

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. 1783: Appropriation; Marine Resources, 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 support and maintenance
8 of the Department of Marine Resources for the fiscal year
9 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
10\$ 3,604,594.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Marine
14 Resources for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
15 June 30, 2025.....\$ 256,780,550.00.

16 Of the funds appropriated in this section, Three Million
17 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,050,000.00) is derived from the state
18 excise taxes upon gasoline, oil and other petroleum products.



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

21 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22 Permanent: 108

23 Time-Limited: 65

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 Marine Resources shall maintain complete accounting



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

77 **SECTION 5.** Each Marine Conservation Officer and Supervisor
78 shall be furnished an allowance for uniforms not to exceed Six
79 Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) per annum.

80 **SECTION 6.** In addition to all other sums heretofore
81 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be
82 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
83 Treasury to the credit of the Tidelands Fund No. 3345200000 to the
84 Department of Marine Resources for the purpose of defraying the
85 expenses of the tidelands projects for the fiscal year beginning
86 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025\$ 11,700,000.00.

87 This amount is allocated as follows:

88	PROJECT NO.	PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECTS	AMOUNT
89	Harrison County:		
90	FY25-P603-03	Courthouse Road Boat Launch and	
91		Jetties Improvements/Mitigation	
92		-City Of Gulfport.....	\$ 500,000.00
93	FY25-P511-12	D'Iberville Working Waterfront	



94		And Seafood Harbor	
95		-City Of D'Iberville.....\$	800,000.00
96	FY25-P511-13	Fountain Pier and Kayak Launch	
97		-City Of D'Iberville.....\$	100,000.00
98	FY25-P600-10	Pass Christian Small Craft Harbor/ Pier C-2 Improvements	
100		-City Of Pass Christian.....\$	340,000.00
101	FY25-P613-11	Long Beach Small Craft Harbor Improvements	
103		-City Of Long Beach.....\$	500,000.00
104	FY25-M648-20	Development of a broodstock of southern flounder	
106		- Univ. of Southern Mississippi.....\$	164,534.00
107		Dredging Project at Brashier Bayou	
108		-City of Biloxi.....\$	400,000.00
109		Jackson County:	
110	FY25-P412-13	McPhearson Pier Rehabilitation	
111		-City Of Ocean Springs.....\$	250,000.00
112	FY25-P618-01	Fairway Drive Boat Launch and Pier	
113		-City Of Gautier.....\$	250,000.00
114	FY25-P602-03	Hwy 63 Boat Launch Improvements	
115		-Jackson Cnty Brd of Supervisors....\$	200,000.00
116	FY25-P501-10	Moss Point Riverfront Enhancements	
117		-City Of Moss Point.....\$	250,000.00
118	FY25-P604-07	Beach Park Pier Repairs and	



119		Enhancements	
120		-City Of Pascagoula.....	\$ 400,000.00
121	Hancock County:		
122	FY25-P401-11	Municipal Harbor Beach Amenities	
123		and Improvement	
124		-City Of Bay St. Louis.....	\$ 500,000.00
125	FY25-P646-10	Coleman Avenue Waterfront	
126		Improvements	
127		-City Of Waveland.....	\$ 500,000.00
128	FY25-P510-01	Lily Pond Public Access Improvements	
129		-City Of Diamondhead.....	\$ 100,000.00
130		Total Public Access Projects.....	\$ 5,254,534.00
131		Total Management Projects.....	\$ 3,892,769.00
132		Bond Repayment	\$ 1,552,697.00
133		Prior Year Projects.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
134		Total Tidelands Funds.....	\$ 11,700,000.00

135 Each political subdivision receiving funds authorized in this
136 section shall be held responsible for complying with Section
137 29-15-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be subject to an
138 audit by the State Auditor and shall submit detailed reports
139 beginning June 30, and every six (6) months thereafter for the
140 duration of the project to the Department of Marine Resources on
141 how funds authorized in this section were expended.

142 It is the intention of the Legislature that any political
143 subdivision seeking to qualify for tidelands funds for the



144 subsequent fiscal year shall submit a proposal to the Department
145 of Marine Resources no later than July 1, 2024. All proposals
146 submitted will be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of
147 Marine Resources in accordance to department plans and procedures.
148 Multiphased projects, multiyear projects, proposed projects with
149 high dollar value and projects that have a record of stacking
150 funds shall be considered as low priority projects when evaluated.

