

By: Representatives Oliver, Read, Arnold,
Boyd (19th), Hines, Mangold, Massengill,
Roberson, Scoggin

To: Appropriations E;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1936

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL
3 TELEVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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 purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television
9 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending
10 June 30, 2027.....\$ 4,713,259.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
13 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Authority for
14 Educational Television which is comprised of special source funds
15 collected by or otherwise available to the Authority, for the
16 purpose of defraying the expenses of the Authority for the fiscal
17 year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.....
18\$ 8,419,652.00.



19 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
20 this act, not more than the following amount of funds, with the
21 exception of the provisions in this section, shall be expended
22 only for "Personal Services," which includes "Vacancy Funding,"
23 for the following authorized number of employment headcount:

24 FUNDING:

25 General Funds:	\$ 4,713,259.00
26 Special Funds:	\$ 1,835,463.00
27 Total Funds:	\$ 6,548,722.00

28 PERSONAL SERVICES:

29 Employee Salaries, Wages and	
30 Fringe Benefits:	\$ 5,893,850.00
31 Progressions:	\$ 0.00
32 Vacancy Funding:	\$ 654,872.00
33 Total Personal Services:	\$ 6,548,722.00

34 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

35 Permanent:	80
36 Time-Limited:	7

37 As used in this section, the term "Personal Services" shall
38 mean funds provided under the major object of expenditure category
39 Personal Services for Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits. Funds
40 in this category shall not be transferred to any other category.

41 It is the intention of the Legislature to ensure compliance
42 with the Variable Compensation Plan, as outlined in Section
43 25-9-147, Mississippi Code of 1972. Payment from these funds shall



44 be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan promulgated
45 by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the Legislature's
46 intention that no employee's salary falls below the minimum salary
47 established by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

48 The State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the
49 projected annual cost of "Personal Services" based on monthly and
50 year-to-date payroll expenditures in compliance with the
51 provisions of this act.

52 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
53 responsibility to ensure that no single personnel action or
54 combination of personnel actions, when annualized, exceeds the
55 Fiscal Year 2027 appropriation for "Personal Services" with the
56 exception of escalated funds. Further, it shall be the agency's
57 responsibility to ensure that funds required to be appropriated
58 for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2028 do not exceed Fiscal
59 Year 2027 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or
60 positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2027 budget by the
61 Mississippi Legislature.

62 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change
63 "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the
64 agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the
65 agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when
66 annualized for Fiscal Year 2027 or increase the need for "Personal
67 Services" for Fiscal Year 2028, when annualized, the State
68 Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as



69 the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with
70 the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the
71 agency.

72 When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds
73 included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and
74 designated for approved vacancies in Fiscal Year 2027. These funds
75 are to be utilized to increase the number of filled headcounts
76 that were authorized but unfilled as of the last day of Fiscal
77 Year 2026. If the agency fills additional headcounts after
78 February 1, 2026, until the end of Fiscal Year 2026, the amount of
79 available Vacancy Funding may be proportionally adjusted to
80 reflect the updated number of filled headcounts. The agency shall
81 be responsible for ensuring that "Vacancy Funding" is used to
82 increase headcounts and not for promotions, title changes,
83 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
84 salaries for current employees.

85 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
86 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
87 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
88 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions or increase the
89 Personal Services total without written approval from the
90 Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of
91 Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to
92 escalate any funds for salaries and/or headcounts without proof of
93 availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated



94 level. Unless specifically noted, all Fiscal Year 2026 escalated
95 headcounts have been accounted for and shall be converted to
96 authorized time-limited headcounts.

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

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

105 If the agency's total authorized headcount decreases from
106 Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2027, it will be the agency's
107 discretion as to what headcounts are removed.

108 **SECTION 4.** Funds appropriated herein shall first be used for
109 the continuation of a full and complete broadcast schedule of
110 educational and instructional, professional growth, and public
111 service programs, with the production of new films and programs to
112 be secondary thereto.

