

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**# 3**

**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.....\$    445,499,190.00.

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.....

20 .....\$ 86,487,002.00.

21 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
22 paying annual compensation to the Chickasaw Cession counties for  
23 sixteenth section lands which they lost through sale by the state,  
24 as provided in Sections 29-3-137 through 29-3-141, Mississippi  
25 Code of 1972.....\$ 16,945,631.00.

26 (d) To the State Board of Education for defraying the  
27 expenses of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program.....  
28 .....\$ 2,154,825,748.00.

29 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED  
30 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,703,757,571.00.

31 **SECTION 2.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as  
32 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in any special  
33 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or  
34 funds of the agencies or programs specified in the following  
35 paragraphs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
36 June 30, 2024, as follows:

37 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
38 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education,  
39 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
40 Division.....\$ 2,012,730,643.00.

41 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
42 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
43 Division of the State Department of Education.....  
44 .....\$ 22,706,135.00.

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	Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia.....	\$	200,000.00.
367	Algebra Nation.....	\$	1,100,000.00.
368	Save the Children.....	\$	75,000.00.
369	Mississippi Construction Education Program.....	\$	212,500.00.
370	T. K. Martin Center.....	\$	75,000.00.
371	JumpStart Act.....	\$	250,000.00.
372	Mastery Prep.....	\$	200,000.00.
373	Arts for All Mississippi.....	\$	40,000.00.
374	Total.....	\$	9,702,500.00.

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

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



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

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

409 **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum  
410 of Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-one Dollars (\$62,191.00),  
411 which is the aggregate sum that the school districts in the  
412 Chickasaw Cession receive annually from interest payments from the  
413 Chickasaw School Fund under Section 212, Mississippi Constitution  
414 of 1890, shall be deducted from the allocations to the school  
415 districts as provided in Section 29-3-137, Mississippi Code of

416 1972, and shall be distributed among the school districts in the  
417 Chickasaw Cession by the State Department of Education in the  
418 manner that those interest payments were distributed during Fiscal  
419 Year 1985.

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

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

430         **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
431 State Board of Education shall maintain complete accounting and  
432 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
433 appropriated in this act and that those records shall be in the  
434 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
435 2023. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
436 budget requests for Fiscal Year 2025 shall be submitted to the  
437 Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail  
438 comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the  
439 Fiscal Year 2024 budget request process for each agency and  
440 institution appropriated funds within the provisions of this act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

486           **SECTION 27.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the  
487 intention of the Legislature that Three Million Sixty Thousand  
488 Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) shall be used for the Mary  
489 Kirkpatrick-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program. The

490 amount of Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) is  
491 provided from the Department of Health.

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

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

511         **SECTION 30.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each  
512 eligible employee who meets the National Board requirements under  
513 Section 37-19-7(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be paid the

514 full supplement and that such supplement shall be included on a  
515 prorated basis in the employee's monthly paycheck.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

678           **SECTION 53.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
679 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