

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

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

H. B. No. 1776: Appropriation; Archives and History, 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:

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 Department of Archives and History for the fiscal
9 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
10\$ 12,580,718.00.

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 Department of Archives and
14 History which is comprised of special source funds collected by or
15 otherwise available to the department, for the purpose of
16 defraying the expenses of the department for the fiscal year
17 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
18\$ 26,678,000.00.

19 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
20 this act, the following positions are authorized:

21 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22 Permanent: 155

23 Time-Limited: 10

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
30 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
31 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
32 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
33 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024
34 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
35 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
36 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
37 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
38 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
39 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
40 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

41 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
42 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
43 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to

44 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
45 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
46 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
47 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
48 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
49 essential for the agency.

50 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
51 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
52 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
53 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
54 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
55 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
56 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
57 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
58 appropriated level.

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

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

67 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
68 Department of Archives and History shall maintain complete

69 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all
70 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be
71 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal
72 Year 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that
73 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be
74 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format
75 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail
76 provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

77 **SECTION 5.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the
78 Mississippi Department of Archives and History shall charge the
79 maximum amount allowable for services rendered, consistent with
80 the cost of providing such services. The funds derived from these
81 charges shall be deposited into a special fund account in the
82 State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Department of
83 Archives and History.

84 **SECTION 6.** It is the intent of the Legislature that no part
85 of the funds herein appropriated shall be required to be used for
86 the payment of rent for the museum and public space in the State
87 Historical Museum, Old Capitol Restoration.

88 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds provided in Section 2, Two Million
89 Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is provided to the Department of Archives
90 and History from the Mississippi Landmark Grant Fund in accordance
91 with Section 39-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, to help support
92 the preservation of Mississippi Landmark Properties.

93 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds provided under the provisions of
94 this act, One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) is provided
95 for the purpose of capital development and maintenance of Beauvoir
96 Shrine, the last home of Jefferson Davis, the only President of
97 the Confederate States of America, subject to approval by the
98 Department of Archives and History. The expenditure of funds
99 available in this section shall be subject to prior approval by
100 the Department of Archives and History.

101 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
102 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
103 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
104 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
105 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
106 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
107 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
108 made without competitive bids.

109 **SECTION 10.** In addition to all other sums herein
110 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
111 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
112 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of Archives and
113 History for the purpose of supporting the Statewide Oral History
114 Project for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
115 June 30, 2025.....\$ 50,000.00.

116 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
117 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with

118 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
119 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
120 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
121 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
122 actions contrary to this provision.

123 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds provided in Section 2, Seven
124 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) is provided from
125 Special Funds in the State Treasury to the credit of the State
126 Treasury fund created in Section 27-19-56.69(8), Mississippi Code
127 of 1972, for the purpose of paying the costs of repair and
128 renovation of the New Capitol, the Old Capitol, the Governor's
129 Mansion, and the War Memorial Building, in accordance with rules
130 and regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration in
131 a manner consistent with the escalation of funds.

132 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
133 of Section 2, Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00), or so much
134 thereof, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
135 to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section
136 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as
137 determined by the Treasurer's Office. This appropriation is made
138 to provide the funds necessary to authorize the expenditure of
139 funds for the Vicksburg Military Park Interpretive Center. As a
140 condition of expending these funds, the department shall enter
141 into a memorandum of agreement or similar document with the U.S.
142 Government National Park Services reflecting a plan for building

143 an interpretive center and a lease agreement for lease space
144 therein.

145 **SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
146 of Section 2, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), or so much
147 thereof, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
148 to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section
149 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as
150 determined by the Treasurer's Office. This appropriation is made
151 to provide the funds necessary to authorize the expenditure of
152 funds for the Crigler Park project.

153 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
154 of Section 2, Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00), or so much
155 thereof, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
156 to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section
157 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as
158 determined by the Treasurer's Office. This appropriation is made
159 to provide the funds necessary to authorize the expenditure of
160 funds for Grand Village in Natchez.

161 **SECTION 16.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
162 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
163 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of
164 Archives and History for the purpose of reauthorizing the
165 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1612,
166 2023 Regular Session to defray expenses of the Department of

167 Archives and History for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024,
168 and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 17,346,271.00.

169 This appropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
170 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

171 (a) De la Pointe-Krebs House.....\$ 86,271.00.

172 (b) Repair, renovation, and construction
173 projects undertaken by the Department of
174 Archives and History.....\$ 9,700,000.00.

175 (c) Vicksburg Military Park Interpretive
176 Center.....\$ 5,900,000.00.

177 (d) Eudora Welty Library Project.....\$ 1,660,000.00.

178 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
179 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
180 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
181 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
182 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
183 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

184 **SECTION 17.** Of the funds provided in Section 2, the following
185 sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out
186 of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the
187 Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund, for the purpose of
188 making grants to nonprofit organizations in accordance with
189 Section 39-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the fiscal year
190 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
191\$ 500,000.00.

192 **SECTION 18.** Of the funds provided in Section 2, the
193 following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is
194 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit
195 of the Mississippi Community Heritage Preservation Grant Fund, for
196 the purpose of grant assistance to Historic County Courthouses,
197 School Buildings and Other Historic Buildings as in Section
198 39-5-145, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the fiscal year beginning
199 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 5,000,000.00.

200 **SECTION 19.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Sixteen
201 Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00), or so much thereof as may be
202 necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
203 to the credit of the Project Poppy Fund, as created in Senate Bill
204 2001, 1st Extraordinary Session of 2024, and allocated in a manner
205 as determined by the Treasurer's Office and Sixteen Thousand
206 Dollars (\$16,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary,
207 shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the
208 credit of the Project Atlas Fund, as created in House Bill 1, 2nd
209 Extraordinary Session of 2024, and allocated in a manner as
210 determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided for
211 expediting services needed for Project Poppy and Project Atlas.

212 **SECTION 20.** The Mississippi Department of Archives and
213 History is authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or
214 contribution from any individual, public, or private organization,
215 or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational
216 costs of the department. Such grants, donations or contributions

217 shall be received and expended under the rules and regulations of
218 the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner
219 consistent with the escalation of federal funds not to exceed One
220 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

221 **SECTION 21.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
222 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
223 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
224 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
225 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
226 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

227 **SECTION 22.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
228 and after July 1, 2024.

**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 DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, FOR THE
3 FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Bounds

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Cockerham

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
McCaughn

X (SIGNED)
DeLano