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. 1781: Appropriation; Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission.

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

- That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 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 Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission in the
9	operation and maintenance of the Grand Gulf Military Monument for
10	the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025
11	\$ 327,956.00.
12	SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
13	necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
14	the State Treasury to the credit of the Grand Gulf Military
15	Monument Commission, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of
16	the commission in the operation and maintenance of the Grand Gulf
17	Military Monument for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
18	ending June 30, 2025\$ 519,160.00.
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19 SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of 20 this act, the following positions are authorized: 21 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT: 22 7 Permanent: 23 Time-Limited: \cap 24 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal 25 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds 26 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 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments 36 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. Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and 41 42 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current 43 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to

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- 44 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
- 45 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
- the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the 46
- 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.
- 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
- salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are 61
- 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
- interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor. 66
- 67 SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
- 68 Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission shall maintain complete

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- 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 shall be unlawful for any officer, employee or
- 78 other person whatsoever to use or permit or authorize the use of
- 79 any automobile or any other motor vehicle owned by the State of
- 80 Mississippi or any department, agency or institution thereof for
- 81 any purpose other than upon the official business of the State of
- 82 Mississippi or any agency, department or institution thereof.
- It is the intent of the Legislature that motor vehicles
- 84 authorized to be owned and operated by this agency shall comply
- 85 with Sections 25-1-77 through 25-1-93, Mississippi Code of 1972.
- 86 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
- 87 Section 2, Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00), or so much
- 88 thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in
- 89 the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as
- 90 created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and
- 91 allocated in a manner as determined by the State Treasurer.
- 92 These funds are provided for repairs and renovations to park
- 93 facilities and the purchase of equipment.

94	SECTION 7. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
95	necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
96	Expense Fund, not otherwise appropriated for Grand Gulf Military
97	Monument Commission for the purpose of reauthorizing the
98	expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1618,
99	2023 Regular Session, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of
100	Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission for the fiscal year
101	beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025
102	\$ 497,245.00.
103	Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
104	the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
105	section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
106	remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
107	previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
108	change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.
109	SECTION 8. It is the intention of the Legislature that
110	whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
111	purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
112	stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
113	quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
114	shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
115	the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
116	made without competitive bids.
117	SECTION 9. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
118	funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with

119	Section	27-104-25,	Mississippi	Code	of	1972,	that	no	state	agency

- 120 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
- appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally 121
- 122 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
- 123 actions contrary to this provision.
- 124 **SECTION 10.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
- 125 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
- 126 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
- 127 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
- 128 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
- 129 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.
- 130 SECTION 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 131 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 GRAND GULF MILITARY MONUMENT COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE	CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Bounds	Hopson
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Read	McCaughn
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Cockerham	DeLano

(LP/DW)