

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. 1797: Appropriation; Human Services, 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:

4 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
5 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
6 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of Human
7 Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
8 June 30, 2025.....\$ 78,502,047.00.

9 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
10 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
11 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Human
12 Services which is comprised of special source funds collected by
13 or otherwise available to the department for the support of the
14 various divisions of the department, for the purpose of defraying
15 the expenses of the department for the fiscal year beginning
16 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 1,748,522,136.00.



17 **SECTION 3.** None of the funds appropriated by this act shall
18 be expended for any purpose that is not actually required or
19 necessary for performing any of the powers or duties of the
20 Department of Human Services that are authorized by the
21 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, state or federal law, or rules
22 or regulations that implement state or federal law.

23 **SECTION 4.** With the funds appropriated in this act, the
24 following positions are authorized:

25 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

26 Permanent:	Full Time.....	1,296
27 Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	455

28 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
29 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
30 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds
31 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
32 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi
33 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
34 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
35 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
36 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
37 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024
38 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
39 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
40 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
41 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current



42 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
43 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
44 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

45 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
46 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
47 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
48 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
49 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
50 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
51 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
52 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
53 essential for the agency.

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

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



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

71 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
72 Department of Human Services shall maintain complete accounting
73 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
74 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
75 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
76 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
77 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
78 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
79 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
80 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

81 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 herein to
82 the Department of Human Services, One Million Dollars
83 (\$1,000,000.00) shall be transferred to the Department of Health,
84 Child Care Licensure Program from the Child Care Development Fund
85 or other appropriate special fund. These funds are to be
86 transferred to the Board of Health no later than July 31, 2024.
87 The Department of Health shall make a complete accounting to the
88 Department of Human Services detailing the uses of these funds in
89 accordance with federal and state regulations.

90 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
91 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the



92 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
93 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
94 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
95 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
96 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
97 made without competitive bids.

98 **SECTION 8.** The Department of Human Services is authorized to
99 expend available funds on technology or equipment upgrades or
100 replacements when it will generate savings through efficiency or
101 when the savings generated from such upgrades or replacements
102 exceed expenditures thereof.

103 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
104 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain
105 utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such
106 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,
107 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,
108 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance
109 with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall
110 include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not
111 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities
112 shall be prohibited.

113 **SECTION 10.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
114 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
115 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
116 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the



117 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
 118 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
 119 performance measures provided below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
122 Support Services	
123 Percent of Referred/Directed	
124 Investigative Audits Conducted	100.00
125 Percent of Special Investigations Conducted	95.00
126 Percent of Referred/Obtained Fraud	
127 Investigations Conducted Timely	100.00
128 Percent of Referred Administrative	
129 Disqualification Hearings & Fair	
130 Hearings Conducted Timely	99.00
131 Percent of Monitoring Reviews Conducted	
132 within Acceptable Timeframes	98.00
133 Total Amount of Funds Recovered	3,500,000.00
134 Aging & Adult Services	
135 In-Home Services - Age 60 + (Persons Served)	32,680
136 Community Services - Age 60 + (Persons	
137 Served)	193,617
138 Number of Congregate Meals	468,272
139 Number of Home Delivered Meals	2,700,000
140 Substantiated Incidences of Abuse of	
141 Vulnerable Adults per 1,000 Population	0.17



142	Home Delivered Meals, Percent Reduction	
143	of Persons on Waiting list	5.00
144	Child Support Enforcement	
145	Number of Paternities Established	15,500
146	Percent Change in Paternities Established	3.30
147	Number of Obligations Established	16,000
148	Percent Change in Obligations Established	12.50
149	Total Collections (\$)	378,000,000.00
150	Percent Change in Total Collections	-2.50
151	Number of Absent Parents Located	68,000
152	Percent of Child Support Cases Current	
153	on Payments	-2.53
154	Community Services	
155	Number of Elderly Served by CSBG & LIHEAP	20,352
156	Number of Disabled Served CSBG/LIHEAP	26,762
157	Number of Households Achieving	
158	Self-Sufficiency CSBG/LIHEAP	0
159	Percent Increase in Rate of Households	
160	Attaining Self-Sufficiency	0.00
161	Number of Households Stabilized CSBG/LIHEAP	0
162	Percent Increase in the Number of	
163	Households Stabilized	0.00
164	Number of Households Weatherized	516
165	Early Childhood Care & Dev	
166	Number of Children Served	30,138



167	Assistance Payments	
168	Dollar Amount of Assistance	6,240,877.00
169	Food Assistance	
170	Number of Average Monthly Households	225,000
171	Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program	
172	- SNAP (\$)	716,413,100.00
173	Percent of Mississippi Households	
174	Receiving SNAP Benefits	22.51
175	Tanf Work Program	
176	Number of Average Monthly TANF Households	8,864
177	Number of Average Monthly Persons Served	
178	in TANF Work Program	1,107
179	TANF Work Program Participation Rate (%)	60.00
180	Number of Persons Employed Through the	
181	TANF Work Program for the Year	832
182	Number of Households Receiving TANF	
183	Benefits During the Year	9,969
184	Percent of Households Receiving TANF	
185	During the Year	49.00
186	Percent of TANF Participants in Job Trng	
187	Who Enter Employment	30.00
188	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
189	Training Who Enter Employment at A	
190	Salary Sufficient to Be Ineligible for	
191	TANF	19.00



