

## 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. 3017: Appropriation; Employment Security, Department of.

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 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 Department of Employment Security for  
9 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
10 June 30, 2025.....\$           1,800,000.00.

11           **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
13 Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Department of Employment  
14 Security, or its successor, for the purpose of defraying the  
15 expenses incurred by said department for the fiscal year beginning  
16 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$           136,805,708.00.

17           **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
18 this act, the following positions are authorized:



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 423

21 Time-Limited: 70

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

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



44 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the  
45 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
46 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
47 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

65 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
66 Section 2 of this act, the following sum shall be derived from  
67 money in the Unemployment Trust Fund, made available to this state  
68 under Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 USCA



69 Section 1103), to the Mississippi Department of Employment  
70 Security to be deposited in the Employment Security Administration  
71 Fund and used by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security  
72 for the following purposes:

73 (a) Payment of various One-Stop Administration expenses  
74 that support the service delivery of employment and workforce  
75 information services. This includes, but is not limited to, the  
76 following activities:

77 (i) Staff for delivery of reemployment services to  
78 UI claimants, including group job search assistance and  
79 staff-assisted referrals to jobs.

80 (ii) Equipment and resources for resource rooms.

81 (iii) Payment for rent, utilities and maintenance  
82 of facilities, including common spaces such as resource rooms,  
83 reception areas, conference areas, etc.

84 (iv) Payment of shared costs for operation of  
85 local One-Stop Career Centers, including payment for One-Stop  
86 operators.

87 (v) Purchase of computer equipment, network  
88 equipment, telecommunications equipment, application development  
89 and other technology resources.

90 (vi) Training, technical assistance, and  
91 professional development of staff who deliver employment and  
92 workforce information services.



93 (vii) Access Improvement costs for individuals  
94 with disabilities, including remodeling or retrofitting One-Stop  
95 Career Centers and purchasing appropriate software, hardware,  
96 furniture and supplies.

97 (b) Administration of the Unemployment Compensation  
98 (UC) law and its public employment service (ES) offices. This  
99 includes, but is not limited to, the following uses:

100 (i) ES and UI automation. This includes  
101 purchases, modifications, or automation of computer-related  
102 systems and related costs.

103 (ii) UI and ES Performance Improvement costs.

104 (iii) Fraud and Abuse Reduction costs.

105 (iv) UI Claims Filing and Payment Methods  
106 Improvement costs.

107 (v) Under the direction of the Bureau of Building,  
108 Grounds and Real Property Management to acquire lands and  
109 construct buildings thereon or improve existing buildings to be  
110 used as offices. The funds in this section are authorized for the  
111 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
112 .....\$ 33,047,000.00.

113 The funds authorized in this section shall be requisitioned  
114 by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security from the  
115 Unemployment Trust Fund maintained by the Secretary of the  
116 Treasury of the United States as needed for the payment of  
117 obligations incurred under this appropriation, and such monies



118 shall be deposited in the Employment Security Administration Fund  
119 in accordance with the provisions of Section 71-5-457, Mississippi  
120 Code of 1972.

121       **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
122 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
123 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
124 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
125 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
126 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
127 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
128 made without competitive bids.

129       **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, a sum not  
130 to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) is made  
131 available for Pathways2Possibilities from the Mississippi Works  
132 Fund collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of  
133 1972.

134       **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
135 act, an amount not to exceed One Million Four Hundred Thousand  
136 Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) is authorized for the Mississippi  
137 Integrated Education and Workforce State Longitudinal Data System  
138 (SLDS).

139       **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
140 act, Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) is provided to  
141 the Mississippi Department of Employment Security for the purpose



142 of providing administrative support to the Office of Workforce  
143 Development.

144       **SECTION 9.** In addition to all other funds appropriated  
145 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,  
146 is appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund, not  
147 otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the expenses  
148 of the Office of Workforce Development for the fiscal year  
149 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
150 .....\$       20,986,205.00.

151       **SECTION 10.** In addition to all other funds appropriated  
152 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,  
153 is hereby authorized for expenditure out of any special source  
154 funds which are collected by or otherwise become available to the  
155 Office of Workforce Development for support of workforce programs,  
156 grants, and other similar activities for the fiscal year beginning  
157 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$       19,400,000.00.

158       **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 9, Three  
159 Million Eight Hundred Eighty-six Thousand Two Hundred Five Dollars  
160 (\$3,886,205.00) is authorized for defraying the operating expenses  
161 of the Office of Workforce Development.

162       **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 9, Fifteen  
163 Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) is authorized for operating the  
164 Career Coaching Program at the Office of Workforce Development.

165       **SECTION 13.** Unless otherwise specifically appropriated for  
166 that purpose by the Legislature, none of the funds authorized in



167 Section 10 of this act shall be used for operational expenditures  
168 of the Office of Workforce Development except for reasonable  
169 administrative fees for grant oversight as provided by law.

170 **SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 10 of this  
171 act, the Office of Workforce Development is authorized to expend  
172 up to Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the State  
173 Workforce Investment Funds from the State Workforce Investment  
174 Board, collected pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of  
175 1972.

176 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
177 of Section 10 of this act, the Office of Workforce Development is  
178 authorized to expend up to Fifteen Million Dollars  
179 (\$15,000,000.00) from the Mississippi Works Fund collected  
180 pursuant to Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of 1972.

181 **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
182 Mississippi Department of Employment Security and the Office of  
183 Workforce Development shall maintain complete accounting and  
184 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
185 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
186 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
187 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that each  
188 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to  
189 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
190 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
191 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.





192           **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
193 of Section 9 of this act, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars  
194 (\$600,000.00) is authorized for Jobs for America's  
195 Graduates-Mississippi.

196           **SECTION 18.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
197 of Section 10 of this act, Four Hundred Thousand Dollars  
198 (\$400,000.00), or so much thereof, shall be derived out of any  
199 money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense  
200 Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
201 and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.  
202 These funds are provided to the Skills Foundation of Mississippi.

203           **SECTION 19.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 9 of this  
204 act, One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) is  
205 provided to the Office of Workforce Development for a new  
206 Information Management and Financial Tracking System to enhance  
207 the tracking of funding provided for workforce development and  
208 provide data outcomes reports on active workforce training  
209 programs and participants.

210           **SECTION 20.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 10, One  
211 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), or so much thereof as may be  
212 necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury  
213 to the credit of the Project Poppy Fund, as created in Senate Bill  
214 2001, 1st Extraordinary Session of 2024, and allocated in a manner  
215 as determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided  
216 to expedite the services needed for Project Poppy.



217           **SECTION 21.** Of the funds appropriated in Sections 11 of this  
218 act, funds are provided to the Office of Workforce Development to  
219 coordinate workforce development programs at the Mississippi  
220 Department of Corrections.

221           **SECTION 22.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
222 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
223 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
224 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
225 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
226 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
227 actions contrary to this provision.

228           **SECTION 23.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
229 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
230 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
231 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
232 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
233 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

234           **SECTION 24.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
235 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 OF SPECIAL FUNDS TO DEFRAY THE  
2 EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY FOR  
3 FISCAL YEAR 2025.



CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
Frazier

X (SIGNED)  
Parker

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Oliver

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Massengill

