

## 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. 1810: Appropriation; Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists, Board of Examiners for.

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:

6           **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much of it as may be  
 7 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in  
 8 the State Treasury to the credit of the Board of Examiners for  
 9 Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists for the purpose  
 10 of defraying the expenses of the board for the fiscal year  
 11 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
 12 .....\$   272,876.00.

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

15           AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

16           Permanent:                       3  
 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 Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family  
63 Therapists shall maintain complete accounting and personnel  
64 records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under  
65 this act and that such records shall be in the same format and  
66 level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further  
67 the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request  
68 for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative



69 Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the  
70 format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025  
71 budget request 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.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
81 Section 1, Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) is  
82 provided for the upgrade and maintenance of the Board's Licensing  
83 and Regulatory System (LARS) to a CLOUD based system.

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

91         **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
92 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
93 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon



94 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
95 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
96 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

97       **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
98 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 BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY  
4 THERAPISTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Deweese

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Currie

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
Turner-Ford

(NOT SIGNED)  
Seymour

