

**Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1791**

**TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:**

**THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**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 appropriated out of any money in the State General  
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and maintenance  
8 of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for the fiscal  
9 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
10 .....\$           9,663,903.00.

11           **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in  
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Wildlife,  
14 Fisheries and Parks which is comprised of special source funds  
15 collected by or otherwise available to the department for the  
16 support and maintenance of the department, including the Museum of  
17 Natural Science and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, for the  
18 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
19 .....\$           73,726,167.00.

20           The following sum, which is included in the sum appropriated  
21 above in this section, is appropriated out of the state excise

22 taxes upon gasoline, oil and other petroleum products to the  
23 Fisheries and Wildlife Fund for the fiscal year beginning  
24 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 5,750,000.00.

25 The Department of Revenue is directed to set aside the amount  
26 of this appropriation or any part thereof at any time it sees fit,  
27 out of any collections of taxes upon gasoline, oil and other  
28 petroleum products, and to deduct the amounts so set aside from  
29 such funds before making distribution thereof. However,  
30 provisions shall first be made for the Highway Bonds Sinking Fund,  
31 as required under the provisions of Chapter 130, Laws of 1938, and  
32 any amendments thereto, and Section 27-5-101, Mississippi Code of  
33 1972.

34 Any funds available in the Wildlife Heritage Fund may be  
35 expended by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks as  
36 authorized by law. The department shall make a detailed report to  
37 the Legislature regarding the spending of the Wildlife Heritage  
38 funds by September 1 for the preceding fiscal year.

39 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
40 Section 2 to the Bureau of Wildlife and Fisheries, funds in the  
41 amount of One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Three Hundred  
42 Thirty-five Dollars (\$125,335.00) shall be derived from the  
43 Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75  
44 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the purpose of  
45 defraying the expenses of Project WILD for Fiscal Year 2025.

46 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
47 this act, the following positions are authorized:

48 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

49 Permanent: 527

50 Time-Limited: 53

51 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
52 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
53 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds  
54 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
55 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
56 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal  
57 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall  
58 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency  
59 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the  
60 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to  
61 the personal services amount must be approved by the State  
62 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation  
63 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be  
64 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate  
65 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services  
66 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved  
67 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active  
68 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's  
69 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are  
70 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,  
71 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing  
72 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board  
73 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any

74 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board  
75 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in  
76 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the  
77 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the  
78 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the  
79 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel  
80 Board.

81         Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
82 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
83 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
84 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
85 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
86 the agency's projected cost for Fiscal Year 2025 exceeds the  
87 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
88 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
89 essential for the agency.

90         Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
91 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
92 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
93 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
94 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
95 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
96 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
97 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
98 appropriated level.

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

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

107           **SECTION 5.** Each conservation officer and supervisor shall be  
108 furnished an allowance for uniforms not to exceed Five Hundred  
109 Fifty Dollars (\$550.00) per annum.

110           Provided further, when any personnel of the Bureau of  
111 Wildlife and Fisheries are transferred from one (1) county to  
112 another on a permanent assignment, the expense monies now paid on  
113 out-of-county duty shall not be applicable.

114           **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
115 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall maintain  
116 complete accounting and personnel records related to the  
117 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such  
118 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as  
119 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of  
120 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year  
121 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
122 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level  
123 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request  
124 process.

125           **SECTION 7.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
 126 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
 127 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
 128 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
 129 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
 130 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
 131 performance measures provided below:

132		FY2025
133	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
134	Support Services	
135	Number of Hunting and Fishing Licenses Sold	480,000
136	Number of Registrations of Boats	52,000
137	Percent Change in License Sales	1.00
138	Fisheries	
139	Number of Fish Stocked for Public Waters	1,500,000
140	Number of Customers of DWFP Lakes	1,500,000
141	Number of Participants in Aquatic Education	1,500,000
142	Number of Access Facilities Built or	
143	Maintained (Boat Ramps)	35
144	Wildlife	
145	MDWFP Management for Hunters and	
146	Non-Consumptive Users (Man-Days)	125,000
147	Research Projects Conducted to Sustain	
148	Healthy and Abundant Wildlife	
149	Populations	6.00
150	Acres of Forest Inventory	1,000

