

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. 1782: Appropriation; Port Authority, State.

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 authorized and approved for expenditure out of any
7 funds which are received by or otherwise become available to the
8 Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport, for the purpose of
9 defraying the expenses of the authority for the fiscal year
10 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
11\$ 68,428,304.00.

12 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
13 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 39

16 Time-Limited: 0

17 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
18 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law.

19 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
20 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
21 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
22 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

23 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
24 Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport shall maintain
25 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
26 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
27 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as
28 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of
29 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
30 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
31 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
32 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request
33 process.

34 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
35 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
36 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
37 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
38 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
39 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
40 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
41 made without competitive bids.

42 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated herein, One Hundred
43 Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000.00) is provided for the
44 purpose of funding overtime, callback or standby pay.

45 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
46 Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport shall only expend
47 funds on activities directly related to the operation of the state
48 port.

49 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
50 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
51 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
52 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
53 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
54 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
55 actions contrary to this provision.

56 **SECTION 8.** The money appropriated under the provisions of
57 Section 1 shall be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper
58 person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

59 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 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 MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT
3 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)

Bounds

X (SIGNED)

Read

X (SIGNED)

Bennett

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)

Hopson

X (SIGNED)

Branning

X (SIGNED)

Thompson