

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. 1790: Appropriation; Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District.

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 Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District, for the purpose
9 of paying bond maturities, accrued interest, maintenance expenses,
10 project development costs, and any other authorized expenses of
11 the water management district, for the fiscal year beginning
12 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 9,078,819.00.

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

15 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16 Permanent: 17
17 Time-Limited: 0

18 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
19 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
20 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds
21 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
22 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi
23 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
24 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
25 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
26 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
27 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024
28 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
29 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
30 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
31 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
32 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
33 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
34 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

35 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
36 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
37 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
38 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
39 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
40 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
41 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the

42 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
43 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

61 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
62 Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District shall maintain
63 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
64 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
65 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as
66 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of

67 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
68 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
69 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
70 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request
71 process.

72 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
73 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
74 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
75 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
76 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
77 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
78 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
79 made without competitive bids.

80 **SECTION 5.** All monies in possession of the district in
81 excess of necessary operating funds shall be deposited with a bank
82 or banks selected by the board of directors of the district.
83 These funds shall be deposited in such bank or banks and in such
84 manner that interest earned shall be at least equal to interest
85 earnings on state funds deposited by the State Treasury.

86 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
87 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
88 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
89 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
90 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally

91 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
92 actions contrary to this provision.

93 **SECTION 7.** The money herein approved for expenditure shall
94 be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper person, officer
95 or officers, in the manner provided by law.

96 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
97 and after July 1, 2024.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE TOMBIGBEE RIVER VALLEY
3 WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Bounds

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Branning

X (SIGNED)
Arnold

X (SIGNED)
Jackson