151	Acres of Prescribed Burning, Waterfowl	
152	Management, and Timber Management on	
153	WMA's to Sustain Healthy & Abundant	
154	Wildlife	30,00
155	Percent Change in Number of Research	
156	Projects Conducted to Sustain Healthy	
157	and Abundant Wildlife Populations	0.00
158	Percent Change in Number of Private Land	
159	Acres Influenced	0.00
160	Percent Change in the Number of Forest	
161	Inventories Conducted	0.00
162	Law Enforcement	
163	Number of Hunter Education Participants	10,000
164	Number of Hours Patrolled on Land	175,000
165	Number of Hours Patrolled on Water	50,000
166	Number of Criminal Investigations Conducted	8,000
167	Number of Shooting Sport Programs	1,500
168	Number of Boating Accidents	50
169	Number of Boating Fatalities	7
170	Cost per Student for Hunter Education	50
171	Cost per Sports Program	525.00
172	Percent Change in Number of Boating	
173	Accidents	50.00
174	Percent Change in Boating Related Fatalities	50.00
175	Percent Change in Public Contacts per	
176	Officer/per Day	15.00

177	Special Projects	
178	Percent Increase in Improved Use of	
179	Special Funds	0.20
180	Parks	
181	Overnight Accommodation (Cabins/Motels)	250,000
182	Overnight Accommodations (Camping)	650,000
183	Day Use Services	400,000
184	Percent Change in Day Use Services	10.00
185	Percent Change in the Prior Year of	
186	Occupancy Rate of Cabins	25.00
187	Museum	
188	Statewide Education Programming	250,000
189	Total Public Programming	130,000
190	Number of Visitors to Exhibits	80,000
191	Number of Natural Heritage Records Entered	60,000
192	Percent Change of Students that	
193	Understand the Importance of Natural	
194	Resource Conservation	5.00
195	Percent Change of Visitors to Exhibits	3.00
196	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
197	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	
198	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget	
199	Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.	

200           **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the  
201 following amount shall be derived from the Department of Wildlife,  
202 Fisheries and Parks Special Pearl River Timber Fund No. 3465, for



203 the purpose of making improvements to the Pearl River Wildlife  
204 Management Area.....\$ 50,000.00.

205 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated within this act, the  
206 Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks may enter into  
207 cooperative agreements with the board of supervisors of any county  
208 or any group or combination of counties for the purpose of  
209 creating, improving or restoring parks, public game and fish  
210 habitat lying or to be situated wholly or partially within such  
211 county or in an adjoining county; and each county is empowered and  
212 authorized, in its discretion, to expend funds from the general  
213 county fund for such purposes from which fund they shall reimburse  
214 to the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks the actual cost  
215 of all surveying and engineering projects incurred by the  
216 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks incidental thereto.  
217 Such boards of supervisors are further authorized and empowered,  
218 in their discretion, to enter into agreements necessary to carry  
219 out the purposes of this act with any other county, the United  
220 States Forest Service or any other agency if same should be  
221 necessary for the acquisition of land by lease or otherwise for  
222 such purposes.

223 **SECTION 10.** It shall be unlawful for any officer, employee  
224 or other person whatsoever to use or permit or authorize the use  
225 of any automobile or any other motor vehicle owned by the State of  
226 Mississippi or any department, agency or institution thereof for  
227 any purpose other than upon the official business of the State of  
228 Mississippi or any agency, department or institution thereof.

229 It is the intent of the Legislature that motor vehicles  
230 authorized to be owned and operated by this agency shall comply  
231 with Sections 25-1-77 through 25-1-93, Mississippi Code of 1972.

232 **SECTION 11.** In order to be in compliance with Section  
233 63-1-201 et seq., funds are herein provided and may be expended by  
234 the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to pay the costs  
235 of commercial driver's licenses for specific employees and/or to  
236 reimburse such costs for specific employees who, in the course of  
237 their duties and responsibilities, are required to hold a valid  
238 Mississippi Commercial Driver's License.

239 **SECTION 12.** The Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
240 Fisheries and Parks is authorized to provide financial support of  
241 One Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) and to  
242 enter into an agreement with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension  
243 Service for a project specialist and related supportive cost.

244 **SECTION 13.** The department is authorized to spend up to  
245 sixty percent (60%) of revenue in the State Park Timber Endowment  
246 Fund, as needed, to operate and maintain the state parks.

247 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
248 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
249 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
250 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
251 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
252 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
253 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
254 made without competitive bids.

255           **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, it is  
256 the intention of the Legislature that Four Hundred Thousand  
257 Dollars (\$400,000.00) is allocated for the detection and  
258 prevention of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer populations across  
259 the state.

260           **SECTION 16.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, it is  
261 the intention of the Legislature that Seventy-five Thousand  
262 Dollars (\$75,000.00) is allocated for LeFleur's Bluff State Park  
263 for playground security expenses.

264           **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated herein, Two Hundred  
265 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) may be provided to fund the Youth  
266 Participation Initiative for the purpose of educating children in  
267 the areas of hunting, fishing, conservation, and safety.

