

## 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. 3038: Appropriation; Animal Health, 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, 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, for the purpose of  
8 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Board of Animal Health  
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
10 June 30, 2025.....\$           1,801,395.00.

11           **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is hereby authorized for expenditure out of any special  
13 source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available  
14 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Board  
15 of Animal Health, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and  
16 ending June 30, 2025.....\$           1,248,118.00.

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



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 23

21 Time-Limited: 5

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.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
66 Mississippi Board of Animal Health shall maintain complete  
67 accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all  
68 funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be



69 in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal  
70 Year 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that  
71 the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be  
72 submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
73 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
74 provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

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

83 **SECTION 6.** The Mississippi Board of Animal Health is  
84 authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or  
85 contribution from any individual, public or private organization,  
86 or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational  
87 costs of the department. Such grants, donations, contributions,  
88 and any carryover funds shall be received and expended under the  
89 rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and  
90 Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of  
91 federal funds not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars  
92 (\$500,000.00).



93           **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
94 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
95 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
96 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
97 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
98 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
99 actions contrary to this provision.

100           **SECTION 8.** Of the funds in Section 2 of this act, Two  
101 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) is provided from the  
102 Animal Health Disaster Response Fund. These funds are provided  
103 for expenses incurred by the Board of Animal Health in responding  
104 to animal disease outbreaks as outlined in Section 69-15-21,  
105 Mississippi Code of 1972.

106           **SECTION 9.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
107 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
108 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
109 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
110 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
111 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

112           **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
113 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 THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF  
2 ANIMAL HEALTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE  
3 BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
DeLano

X (SIGNED)  
McLendon

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Bounds

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Pigott