151 It is the intention of the Legislature that if the amount of
152 the Tidelands funds appropriated in this act exceed the actual
153 amount of tidelands funds available, the available funds shall be
154 allocated on a pro rata basis between projects listed in this
155 section.

156 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
157 department shall place any special trust funds appropriated to the
158 department in a special trust fund and the interest earned on the
159 principal shall be credited to the special trust fund. Monies in
160 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained in the
161 special trust fund for use in the next succeeding fiscal year.
162 The department may use the interest earned on the fund to pay
163 reasonable costs for administering the fund and related projects.

164 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
165 Department of Marine Resources has the authorization to move
166 tidelands funds between approved projects upon request from entity
167 and proper completion of Form TTF-6 documentation.



168 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature for the
169 Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental
170 Quality to continue with any agency partnerships, including grant
171 agreements, that provide environmental projects to restore
172 Mississippi's natural resources in the wake of the Deepwater
173 Horizon Oil Spill.

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

182 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One
183 Hundred Nineteen Million Seven Hundred Thirteen Thousand One
184 Hundred Ninety-six Dollars (\$119,713,196.00) is provided for the
185 funding of the following Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act
186 (GOMESA) projects for FY 2025:

- 187 (a) To assist the City of Waveland with
188 Center City Infrastructure Improvements -
189 Sewer.....\$ 4,000,000.00
- 190 (b) To assist the City of D'Iberville with
191 Working Waterfront Marina Expansion Project
192 Phase II.....\$ 2,500,000.00



193 (c) To assist the City of Ocean Springs
194 With Washington Avenue and Front Beach Utility
195 Improvement.....\$ 1,200,000.00

196 (d) To assist the City of Gautier with
197 Marin Bluff and Hickory Hills Sewer Improvements...\$ 2,701,150.00

198 (e) To assist the City of Moss Point with
199 Riverfront Coastal River Protection.....\$ 3,750,000.00

200 (f) To assist the City of Moss Point with
201 Storm Water Park.....\$ 118,500.00

202 (g) To assist the Jackson County Utility
203 Authority with Poticaw Road Sewer Extension.....\$ 1,200,000.00

204 (h) To assist Mississippi State University
205 with Fixed Lab Equipment.....\$ 865,000.00

206 (i) To assist the Diamondhead Water and Sewer
207 District Sewer Improvements Phase III.....\$ 1,000,000.00

208 (j) To assist the Harrison County Water and
209 Sewer District with Asbestos Water Pipe Replacement
210 And Port Bienville Water Improvements.....\$ 1,000,000.00

211 (k) To assist the Kiln Utility and Fire
212 District with Hwy 603 Sewer Expansion from Hwy 43
213 To Cuevas Town Road.....\$ 2,452,575.00

214 (l) To assist The Nature Conservancy with
215 Using Brood Stock Reefs to Enhance Oyster
216 Production on Commercial Leases.....\$ 1,000,000.00

217 (m) To assist the City of Ocean Springs with



218 Front Beach Bulkhead.....\$ 1,600,000.00
 219 (n) To assist the City of Pascagoula with
 220 the Live Oak Corridor Drainage to Remedy
 221 Flooding.....\$ 2,000,000.00
 222 (o) To assist the City of Gulfport with the
 223 North Gulfport Wastewater Treatment Plant UV
 224 Disinfection.....\$ 1,200,000.00
 225 (p) To assist the Hancock County Utility
 226 Authority with the Stennis Space Center
 227 Wastewater Conveyance Project.....\$ 10,064,952.00
 228 (q) To assist the City of Long Beach with
 229 the Small Craft Harbor Eastern Bulkhead
 230 Improvements.....\$ 5,193,000.00
 231 (r) To assist the City of Pass Christian
 232 with the West Breakwater Wall Hurricane
 233 Mitigation Improvements.....\$ 2,563,000.00
 234 (s) To assist the Department of Marine
 235 Resources with Oyster Spat.....\$ 4,000,000.00
 236 (t) To assist the Institute for Marine
 237 Mammal Studies with Monitoring and Evaluation of
 238 Sea Turtle Nesting in Mississippi.....\$ 990,128.00
 239 (u) To assist the University of Southern
 240 Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery
 241 Resource Assessment.....\$ 382,317.00
 242 (v) To assist the Hancock County Port and