113 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
114 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall maintain
115 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
116 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
117 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as
118 maintained for Fiscal Year 2027. It is further the intention of



119 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
120 2028 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
121 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
122 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request
123 process.

124 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
125 Section 2, Two Million One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred
126 Sixty-six Dollars (\$2,118,966.00) shall be derived from the
127 Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75
128 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

129 **SECTION 7.** No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be
130 transferred to, expended by, or used, directly or indirectly, for
131 the benefit of any public relations, publicity or publication
132 activities of any other state agency, department or officer, nor
133 shall any personnel paid or equipment purchased with funds
134 appropriated hereby be transferred or assigned to any other state
135 agency, department or officer for public relations, publicity or
136 publication activities of such office.

137 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
138 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television shall have the
139 authority to expend funds in the Capital Equipment Replacement
140 Revolving Fund, in accordance with Section 37-63-17, Mississippi
141 Code of 1972, for the purpose of purchasing technical equipment
142 for operating the educational radio and television facilities.



143 **SECTION 9.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
 144 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
 145 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
 146 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
 147 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
 148 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
 149 performance measures provided below:

	FY2027
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
152 Content Operations	
153 Number of Locally Produced TV Programs	115
154 Number of Locally Produced Radio Programs	988
155 Number of Monthly Average Number of Web	
156 Site Users	25,000
157 Percent of Radio Broadcasts and TV	
158 Alerts During Times of Emergency	100.00
159 Education Services	
160 Percent Increase of Users Accessing	
161 MPB's Online Resources for Pre-K	
162 Children and Families	15.00
163 Number of Students Participating in the	
164 DEN Classroom	2,000
165 Number of School Districts Participating	
166 in the DEN Classroom	30
167 Number of Teachers Taking e-Learning Courses	1,300



168	Number of Teacher Continuing Education	
169	Units (CEUs) Provided by e-Learning	
170	Courses Offered	3,000
171	Number of Educators Attending MPB	
172	Resource Workshops Involving PBS and MPB	
173	Programs/Content	1,240
174	Technical Services	
175	Number of Transmitters On Air	8
176	On-Air Reliability	99.95
177	Number of IT Help Desk Orders Filled	835
178	Administration	
179	Number of Community Engagements/Outreach	
180	Events	150
181	Number of State Agency Partners	40
182	New Grant Dollars Acquired	75,000.00

183 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
184 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
185 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
186 Committee for Fiscal Year 2028.

187 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
188 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
189 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
190 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
191 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
192 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to



193 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
194 made without competitive bids.

195 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that an
196 amount equal to One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per square foot
197 shall be paid to the Executive Office of the State Board of
198 Institutions of Higher Learning to defray utility costs.

199 **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
200 Authority for Educational Television may fund a program to focus
201 on the manufacturing industry in Mississippi.

202 **SECTION 13.** Mississippi Authority for Educational Television
203 is authorized to accept and expend any grant, donation, or
204 contribution from any individual, public, or private organization,
205 or government entity for purposes of defraying the operational
206 costs of the department. Such grants, donations or contributions
207 shall be received and expended under the rules and regulations of
208 the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner
209 consistent with the escalation of federal funds not to exceed Two
210 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

211 **SECTION 14.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
212 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education
213 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Educational
214 Television Authority for the purpose of reauthorizing the
215 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House
216 Bill 43, 2025 First Extraordinary Session, for digitalization of



217 educational content and Mississippi history, for the fiscal year
218 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.....
219\$ 522,968.00.

220 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under the
221 provisions of this section, in no event shall the amount expended
222 exceed the unexpended balance as of June 30, 2026. In addition,
223 this reappropriation shall not change the purpose for which the
224 funds were originally authorized.

225 **SECTION 15.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
226 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
227 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
228 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
229 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
230 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

231 **SECTION 16.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
232 and after July 1, 2026.

