

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 3011: Appropriation; IHL - Mississippi State University - Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House 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 hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Board of Trustees  
8 of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the purpose of paying  
9 the expenses incurred in the operation and maintenance of the  
10 Forest and Wildlife Research Center, for the fiscal year beginning  
11 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$       6,229,585.00.

12           **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
13 necessary, is hereby authorized for expenditure out of any special  
14 source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available  
15 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Forest and  
16 Wildlife Research Center, for the fiscal year beginning  
17 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$       2,364,652.00.



18           **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this  
19 act, Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000.00) shall be  
20 derived from the Education Enhancement Fund from funds deposited  
21 pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of  
22 1972.

23           **SECTION 4.** No general funds authorized to be expended herein  
24 shall be used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds  
25 which are being used for salaries authorized under the provisions  
26 of this act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

27           **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that if  
28 the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act are used directly  
29 or indirectly to match or otherwise secure any federal grants,  
30 research grants or donations, such special source funds not  
31 classified as restricted funds shall be added and accounted for  
32 under Section 2 of this act. Further, it is the intention of the  
33 Legislature that all such aforementioned special source funds be  
34 included in all reports and requests for the 2025 Regular Session  
35 of the Mississippi Legislature.

36           **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
37 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to  
38 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
39 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
40 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

41           **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
42 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the



43 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
44 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
45 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
46 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
47 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
48 made without competitive bids.

49 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
50 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
51 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
52 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
53 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
54 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
55 actions contrary to this provision.

56 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
57 Section 2, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), or so much  
58 thereof, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury  
59 to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section  
60 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as  
61 determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided for  
62 the Deer Lab renovations.

63 **SECTION 10.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
64 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
65 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
66 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal



67 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
68 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

69 **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
70 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 INCURRED IN THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE  
3 FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
Oliver

X (SIGNED)  
Parks

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Butler

X (SIGNED)  
Scoggin

