

By: Representatives Oliver, Read, Arnold,  
Boyd (19th), Hines, Mangold, Massengill,  
Roberson, Scoggin

To: Appropriations E;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1824

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING  
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL  
3 TELEVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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 appropriated out of any money in the State General  
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the  
8 expenses of the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television  
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
10 June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,567,542.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in  
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Authority for  
14 Educational Television which is comprised of special source funds  
15 collected by or otherwise available to the Authority, for the  
16 purpose of defraying the expenses of the Authority for the fiscal  
17 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
18 .....\$ 6,355,627.00.



19           **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
20 Section 1 and Section 2, the following positions are authorized:

21       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22           Permanent:                       79

23           Time-Limited:                   7

24           With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
25 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
26 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds  
27 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
28 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
29 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal  
30 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall  
31 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency  
32 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the  
33 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to  
34 the personal services amount must be approved by the State  
35 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation  
36 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be  
37 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate  
38 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services  
39 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved  
40 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active  
41 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's  
42 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are  
43 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,



44 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing  
45 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board  
46 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any  
47 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board  
48 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in  
49 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the  
50 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the  
51 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the  
52 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel  
53 Board.

54         Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
55 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
56 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
57 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
58 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
59 the agency's projected cost for Fiscal Year 2025 exceeds the  
60 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
61 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
62 essential for the agency.

63         Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
64 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
65 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
66 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
67 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
68 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written



69 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
70 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
71 appropriated level.

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

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

80 **SECTION 4.** Funds appropriated herein shall first be used for  
81 the continuation of a full and complete broadcast schedule of  
82 educational and instructional, professional growth, and public  
83 service programs, with the production of new films and programs to  
84 be secondary thereto.

85 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
86 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall maintain  
87 complete accounting and personnel records related to the  
88 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such  
89 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as  
90 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of  
91 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year  
92 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
93 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level



94 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request  
95 process.

96       **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
97 Section 2, Two Million One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred  
98 Sixty-six Dollars (\$2,118,966.00) shall be derived from the  
99 Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75  
100 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

101       **SECTION 7.** No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be  
102 transferred to, expended by, or used, directly or indirectly, for  
103 the benefit of any public relations, publicity or publication  
104 activities of any other state agency, department or officer, nor  
105 shall any personnel paid or equipment purchased with funds  
106 appropriated hereby be transferred or assigned to any other state  
107 agency, department or officer for public relations, publicity or  
108 publication activities of such office.

109       **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
110 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall have the  
111 authority to expend funds in the Capital Equipment Replacement  
112 Revolving Fund, in accordance with Section 37-63-17, Mississippi  
113 Code of 1972, for the purpose of purchasing technical equipment  
114 for operating the educational radio and television facilities.

115       **SECTION 9.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
116 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
117 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
118 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the



119 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
120 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
121 performance measures provided below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
124 Content Operations	
125       Number of Locally Produced TV Programs	100
126       Number of Locally Produced Radio Programs	1,092
127       Number of Monthly Average Number of Web	
128             Site Users	25,000
129       Number of New Programs Produced and	
130             Broadcast Related to Fit to Eat	
131             Programming	8
132       Percent Increase in Visitors Viewing the	
133             Healthy Living Related Items on MPB	
134             Site	0.00
135       Percent of Radio Broadcasts and TV	
136             Alerts During Times of Emergency	100.00
137 Education Services	
138       Percent Increase in Users Using MPB	
139             Education Online Resources for Pre-K	
140             Children and Families	20.00
141       Number of Students Served by the Digital	
142             Education Network (DEN) Classroom	2,000
143       Number of School Districts Participating	



144	in the DEN Classroom	30
145	Number of Teachers Taking e-Learning Courses	1,800
146	Number of Teacher Continuing Education	
147	Units (CEUs) Provided by e-Learning	
148	Courses Offered	1,950
149	Percent Increase of Visitors to the MPB	
150	Education Website	10.00
151	Number of Rotary Clubs Sponsoring with MPB	0.00
152	Number of Early Childhood Educators	
153	Attending MPB Resource Workshops	
154	Involving PBS and MPB Programs/Content	200
155	Number of Childcare Centers Using PBS	
156	Content	0.00
157	Number of Parents Participating in	
158	Parents Are Teachers Too (PATT)	
159	Initiative	300
160	Technical Services	
161	Number of Transmitters On Air	8
162	On-Air Reliability	99.95
163	Number of IT Help Desk Orders Filled	600
164	Administration	
165	Number of Community Engagements/Outreach	
166	Events Including Virtual Engagements	350
167	Number of State Agency Partners	40
168	New Grant Dollars Acquired	150,000.00



169           A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets  
170 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the  
171 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget  
172 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

173           **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
174 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
175 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
176 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
177 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
178 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
179 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
180 made without competitive bids.

181           **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that an  
182 amount equal to One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per square foot  
183 shall be paid to the Executive Office of the State Board of  
184 Institutions of Higher Learning to defray utility costs.

185           **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
186 Authority for Educational Television may fund a program to focus  
187 on the manufacturing industry in Mississippi.

188           **SECTION 13.** Mississippi Authority for Educational Television  
189 is authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or  
190 contribution from any individual, public, or private organization,  
191 or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational  
192 costs of the department. Such grants, donations or contributions  
193 shall be received and expended under the rules and regulations of





194 the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner  
195 consistent with the escalation of federal funds not to exceed Two  
196 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

197       **SECTION 14.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
198 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education  
199 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational  
200 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the  
201 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House  
202 Bill No. 1614, 2023 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning  
203 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,019,000.00.

204       This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing  
205 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

- 206       a) Tower maintenance and upgrades.....\$ 3,060,000.00.
- 207       b) Digitalization of Educational Content and Mississippi  
208 History.....\$ 668,000.00.
- 209       c) Production of a Medgar Evers documentary  
210 .....\$ 291,000.00.

211       Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
212 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
213 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
214 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
215 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
216 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

217       **SECTION 15.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
218 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital



219 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational  
220 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the  
221 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds as authorized in House Bill  
222 No. 1614, 2023 Regular Session provide for tower maintenance and  
223 upgrades for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
224 June 30, 2025.....\$ 260,000.00.

225 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under the  
226 provisions of this section, in no event shall the amount expended  
227 exceed the unexpended balances as of June 30, 2024. In addition,  
228 this reappropriation shall not change the purpose for which the  
229 funds were originally authorized.

230 **SECTION 16.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
231 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
232 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
233 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
234 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
235 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

236 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
237 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2024.

