

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. 1824: Appropriation; Educational Television, Authority 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:

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 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
10 June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,746,807.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Authority for
14 Educational Television which is comprised of special source funds
15 collected by or otherwise available to the Authority, for the
16 purpose of defraying the expenses of the Authority for the fiscal
17 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
18\$ 6,408,659.00.



19 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
20 Section 1 and Section 2, the following positions are authorized:

21 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

22 Permanent: 80

23 Time-Limited: 7

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

41 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
42 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
43 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to



44 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
45 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
46 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
47 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
48 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
49 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

67 **SECTION 4.** Funds appropriated herein shall first be used for
68 the continuation of a full and complete broadcast schedule of



69 educational and instructional, professional growth, and public
70 service programs, with the production of new films and programs to
71 be secondary thereto.

72 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
73 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall maintain
74 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
75 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
76 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as
77 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of
78 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
79 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
80 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
81 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request
82 process.

83 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
84 Section 2, Two Million One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred
85 Sixty-six Dollars (\$2,118,966.00) shall be derived from the
86 Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75
87 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

88 **SECTION 7.** No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be
89 transferred to, expended by, or used, directly or indirectly, for
90 the benefit of any public relations, publicity or publication
91 activities of any other state agency, department or officer, nor
92 shall any personnel paid or equipment purchased with funds
93 appropriated hereby be transferred or assigned to any other state



94 agency, department or officer for public relations, publicity or
95 publication activities of such office.

96 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
97 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall have the
98 authority to expend funds in the Capital Equipment Replacement
99 Revolving Fund, in accordance with Section 37-63-17, Mississippi
100 Code of 1972, for the purpose of purchasing technical equipment
101 for operating the educational radio and television facilities.

102 **SECTION 9.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
103 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
104 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
105 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
106 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
107 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
108 performance measures provided below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Content Operations	
Number of Locally Produced TV Programs	100
Number of Locally Produced Radio Programs	1,092
Number of Monthly Average Number of Web Site Users	25,000
Number of New Programs Produced and Broadcast Related to Fit to Eat Programming	8



119	Percent of Radio Broadcasts and TV	
120	Alerts During Times of Emergency	100.00
121	Education Services	
122	Percent Increase in Users Using MPB	
123	Education Online Resources for Pre-K	
124	Children and Families	20.00
125	Number of Students Served by the Digital	
126	Education Network (DEN) Classroom	2,000
127	Number of School Districts Participating	
128	in the DEN Classroom	30
129	Number of Teachers Taking e-Learning Courses	1,800
130	Number of Teacher Continuing Education	
131	Units (CEUs) Provided by e-Learning	
132	Courses Offered	1,950
133	Percent Increase of Visitors to the MPB	
134	Education Website	10.00
135	Number of Early Childhood Educators	
136	Attending MPB Resource Workshops	
137	Involving PBS and MPB Programs/Content	200
138	Number of Parents Participating in	
139	Parents Are Teachers Too (PATT)	
140	Initiative	300
141	Technical Services	
142	Number of Transmitters On Air	8
143	On-Air Reliability	99.95



144	Number of IT Help Desk Orders Filled	600
145	Administration	
146	Number of Community Engagements/Outreach	
147	Events Including Virtual Engagements	350
148	Number of State Agency Partners	40
149	New Grant Dollars Acquired	150,000.00

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

154 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
155 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
156 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
157 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
158 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
159 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
160 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
161 made without competitive bids.

162 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that an
163 amount equal to One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per square foot
164 shall be paid to the Executive Office of the State Board of
165 Institutions of Higher Learning to defray utility costs.

166 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
167 Authority for Educational Television may fund a program to focus
168 on the manufacturing industry in Mississippi.



169 **SECTION 13.** Mississippi Authority for Educational Television
170 is authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or
171 contribution from any individual, public, or private organization,
172 or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational
173 costs of the department. Such grants, donations or contributions
174 shall be received and expended under the rules and regulations of
175 the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner
176 consistent with the escalation of federal funds not to exceed Two
177 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

178 **SECTION 14.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
179 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education
180 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational
181 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the
182 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House
183 Bill No. 1614, 2023 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning
184 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,019,000.00.

185 This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
186 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

- 187 a) Tower maintenance and upgrades.....\$ 3,060,000.00.
188 b) Digitalization of Educational Content and Mississippi
189 History.....\$ 668,000.00.
190 c) Production of a Medgar Evers documentary
191\$ 291,000.00.

192 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
193 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this



194 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
195 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
196 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
197 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

198 **SECTION 15.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
199 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
200 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational
201 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the
202 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds as authorized in House Bill
203 No. 1614, 2023 Regular Session provide for tower maintenance and
204 upgrades for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
205 June 30, 2025.....\$ 260,000.00.

206 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under the
207 provisions of this section, in no event shall the amount expended
208 exceed the unexpended balances as of June 30, 2024. In addition,
209 this reappropriation shall not change the purpose for which the
210 funds were originally authorized.

211 **SECTION 16.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
212 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
213 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
214 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
215 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
216 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

217 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
218 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 AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL
3 TELEVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Oliver

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
DeBar

X (SIGNED)
Massengill

X (SIGNED)
Robinson

