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. 3018: Appropriation; Ethics Commission.

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:

4	SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
5	necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
6	General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
7	defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Ethics Commission for
8	the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
9	June 30, 2025\$ 750,319.00.
10	SECTION 2. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
11	this act, the following positions are authorized:
12	AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:
13	Permanent: 6
14	Time-Limited: 0
15	Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
16	the terms, conditions and procedures established by law.

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and/or other special funds which are being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

21 SECTION 3. It is the intention of the Legislature that the 22 Mississippi Ethics Commission shall maintain complete accounting 23 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds 24 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the 25 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the 26 27 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to 28 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of 29 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided 30 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that 31 32 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the 33 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price, 34 35 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind 36 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to 37 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids. 38

39 SECTION 5. It is the intention of the Legislature, that of40 the funds provided in Section 1 of this act, the Ethics Commission

41 is hereby authorized to purchase and pay premiums for casualty 42 insurance on passenger vehicles owned and operated by the agency. SECTION 6. It is the intention of the Legislature that the 43 44 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with 45 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency 46 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally 47 48 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for 49 actions contrary to this provision.

50 **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by 51 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon 52 53 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the 54 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law. 55 56 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from 57 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 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE 2 MISSISSIPPI ETHICS COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE	CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Hopson	Mims
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Wiggins	Read
X (SIGNED)	X (SIGNED)
Norwood	Barton