

## 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. 3051: Appropriation; Treasurer's Office.

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 of money, or so much thereof as  
5 may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the  
6 special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State  
7 Treasurer's office which are collected by or otherwise become  
8 available, to defray the expenses of the Office of the State  
9 Treasurer for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
10 June 30, 2025.....\$           6,658,958.00.

11           **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
12 act, the following positions are authorized:

13           AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

14           Permanent:                   37

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.** In addition to all other sums herein  
60 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
61 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
62 Treasury to the credit of the Education Improvement Trust Fund No.  
63 3219 for the purpose of investing funds for the fiscal year  
64 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
65 .....\$ 150,000.00.



66           **SECTION 4.** In addition to all other sums herein  
67 appropriated, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
68 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
69 Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Prepaid Affordable  
70 College Tuition Trust Fund for the purpose of paying all amounts  
71 due for prepaid tuition contracts of the Mississippi Prepaid  
72 Affordable College Tuition Program, for the fiscal year beginning  
73 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 35,000,000.00.

74           It is the intention of the Legislature that the State  
75 Treasurer is hereby authorized to accept, budget and expend an  
76 amount not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) from any  
77 funds authorized for the Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College  
78 Tuition Program, for paying amounts due for prepaid tuition  
79 contracts of the Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition  
80 Program. Such funds shall be escalated in accordance with the  
81 rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and  
82 Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of  
83 federal funds.

84           **SECTION 5.** No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be  
85 used in the payment of attorney's fees, nor shall any of said  
86 funds be used either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of  
87 paying any clerk, stenographer, assistant, deputy or other person  
88 who may be related by blood or marriage within the third degree,  
89 computed by the rules of the civil law, to the official employing  
90 or having the right of employment or selection thereof; and in the



91 event of any such payment, then the official or person approving  
92 and making or receiving such payment shall be jointly and  
93 severally liable to return to the State of Mississippi and to pay  
94 into the State Treasury three (3) times any such amount so paid or  
95 received, to be recovered at suit of the Attorney General;  
96 provided that when the relationship is by affinity and the person  
97 through whom the relationship was established is dead, this  
98 provision shall not apply.

99       **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
100 Office of the State Treasurer shall maintain complete accounting  
101 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
102 appropriated under the provisions of this act and that such  
103 records shall be in the same format and level of details as  
104 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of  
105 the Legislature that the budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall  
106 be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format  
107 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail  
108 provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

109       **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
110 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
111 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
112 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
113 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
114 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to



115 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
116 made without competitive bids.

117 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated to the State Treasury  
118 under the provisions of Section 1 of this act, the following  
119 amounts shall be available for expenditure in the following  
120 program budgets:

121 (a) Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition  
122 program.....\$ 1,854,655.00.

123 (b) Mississippi Affordable College Savings  
124 program.....\$ 177,860.00.

125 (c) Treasury Office - Support  
126 programs.....\$ 4,626,443.00.

127 Further, no funds to the credit of the Mississippi Prepaid  
128 Affordable College Tuition Administrative Fund shall be expended  
129 for purposes related to any program other than the Mississippi  
130 Prepaid Affordable College Tuition program.

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

137 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
138 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 STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
Mims

X (SIGNED)  
Michel

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Turner-Ford

X (SIGNED)  
Rushing

