

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. 1820: Appropriation; Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and trial judges services.

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:

11 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
 12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
 13 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the
 14 expenses of the Mississippi State Supreme Court for the fiscal
 15 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
 16\$ 7,608,682.00.

17 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
 18 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
 19 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi State Supreme
 20 Court which is comprised of special source funds collected by or
 21 otherwise available to the Mississippi State Supreme Court, for
 22 the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Mississippi State
 23 Supreme Court for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
 24 ending June 30, 2025\$ 997,779.00.



25 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
26 this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
27 Mississippi State Supreme Court, the following positions are
28 authorized:

29 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

30 Permanent: 70

31 Time-Limited: 0

32 **SECTION 4.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
33 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
34 Fund not otherwise appropriated to the Mississippi State Supreme
35 Court for the purpose of defraying the expenses of special judges,
36 chancellors and circuit judges for the fiscal year beginning
37 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 37,203,759.00.

38 **SECTION 5.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
39 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
40 the State Treasury to the credit of the trial judges, for the
41 purpose of defraying the expenses of special judges, chancellors
42 and circuit judges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
43 ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,192,368.00.

44 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under Sections 4 and 5
45 of this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of special
46 judges, chancellors and circuit judges, the following positions
47 are authorized:

48 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

49 Permanent: 109



50 Time-Limited: 0

51 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated under Sections 4 and 5
52 of this act, Fourteen Million One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars
53 (\$14,170,000.00) is provided for the purpose of employing support
54 staff in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thirty Thousand
55 Dollars (\$130,000.00) per fiscal year per judge.

56 **SECTION 8.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
57 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
58 Fund, not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of funding the
59 Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal year beginning
60 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 17,464,222.00.

61 **SECTION 9.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
62 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
63 the State Treasury to the credit of the Administrative Office of
64 Courts for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
65 Administrative Office of Courts and the Board of Certified Court
66 Reporters for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
67 June 30, 2025.....\$ 27,530,762.00.

68 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
69 of this act for the purpose of funding the Administrative Office
70 of Courts, the following positions are authorized:

71 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

72 Permanent: 48

73 Time-Limited: 0



74 **SECTION 11.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
75 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the Continuing
76 Legal Education Fund, a special fund hereby created in the State
77 Treasury, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of providing
78 continuing legal education programs to lawyers in Mississippi, for
79 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025..
80\$ 171,252.00.

81 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
82 interest earned from any investment or deposit to the Continuing
83 Legal Education Fund made pursuant to Section 27-105-33,
84 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be credited by the State Treasurer
85 to the Continuing Legal Education Fund and shall not be paid into
86 the General Fund of Mississippi.

87 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
88 of this act for the purpose of providing continuing legal
89 education programs, the following positions are authorized:

90 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

91 Permanent: 2
92 Time-Limited: 0

93 **SECTION 14.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
94 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
95 Fund not otherwise appropriated to the Mississippi State Supreme
96 Court for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court of
97 Appeals for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
98 June 30, 2025.....\$ 5,476,546.00.



99 **SECTION 15.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
100 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
101 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi State Supreme
102 Court, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court of
103 Appeals for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
104 June 30, 2025.....\$ 1,672,707.00.

105 **SECTION 16.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
106 of this act for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Court
107 of Appeals, the following positions are authorized:

108 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:
109 Permanent: 58
110 Time-Limited: 0

111 **SECTION 17.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
112 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
113 the State Treasury to the credit of the Board of Bar Admissions,
114 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the board for the
115 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
116\$ 369,916.00.

117 **SECTION 18.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
118 interest earned from any investment or deposit to the Board of Bar
119 Admissions Fund made pursuant to Section 27-105-33, Mississippi
120 Code of 1972, shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the
121 Board of Bar Admissions Fund and shall not be paid into the
122 General Fund of Mississippi.



123 **SECTION 19.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
124 of this act for the purpose of funding the Board of Bar
125 Admissions, the following positions are authorized:

126 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

127 Permanent: 3

128 Time-Limited: 0

129 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
130 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law.

131 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
132 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
133 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
134 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

135 **SECTION 20.** No part of the funds herein appropriated shall
136 be used in the payment of attorney's fees, nor shall any of such
137 funds be used, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of
138 paying any clerk, stenographer, assistant, deputy or other person
139 who may be related by blood or marriage within the third degree,
140 computed by the rules of civil law, to the official employing or
141 having the right of employment or selection thereof; and in the
142 event of any such payment, then the official or person approving
143 and making or receiving such payment shall be jointly and
144 severally liable to return to the State of Mississippi and to pay
145 into the State Treasury three (3) times any such amount so paid or
146 received, to be recovered at suit of the Attorney General;
147 however, when the relationship is by affinity and the person



148 through whom the relationship was established is dead, this
149 provision shall not apply.

150 **SECTION 21.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the
151 Mississippi State Supreme Court shall charge the maximum amount
152 allowable by law for services rendered where charges for such
153 services are provided for by statute, and for any other services
154 rendered, shall charge an amount consistent with the cost of
155 providing such services. The funds derived from these charges
156 shall be deposited into a special fund account in the State
157 Treasury to the credit of the Office of the Mississippi State
158 Supreme Court.

159 **SECTION 22.** It is the intent of the Legislature that no part
160 of the funds herein appropriated shall be required to be used for
161 the payment of rent for the public space in the Law Library.

162 **SECTION 23.** In accordance with Section 9-21-13, Mississippi
163 Code of 1972, the Director of the Administrative Office of Courts
164 is authorized to direct expenditures of state monies appropriated
165 to the Administrative Office of Courts or any courts of the state
166 for any and all functions or projects directly or indirectly
167 affecting the operation of any court and may transfer monies
168 appropriated for the office or any account to any one or more
169 other accounts or office. The Director of the Administrative
170 Office of Courts shall notify, in writing, the Lieutenant
171 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
172 Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of



173 the House Appropriations A Committee, and the Legislative Budget
174 Office of any transfer. The written notification shall include
175 the justification for the transfer of funds, an explanation of
176 need, the amount, and where the funds will be used. This written
177 notification shall be sent on or before the fifteenth day of the
178 month prior to the effective date of the transfer.

179 **SECTION 24.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 8 of this
180 act, Seven Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-nine
181 Dollars (\$732,539.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is
182 provided for two (2) full-time CCID inferior court judges, one (1)
183 part-time judge for the CCID inferior court and the support staff
184 of the judges pursuant to Senate Bill 2180, 2024 Regular Session,
185 and engrossed in Section 9-12-1, Mississippi Code of 1972. These
186 employees shall be utilized for the Capitol Complex Improvement
187 District established in Section 29-5-203, Mississippi Code of
188 1972.

189 **SECTION 25.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
190 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
191 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
192 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
193 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
194 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
195 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
196 made without competitive bids.



197 **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
198 of this act, an amount not to exceed Two Million Four Hundred
199 Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,460,500.00) may be
200 provided for the Comprehensive Electronic Court Systems Fund
201 administered by the Administrative Office of Courts.

202 **SECTION 27.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
203 Mississippi State Supreme Court shall maintain complete accounting
204 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
205 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
206 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
207 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
208 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
209 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
210 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
211 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

212 **SECTION 28.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
213 of this act, Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
214 (\$2,500,000.00) shall be provided for the Youth Court Support Fund
215 administered by the Administrative Office of Courts.

216 **SECTION 29.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 8, Nine
217 Million Dollars (\$9,000,000.00) is provided to defray the costs of
218 the Drug Court Program.

219 **SECTION 30.** It is the intention of the Legislature that in
220 the event there are not sufficient funds in the Judicial System
221 Operation Fund created under Section 9-21-45, Mississippi Code of



222 1972, in any given year with which to pay the annual salary
223 supplements set forth in Section 25-3-35, Mississippi Code of
224 1972, then the county treasury shall not be obligated to fund such
225 salary supplements and the salary of county court judges shall be
226 that in place prior to the passage of Section 9-9-11, Mississippi
227 Code of 1972.

228 **SECTION 31.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 8, it is
229 the intention of the Legislature that an amount of Six Million
230 Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,700,000.00) may be allocated
231 for the programs supported from General Fund court assessments as
232 follows:

233	Drug Courts.....	\$	6,500,000.00
234	Civil Legal Assistance.....	\$	200,000.00

235 **SECTION 32.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
236 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
237 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -
238 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing
239 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB
240 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for programmers, trainers and
241 operations for the Mississippi Electronic Courts (MEC) System to
242 meet the mandate to bring all the courts into the MEC System for
243 the Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal
244 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
245\$ 362,686.00.



246 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
247 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
248 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
249 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
250 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
251 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

252 **SECTION 33.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
253 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
254 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -
255 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing
256 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB
257 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for IT equipment and Youth Court
258 computers for the Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts
259 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30,
260 2025.....\$ 310,000.00.

261 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
262 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
263 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
264 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
265 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
266 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

267 **SECTION 34.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
268 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
269 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Supreme Court -
270 Administrative Office of Courts, for the purpose of reauthorizing



271 the expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB
272 1640, 2023 Regular Session, for temporary Intake Officers for the
273 Supreme Court - Administrative Office of Courts for the fiscal
274 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
275\$ 500,000.00.

276 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
277 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
278 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
279 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
280 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
281 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

282 **SECTION 35.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
283 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
284 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
285 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
286 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
287 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

288 **SECTION 36.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
289 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 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SUPREME COURT WHICH IS
3 COMPRISED OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE OFFICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
4 CLERK AND THE STATE LAW LIBRARY AND TO PAY EXPENSES OF SPECIAL
5 JUDGES, CHANCELLORS AND CIRCUIT JUDGES, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF
6 DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS AND



7 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION, COURT OF
8 APPEALS AND THE BOARD OF BAR ADMISSIONS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025;
9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Mims

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Cockerham

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Wiggins

X (SIGNED)
Hickman