243 Harbor Commission with Bank Mitigation.....\$ 1,749,220.00
 244 (w) To assist the University of Southern
 245 Mississippi with Oak Island Oyster Company in the
 246 Development and Testing of an Off Bottom Oyster
 247 Structure.....\$ 1,195,571.00
 248 (x) To assist Jackson County with Coastal
 249 Roadway Hurricane Protection.....\$ 750,000.00
 250 (y) To assist the Institute for Marine
 251 Mammal Studies with Monitoring/Gauging Habitat
 252 Suitability for Dolphins and Turtles.....\$ 1,485,958.00
 253 (z) To assist the Kiln Utility District
 254 with Jourdan River Shores Sewer Improvements
 255 Phase II.....\$ 2,225,600.00
 256 (aa) To assist Harrison County with Sand
 257 Beach Outfall Coordination.....\$ 1,600,000.00
 258 (bb) To assist the City of Ocean Springs
 259 With Sewer Rehabilitation.....\$ 1,960,000.00
 260 (cc) To assist the Department of Marine
 261 Resources with Oyster Cultch.....\$ 2,000,000.00
 262 (dd) To assist the City of Pass Christian
 263 with Highway 90 Hurricane Mitigation
 264 Improvements.....\$ 5,195,000.00
 265 (ee) To assist Coastal Mississippi with
 266 the promotion of the Seafood Industry and their
 267 Economic Contributions to the State.....\$ 500,000.00



268 (ff) To assist the City of Diamondhead
269 With Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water
270 Quality Improvements Phase II.....\$ 1,999,839.00
271 (gg) To assist Jackson County with East
272 Beach Outfalls/Shoreline Protection.....\$ 1,710,000.00
273 (hh) To assist the City of Gautier with
274 Hickory Hills/Lagrange Water Quality and
275 Stormwater Improvements.....\$ 2,941,981.00
276 (ii) To assist the City of Biloxi with
277 Keegan Bayou Restoration.....\$ 2,520,000.00
278 (jj) To assist the Department of Marine
279 Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall
280 Pavilion.....\$ 635,819.00
281 (kk) To assist the City of Long Beach with
282 Small Craft Harbor Southern Quay Bulkhead
283 Improvements.....\$ 2,554,000.00
284 (ll) To assist the Department of Marine
285 Resources with Bonnet Carre Spillway
286 Mitigation.....\$ 1,475,000.00
287 (mm) To assist the City of D'Iberville with
288 the Working Waterfront and Seafood Harbor
289 Project.....\$ 500,000.00
290 (nn) To assist the University of
291 Southern Mississippi with the Ocean Enterprise
292 Project.....\$ 1,142,308.00



293 (oo) To assist the Department of Marine
294 Resources with the Coffee Creek Outfall.....\$ 55,738.00
295 (pp) To assist the Department of Marine
296 Resources with the Coffee Creek water quality.....\$ 76,073.00
297 (qq) To assist Jackson County Board of
298 Supervisors with the Front Beach Erosion
299 Control.....\$ 640,243.00
300 (rr) To assist the Department of Marine
301 Resources with GOMESA project management,
302 development and mitigation.....\$ 1,288,123.00
303 (ss) To assist the Department of Marine
304 Resources with artificial reef construction.....\$ 1,032,598.00
305 (tt) To assist the Department of
306 Environmental Quality with water quality.....\$ 864,037.00
307 (uu) To assist the Department of Marine
308 Resources with Bonnet Carre Response.....\$ 24,855.00
309 (vv) To assist the City of Pass Christian
310 With Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Repairs.....\$ 3,208,475.00
311 (ww) To assist Hancock County with Atlantic
312 Street Sewer Improvements.....\$ 402,342.00
313 (xx) To assist the City of Long Beach
314 With Small Craft Harbor SE Bulkhead
315 Improvements.....\$ 2,188,000.00
316 (yy) To assist the Kiln Utility District
317 with the Jordan River Shores Sewer Force Main



