

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. 1818: Appropriation; Public Employees' Retirement System.

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:

7 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
8 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury
9 to the credit of the Administrative Expense Account of the Public
10 Employees' Retirement System for the purpose of defraying the
11 administrative expenses of the Board of Trustees of the Public
12 Employees' Retirement System, or out of any money in the State
13 Treasury to the credit of the Retirement System Building Account
14 of the Public Employees' Retirement System for the purpose of
15 maintenance and general operation of the Retirement System
16 Building, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
17 June 30, 2025.....\$ 20,968,462.00.

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

20 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:



21 Permanent: 167

22 Time-Limited: 0

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

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



46 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
47 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
48 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

66 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
67 Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System shall
68 maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the
69 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
70 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as



71 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of
72 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
73 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
74 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
75 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request
76 process.

77 **SECTION 4.** In accordance with the purposes of this article,
78 there shall be established in the State Treasury the Public
79 Employees' Retirement System Building Repair and Maintenance Fund,
80 into which shall be deposited all funds collected as rental income
81 from the building owned by the system located at 301 North
82 President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. At the end of each fiscal
83 year, any and all unexpended funds shall be transferred to the
84 Administrative Budget Fund of the system.

85 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
86 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
87 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
88 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
89 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
90 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
91 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
92 made without competitive bids.

93 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, no more
94 than Three Million Five Hundred Thirty-eight Thousand Dollars
95 (\$3,538,000.00) is provided for the purpose of defraying those



96 expenses associated with maintaining, upgrading and operating the
97 computer system.

98 **SECTION 7.** As a condition of expending the funds
99 appropriated in Section 1 of this act, the Board of Trustees of
100 the Public Employees' Retirement System shall:

101 a. Purchase equipment to live webcast board and committee
102 meetings; and

103 b. Live webcast and record all board and committee meetings,
104 excluding any executive sessions of the board under the provision
105 of the Mississippi Open Meetings Act. Archived footage or a
106 weblink to the archived footage shall be posted on the agency
107 website within Forty-eight (48) hours of the date and time the
108 meeting was held.

109 **SECTION 8.** The Public Employees' Retirement System is
110 further authorized, in its discretion, to expend funds for the
111 purchase of service pins for employees of the Public Employees'
112 Retirement System.

113 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, no more
114 than Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) is provided,
115 only for the explicit purpose of building maintenance and repair.

116 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
117 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
118 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
119 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
120 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally



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

123 **SECTION 11.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
124 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
125 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
126 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
127 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
128 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

129 **SECTION 12.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
130 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 ADMINISTRATIVE
3 EXPENSES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
4 RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE
5 RETIREMENT SYSTEM BUILDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Mims

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Parker

X (SIGNED)
Rushing

X (SIGNED)
McLendon

