

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. 1803: Appropriation; Nursing, Board 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 special fund in
7 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Board of
8 Nursing, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the board
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
10 June 30, 2025.....\$ 5,586,080.00.

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

13 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

14 Permanent: 40

15 Time-Limited: 0

16 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
17 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
18 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds



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

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

42 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
43 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or



44 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
45 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
46 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
47 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
48 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
49 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
50 appropriated level.

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

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

59 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds provided for herein, One Million
60 Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,560,000.00) shall be
61 provided for the Office of Nursing Workforce (ONW). In accordance
62 with Section 73-15-18(1), Mississippi Code of 1972, the
63 Mississippi Board of Nursing is designated as the state agency
64 responsible for the administration and supervision of the Nursing
65 Workforce Program as an educational curriculum. The mission of
66 the Office of Nursing Workforce is to carry out the scope of
67 service and leadership tasks required of the profession by



68 promoting a strong educational infrastructure between nursing
69 practice and nursing education.

70 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds provided under the provisions of
71 this act, an amount not to exceed One Hundred Five Thousand
72 Dollars (\$105,000.00) may be allocated to the Mississippi Board of
73 Pharmacy to defray the expenses of the Mississippi Prescription
74 Monitoring Program.

75 **SECTION 5.** As a condition of receiving the funds
76 appropriated in this act, the Mississippi Board of Nursing shall
77 develop a plan to revise the nursing licensure laws to provide
78 eligibility for licensure to those who have completed the Air
79 Force 4N Training Program or possess a practical nursing degree
80 from the Community College of the Air Force, alongside individuals
81 who completed the Army's practical nurse program and Navy Corpsman
82 course, and present the plan to the Legislature not later than the
83 first day of the 2025 Regular Session for consideration by the
84 Legislature. The purpose of authorizing such licensure
85 eligibility is to acknowledge the value of military training in
86 nursing, expedite licensure procedures for those persons, and
87 efficiently integrate qualified military-trained individuals into
88 the nursing workforce which will help in addressing the state's
89 healthcare needs effectively and economically.

90 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
91 funds are appropriated here in accordance with a signed Memorandum
92 of Understanding with the Mississippi Department of Health to



93 assist with the implementation of the Medical Cannabis Act for
94 registering and monitoring compliance with the rules and
95 regulations of the Act.

96 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
97 Mississippi Board of Nursing shall maintain complete accounting
98 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
99 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
100 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
101 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
102 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
103 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
104 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
105 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

106 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
107 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
108 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
109 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
110 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
111 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
112 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
113 made without competitive bids.

114 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
115 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
116 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
117 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their



118 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
119 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
120 actions contrary to this provision.

121 **SECTION 10.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
122 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
123 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
124 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
125 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
126 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

127 **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
128 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 SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE
2 STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF NURSING 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)
Currie

X (SIGNED)
Butler

