **SECTION 38.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
560 Million Seven Hundred Twenty-one Thousand Eighty-three Dollars
561 (\$2,721,083.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School of the
562 Arts and Three Million Nine Hundred Ninety Thousand Eighty-eight
563 Dollars (\$3,990,088.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School

564 for Mathematics and Science. It is the intention of the
565 Legislature that of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) for the
566 Mississippi School of the Arts, One Million Three Hundred Sixty
567 Thousand Five Hundred Forty-two Dollars (\$1,360,542.00) shall be
568 paid to the school no later than July 10, 2023, and One Million
569 Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Forty-one Dollars
570 (\$1,360,541.00) shall be paid no later than January 10, 2024. All
571 funds appropriated from Section 4(a) for the Mississippi School of
572 the Arts shall be paid to the school each month within ten (10)
573 working days after such amount was received by the Department of
574 Education. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State
575 Board of Education shall not reduce the appropriated amounts
576 provided in this act for the Mississippi School of the Arts and
577 the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science.

578 **SECTION 39.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) and
579 Section 2(b), Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is
580 provided for career and technical grants to schools for qualified
581 students as authorized by Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of
582 1972.

583 **SECTION 40.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, the
584 following amounts shall be available to the Schools for the Blind
585 and Deaf: Ten Million Four Hundred Thirty-nine Thousand Three
586 Hundred Fifty-four Dollars (\$10,439,354.00) from Section 1(a), One
587 Million Four Hundred Seven Thousand Thirty-seven Dollars
588 (\$1,407,037.00) from Section 4(a), and Two Million Three Hundred

589 Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$2,309,725.00)
590 from Section 2(a).

591 **SECTION 41.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
592 not to exceed Four Million One Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Three
593 Hundred One Dollars (\$4,171,301.00) is authorized to fully fund
594 the contract between the Department of Education and the Research
595 & Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to fund career
596 and technical curricula, services to secondary schools and career
597 and technical assessments.

598 **SECTION 42.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 (a) to the
599 State Board of Education, Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00)
600 is provided for the expenditure of funds from the Educational
601 Facilities Revolving Loan Fund, which was created in Section
602 37-47-24, Mississippi Code of 1972. These funds are provided for
603 the purpose of improving educational facilities in the State of
604 Mississippi by assisting public schools in procuring funds for
605 making certain capital improvements.

606 **SECTION 43.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 (b) to the
607 State Board of Education, Five Hundred Sixty-two Thousand Nine
608 Hundred Ninety-nine Dollars (\$562,999.00) is provided for
609 secondary career and technical education instructors teaching at
610 post-secondary institutions.

611 **SECTION 44.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 (a), an
612 amount not to exceed Two Hundred Forty Million Three Hundred
613 Ninety-seven Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$240,397,960.00)

614 shall be allocated for the purpose of providing funds to each
615 public school district in the state as prescribed in the Minimum
616 Salary Schedules in Section 37-19-7 and 37-21-7, Mississippi Code
617 of 1972, for the 2023-2024 school year, and each school year
618 thereafter.

619 **SECTION 45.** Of the funds herein appropriated, One Million
620 Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) shall be provided to
621 the Charter School Authorizer Board. Of this amount, Nine Hundred
622 Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00) shall be provided from Section 1
623 (a) and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) shall be
624 provided from Section 2 (a) from the Charter School Authorizer
625 Board Fund - Fund No. 3001700000.

626 **SECTION 46.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 (b), One
627 Million Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-two
628 Dollars (\$1,432,872.00) shall be provided for new Career and
629 Technical Education Programs as determined by the Division of
630 Vocational and Technical Education at the Mississippi Department
631 of Education. Of the funds appropriated to the department for
632 these programs, no amount shall be expended by the department to
633 defray administrative costs.

634 **SECTION 47.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 (a), One
635 Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000.00) is provided to the State
636 Department of Education to distribute to public school districts
637 and charter schools based on average daily enrollment or the total
638 number of students enrolled for each day in each public school

639 district or charter school divided by the total number of school
640 days. These funds may be spent on any expenditures necessary to
641 operate a public school district or charter school excluding
642 salary increases for superintendents, assistant superintendents,
643 or principals.

644 **SECTION 48.** The Mississippi Department of Education shall
645 provide an annual report detailing the funding of industry
646 certifications and the anticipated industry certifications that
647 will be achieved in the upcoming fiscal year to the Legislative
648 Budget Office and the Legislature no later than January 15, 2024.

649 **SECTION 49.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
650 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education
651 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of
652 Education for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of
653 Education Enhancement Fund, as authorized in House Bill 1600, 2022
654 Regular Session to provide upgrades for the Mississippi Student
655 Information System for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and
656 ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 3,200,000.00.

657 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
658 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
659 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
660 remaining as of June 30, 2023, from the amount authorized for the
661 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
662 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

663 **SECTION 50.** With the funds appropriated herein, the
664 Mississippi Department of Education is authorized to make payment
665 for expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2019 to Canon Solutions
666 America in an amount not to exceed Thirty-five Thousand Eight
667 Hundred Forty-eight Dollars (\$35,848.00).

668 **SECTION 51.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
669 eligible professional school counselor employee who meets the year
670 of teaching experience requirements under Section 37-151-5(m),
671 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be considered having a year of
672 experience for purposes of the annual experience salary increment.

673 **SECTION 52.** The money appropriated in this act shall be paid
674 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or
675 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State
676 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his
677 warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or
678 officers in the manner provided by law.

679 **SECTION 53.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
680 and after July 1, 2023.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING
2 K-12 AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CERTAIN
3 AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE FISCAL
4 YEAR 2024.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)

Read

X (SIGNED)

Bennett

X (SIGNED)

Eure

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)

Hopson

X (SIGNED)

DeBar

X (SIGNED)

McCaughn