192	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
193	Training Who Remain Employed For: One	
194	Year After Leaving the Program	75.00
195	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
196	Training Who Remain Employed For: Five	
197	Years After Leaving the Program	65.00
198	Social Services Block Grant	
199	Number of Clients Served, Division of	
200	Family & Children's Services	75,611
201	Number of Clients Served, Aging & Adult	
202	Services	21,178
203	Number of Clients Served, Youth Services	12,880
204	Youth Services	
205	Community Services (Children Served)	15,000
206	Institutional Component (Children Served)	300
207	Number of Volunteers - Community	
208	Services/Institution	0
209	Number of Children Placed in Alternative	
210	Placement	0
211	Percent of Children Diverted from	
212	Institutional Care	95.00
213	Recidivism Rate (%)	20.00
214	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
215	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	



216 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
217 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

218 **SECTION 11.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the
219 Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support
220 Enforcement, make a concentrated effort to increase collections of
221 past due child support payments. On or before January 1, 2025,
222 the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services shall
223 submit a report to the Legislative Budget Office detailing
224 year-to-date performance measures in the Child Support Enforcement
225 Program compared with the prior year.

226 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
227 Department of Human Services shall have the authority to spend
228 such additional funds as it shall receive from the federal
229 government in incentives or the federal match on those incentives
230 for the purpose of child support enforcement.

231 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two
232 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be transferred
233 to the Juvenile Facility Monitoring Unit at the Department of
234 Public Safety no later than July 31, 2024.

235 **SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated herein, to the
236 Department of Human Services One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00),
237 is provided for the support of the Home Delivered Meals Program
238 and any additional funds that may be appropriated to this program.

239 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds provided in Section 1, herein to
240 the Department of Human Services, an amount not to exceed One



241 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) is provided to fund the
242 Senior Olympics Program.

243 **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
244 Governor's Office, Division of Medicaid and the Department of
245 Human Services shall continue to work together to implement
246 Section 43-12-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, known as the "Medicaid
247 and Human Services Transparency and Fraud Prevention Act".

248 **SECTION 17.** As a condition of receiving and expending any
249 funds appropriated under this act, the Department of Human
250 Services:

251 (a) Shall use a competitive procurement process for entering
252 into all TANF subgrant agreements with non-state entities when the
253 federal government does not direct to whom the funds must be
254 subgranted;

255 (b) Upon awarding of a grant to any subgrantee of the
256 department, shall require the subgrantee to submit a monthly
257 report to the department that contains, but is not limited to, all
258 of the following:

259 (i) A listing of all costs incurred by the subgrantee
260 during the previous month;

261 (ii) A listing of all clients served by the subgrantee,
262 with an explanation of which services were provided to the
263 clients;



264 (iii) A listing of all lower-tier subgrantees, who must
265 be approved by the department before the execution of any such
266 agreement by the prime subgrantee; and

267 (iv) Any other data required by the department to
268 provide sufficient evidence of budgetary compliance;

269 (c) Shall not advance funds to a subgrantee for more than
270 sixty (60) days; and

271 (d) Shall reimburse a subgrantee for expenses only after the
272 required documentation is provided and is approved by the
273 department.

274 **SECTION 18.** It is the intent of the Legislature, that within
275 the funds available, the Department of Human Services may provide
276 any qualifying grants of CARES Act or American Rescue Act funding
277 in an amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand
278 Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) to the three (3) regional food banks that
279 serve Mississippi, including Feed the Gulf Coast, Mid-South Food
280 Bank, and Mississippi Food Network.

281 **SECTION 19.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
282 of Section 2, Five Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars
283 (\$5,100,000.00), or so much thereof as may be provided, shall be
284 derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of
285 the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303,
286 Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as determined
287 by the State Treasurer. These funds are provided to the
288 Department of Human Services for a new computer system.



289 **SECTION 20.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
290 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
291 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of
292 Human Services for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of
293 Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1622, 2023 Regular
294 Session to defray expenses of the Department of Human Services for
295 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
296 June 30, 2025.....\$ 58,327,806.00.

297 This appropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
298 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

299 (a) To defray the Department's computer
300 expenses.....\$ 4,327,806.00.

301 (b) To secure federal funding for a new
302 computer system.....\$ 54,000,000.00.

303 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
304 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
305 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
306 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
307 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
308 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

309 **SECTION 21.** Of the funds appropriated herein, no more than
310 Four Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-two Dollars (\$4,452.00) may be
311 used to pay invoices to certain vendors for expenses incurred in
312 FY 2022.



313 **SECTION 22.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
314 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
315 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
316 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
317 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
318 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

319 **SECTION 23.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
320 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 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE
2 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Deweese

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Creekmore IV

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Blackwell

X (SIGNED)
Simmons (13th)

