

## 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. 3026: Appropriation; Geologists, Board of Registered Professional.

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 Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Board of Registered  
8 Professional Geologists for the purpose of defraying the expenses  
9 of the board, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and  
10 ending June 30, 2025.....\$                   143,189.00.

11           **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
12 this act, the following positions are authorized:

13           AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

14           Permanent:                   1

15           Time-Limited:                0

16           With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
17 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
18 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds



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

33 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
34 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
35 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
36 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
37 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
38 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the  
39 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
40 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
41 essential for the agency.

42 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
43 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or



44 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
45 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
46 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
47 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
48 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
49 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
50 appropriated level.

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

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

59 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
60 Mississippi Board of Registered Professional Geologists shall  
61 maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the  
62 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such  
63 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as  
64 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of  
65 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year  
66 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
67 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level



68 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request  
69 process.

70         **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
71 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
72 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
73 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
74 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
75 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
76 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
77 made without competitive bids.

78         **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
79 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
80 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
81 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
82 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
83 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
84 actions contrary to this provision.

85         **SECTION 6.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
86 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
87 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
88 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
89 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
90 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

91         **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
92 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 BOARD OF REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL  
3 GEOLOGISTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
Bounds

X (SIGNED)  
Norwood

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Hill

X (SIGNED)  
Hale

