

**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. 3031: Appropriation; Contractors, Board 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 of money, or so much thereof as  
6 may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the  
7 State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi State Board of  
8 Public Contractors, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of  
9 said board, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
10 June 30, 2025.....\$           4,310,050.00.

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

13           AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNTS:

14           Permanent:                   18

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 Public Contractors shall maintain complete  
61 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all  
62 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be  
63 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal  
64 Year 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that  
65 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be  
66 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
67 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
68 provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.



69           **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the  
70 intention of the Legislature that the State Board of Contractors  
71 may expend funds not to exceed Two Million Three Hundred Thousand  
72 Dollars (\$2,300,000.00) for the purpose of defraying the cost of  
73 (1) enforcement as set forth in Section 31-3-21, Mississippi Code  
74 of 1972, (2) enlisting of any private collection firm(s) to locate  
75 and collect any uncollected fines, and (3) administrative costs  
76 associated with collections. Any funds spent for this purpose  
77 shall be subject to a performance audit if requested by the  
78 Appropriations Chairmen in either the House or Senate.

79           **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
80 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
81 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
82 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
83 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
84 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
85 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
86 made without competitive bids.

87           **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
88 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
89 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
90 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
91 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
92 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
93 actions contrary to this provision.



94           **SECTION 7.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
95 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
96 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
97 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
98 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
99 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

100           **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
101 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 FROM SPECIAL FUNDS IN THE  
2 STATE TREASURY TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE  
3 BOARD OF PUBLIC CONTRACTORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
Mims

X (SIGNED)  
Norwood

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Hill

X (SIGNED)  
Rushing