268           **SECTION 18.** The fund created pursuant to Section 49-5-21,  
269 Mississippi Code of 1972, and known as the "Fisheries and Wildlife  
270 Fund" shall be treated as a special trust fund. All funds derived  
271 from the sale of licenses, fees, fines and other revenues received  
272 by the department as provided by law, shall be deposited in the  
273 Fisheries and Wildlife Fund. In addition, revenue derived from  
274 the sale of timber on wildlife management areas, refuges and  
275 preserves shall be deposited into an account established for such  
276 revenues under the Fisheries and Wildlife Fund. The interest and  
277 any investment income earned on the fund shall be credited by the  
278 State Treasurer to the Fisheries and Wildlife Fund and shall not  
279 be paid into the General Fund. Any unexpended funds remaining in  
280 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse and shall

281 remain in the fund. Nothing in this section shall prevent the use  
282 of said funds from maintenance and upgrade of wildlife management  
283 areas.

284         **SECTION 19.** It is the intention of the Legislature that no  
285 more than One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars  
286 (\$1,300,000.00) be expended from the Motor Vehicle Fund for the  
287 purchase of any type of motor vehicle.

288         **SECTION 20.** The executive director of the Department of  
289 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is authorized to enter into an  
290 agreement with any public or private entities to manage any park  
291 or parks within the state park system.

292         **SECTION 21.** It is the intent of the Legislature that no  
293 state-owned wildlife management area be closed and that to the  
294 greatest practicable extent, department land management decisions  
295 and actions may not result in any net loss of any acreage  
296 available for hunting opportunities that existed on July 1, 2006,  
297 as provided in Section 49-5-99(4). It is the intention of the  
298 Legislature that no state park be closed without legislative  
299 approval.

300         **SECTION 22.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
301 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall have  
302 the authority to enter into multi-year contracts for the purpose  
303 of placing a sign on such state park property under the  
304 department's domain, in accordance with any applicable rules and  
305 regulations. All proceeds generated from these activities shall

306 remain with the department and shall be deposited into the proper  
307 special fund.

308         **SECTION 23.** It is the intent of the Legislature that from  
309 the funds available to the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and  
310 Parks, the department may purchase and pay premium(s) on property  
311 damage insurance on its motor vehicles, boats, trailers, real  
312 property improvements, buildings, furnishings, and such other  
313 assets as may be appropriate or practical, and/or as required by a  
314 granting entity.

315         **SECTION 24.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
316 of Section 2, One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
317 (\$1,750,000.00) shall be designated for the purpose of defraying  
318 the operational expenses of Special Projects. None of these funds  
319 shall be used for "Personal Services."

320         **SECTION 25.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
321 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall have the  
322 authority to receive, budget and expend funds from the Gulf and  
323 Wildlife Protection Fund, not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars  
324 (\$50,000.00) for the purpose of preservation, protection,  
325 conservation, and acquisition of waters, land and wildlife of this  
326 state.

327         **SECTION 26.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
328 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
329 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
330 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
331 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally

332 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
333 actions contrary to this provision.

334       **SECTION 27.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, it is  
335 the intention of the Legislature that Fifty-eight Thousand Five  
336 Hundred Ninety-three Dollars (\$58,593.00) may be allocated for the  
337 Hunter Education program supported from the General Fund court  
338 assessments.

339       **SECTION 28.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
340 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
341 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of  
342 Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks the purpose of reauthorizing the  
343 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1617,  
344 2023 Regular Session. The purpose of these funds is to assist the  
345 Department with improving and developing the area in the LeFleur's  
346 Bluff Education and Tourism Complex and in coordination with the  
347 Mississippi Children's Museum, and the Department of Finance and  
348 Administration in order to promote tourism, education, and  
349 recreational activity that contributes to community well-being for  
350 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025..  
351 .....\$       13,000,000.00.

352       Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
353 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
354 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
355 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
356 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
357 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

358           **SECTION 29.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
359 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital  
360 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of  
361 Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks the purpose of reauthorizing the  
362 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1617,  
363 2023 Regular Session for the purpose of providing equipment for  
364 the agency for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
365 June 30, 2025.....\$           1,100,000.00.

366           Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
367 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
368 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
369 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
370 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
371 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

372           **SECTION 30.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Eight  
373 Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,100,000.00) may be  
374 provided from the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund.  
375 These funds are available for completing projects awarded to the  
376 Department by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Outdoor  
377 Stewardship Trust Fund.

378           **SECTION 31.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
379 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
380 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
381 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
382 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
383 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

384           **SECTION 32.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
385 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed June 29, 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 SUPPORT AND  
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS FOR  
3 THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

SS15\HB1791A.J

Amanda White  
Secretary of the Senate