318	Relocation.....	\$	189,828.00
319	(zz) To assist the City of Biloxi with		
320	the Point Cadet Living Shoreline.....	\$	756,537.00
321	(aaa) To assist the Department of Marine		
322	Resources with MS Reef Fish Monitoring and		
323	Assessment.....	\$	297,348.00
324	(bbb) To assist Hancock County Utility		
325	Authority with Oak Harbor Sewer Improvements.....	\$	2,804,082.00
326	(ccc) To assist Hancock County Port and		
327	Harbor Commission with Port Bienville		
328	Conservation Management.....	\$	260,423.00
329	(ddd) To assist the City of Pascagoula with		
330	Buena Vista Area Drainage.....	\$	485,406.00
331	(eee) To assist the City of Pass Christian		
332	with Gravity Sewer System Improvements Phase I.....	\$	1,643,861.00
333	(fff) To assist the City of Pascagoula with		
334	Point Park Pier Repair/Improvements.....	\$	318,151.00
335	(ggg) To assist the Department of Marine		
336	Resources with the Railroad Corner Beneficial		
337	Use Site.....	\$	57,606.00
338	(hhh) To assist the University of Southern		
339	Mississippi with collection of Fishery-Dependent		
340	information on Blue Crabs.....	\$	30,804.00
341	(iii) To assist the National Oceans and		
342	Applications Research Center with the Cat Island		



343 Baseline Inventory of Seagrass Habitat.....\$ 8,731.00
344 (jjj) To assist the National Oceans and
345 Applications Research Center with the Inventory
346 Of Wetlands Habitats.....\$ 66,971.00
347 (kkk) To assist Mississippi State University
348 with the Evaluation and Monitoring of Marine
349 Mammal and Sea Turtles after Bonnet Carre
350 Spillway Opening.....\$ 903,650.00
351 (lll) To assist the American Shrimp
352 Processors Association with the Shrimp
353 Processors Feasibility Study.....\$ 596,148.00
354 (mmm) To assist the Jackson County Utility
355 Authority with Septic System Abatements.....\$ 1,604,707.00
356 (nnn) To assist the University of Southern
357 Mississippi with the Mississippi Coastal Fishery
358 Resource Assessment.....\$ 43,932.00
359 (ooo) To assist the Department of Marine
360 Resources with the Katrina Key Expansion.....\$ 430,000.00
361 (ppp) To assist the Secretary of State with
362 the Broadwater Marina Restoration.....\$ 3,578,590.00
363 (qqq) To assist the City of Pass Christian
364 with Sewer Pump Station Repairs.....\$ 348,585.00
365 (rrr) To assist the City of Diamondhead
366 With Drainage, Flood Prevention and Water
367 Quality Improvements.....\$ 1,193,447.00



368 (sss) To assist the Department of Marine
 369 Resources with the Bonnet Carre and Mid Breton
 370 Response.....\$ 525,163.00
 371 (ttt) To assist the City of Ocean Springs
 372 with the Front Beach Pub Access and Storm Water
 373 Mitigation Improvements.....\$ 1,934,039.00
 374 (uuu) To assist the City of Pass Christian
 375 with Phase II of the Gravity Sewer System
 376 Improvements.....\$ 4,466,316.00
 377 (vvv) To assist the Department of Marine
 378 Resources with the Off Bottom Oyster
 379 Aquaculture.....\$ 1,334,987.00
 380 (www) To assist the Department of Marine
 381 Resources with the Pelican Key Beneficial
 382 Use Site.....\$ 348,220.00
 383 (xxx) To assist the Department of Marine
 384 Resources with Phase II of the Katrina Key
 385 Expansion.....\$ 400,000.00
 386 (yyy) To assist the Jackson County Board
 387 of Supervisors with the Pascagoula Beach Open
 388 Channel Outfalls.....\$ 1,339,000.00
 389 (zzz) To assist the Department of Marine
 390 Resources with water testing for Seafood
 391 Consumption Safety.....\$ 45,262.00



392 **SECTION 12.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the
393 Department of Marine Resources shall have the authority to expend
394 funds in an amount not to exceed Ten Million Dollars
395 (\$10,000,000.00) from funds for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security
396 Act (GOMESA) that may become available to the agency in fiscal
397 year 2025 in accordance with the rules and regulations of the
398 Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent
399 with the escalation of federal funds.

400 **SECTION 13.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
401 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain
402 utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such
403 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,
404 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,
405 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance
406 with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall
407 include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not
408 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities
409 shall be prohibited.

410 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
411 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
412 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
413 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
414 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
415 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
416 actions contrary to this provision.



417 **SECTION 15.** With the funds appropriated herein, the
418 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is authorized to make
419 payments for expenses incurred during prior fiscal years for an
420 amount not to exceed One Hundred Forty-four Thousand Six Hundred
421 Fifty-eight Dollars and Fifty-three Cents (\$144,658.53).

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

428 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
429 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 SUPPORT AND
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL
3 YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Bounds

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
McCaughn

X (SIGNED)
Anderson (122nd)

X (SIGNED)
Thompson

