

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. 1798: Appropriation; Fire Academy.

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 purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the State Fire Academy for the fiscal year beginning
9 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 7,017,923.00.

10 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
11 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
12 the State Treasury to the credit of the State Fire Academy which
13 is comprised of special source funds collected by or otherwise
14 available to the department, for the purpose of defraying the
15 expenses of the department for the fiscal year beginning
16 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 2,075,000.00.

17 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
18 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 62

21 Time-Limited: 0

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

39 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
40 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
41 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
42 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
43 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If



44 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
45 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
46 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
47 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

65 **SECTION 4.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
66 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
67 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
68 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the



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

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
74 Training	
75 Number of Students Trained	12,000
76 Average Cost per Student Trained	781.07

77 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
78 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
79 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
80 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

81 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
82 State Fire Academy shall maintain complete accounting and
83 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
84 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
85 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
86 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
87 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
88 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
89 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
90 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

91 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
92 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
93 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things



94 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
95 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
96 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
97 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
98 made without competitive bids.

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

106 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One
107 Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,750,000.00), or
108 so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any
109 money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense
110 Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,
111 and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.
112 These funds are provided for the replacement of the heat building
113 components.

114 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Two
115 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00), or so much thereof
116 as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the
117 State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as
118 created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and



119 allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.
120 These funds are provided for the replacement of the auditorium
121 roof.

122 **SECTION 10.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
123 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
124 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the State Fire
125 Academy for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of
126 Capital Expense Funds for the purpose of a state match to purchase
127 a specialty rescue truck, as authorized in House Bill No. 1606,
128 2023 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024,
129 and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 75,000.00.

130 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
131 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
132 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
133 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
134 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
135 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

136 **SECTION 11.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
137 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
138 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the State Fire
139 Academy for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of
140 Capital Expense Funds for the purpose of the completion of dorm
141 rooms at the State Fire Academy, as authorized in HB 1606, 2023
142 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
143 ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 160,000.00.



144 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
145 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
146 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
147 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
148 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
149 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

150 **SECTION 12.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
151 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
152 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
153 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
154 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
155 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

156 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
157 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 FROM GENERAL FUND IN THE STATE
2 TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE
3 FIRE ACADEMY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Deweese

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Parker

X (SIGNED)
Turner

X (SIGNED)
Butler

