

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1748

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 special fund in
7 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Board of
8 Nursing, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the board
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30,
10 2026.....\$ 5,307,890.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
12 Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

13 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:
14 Permanent: 36
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 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds
19 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
20 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 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 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025
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 2026 do
37 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
38 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 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.** Of the funds provided for herein, One Million
60 Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,560,000.00) shall be
61 provided for the Office of Nursing Workforce (ONW). In accordance
62 with Section 73-15-18(1), Mississippi Code of 1972, the
63 Mississippi Board of Nursing is designated as the state agency
64 responsible for the administration and supervision of the Nursing
65 Workforce Program as an educational curriculum. The mission of
66 the Office of Nursing Workforce is to carry out the scope of
67 service and leadership tasks required of the profession by
68 promoting a strong educational infrastructure between nursing
69 practice and nursing education.

70 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds provided under the provisions of
71 this act, an amount not to exceed One Hundred Five Thousand
72 Dollars (\$105,000.00) may be allocated to the Mississippi Board of

73 Pharmacy to defray the expenses of the Mississippi Prescription
74 Monitoring Program.

75 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
76 funds are appropriated here in accordance with a signed Memorandum
77 of Understanding with the Mississippi Department of Health to
78 assist with the implementation of the Medical Cannabis Act for
79 registering and monitoring compliance with the rules and
80 regulations of the Act.

81 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
82 Mississippi Board of Nursing shall maintain complete accounting
83 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
84 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
85 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
86 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
87 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to
88 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
89 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
90 during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

91 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
92 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
93 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
94 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
95 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
96 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
97 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
98 made without competitive bids.

99 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
100 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
101 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
102 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
103 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
104 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
105 actions contrary to this provision.

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, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after
114 June 30, 2025.

**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 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE
3 MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

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Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate