

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1935

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:

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
7 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in the State
8 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
9 funding K-12 and other related educational activities, including
10 certain agencies and programs, in the State of Mississippi, for
11 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027,
12 as follows:

13 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
14 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education, and
15 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
16 Division.....\$ 205,232,483.00.

17 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
18 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
19 Division of the State Department of Education.....
20\$ 92,478,543.00.

21 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
22 paying annual compensation to the Chickasaw Cession counties for

23 sixteenth section lands which they lost through sale by the state,
24 as provided in Sections 29-3-137 through 29-3-141, Mississippi
25 Code of 1972.....\$ 21,623,074.00.

26 (d) To the State Board of Education for defraying the
27 expenses of the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.....
28\$ 2,697,507,291.00.

29 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
30 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 3,016,841,391.00.

31 **SECTION 2.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
32 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in any special
33 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or
34 funds of the agencies or programs specified in the following
35 paragraphs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending
36 June 30, 2027, as follows:

37 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
38 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education,
39 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
40 Division.....\$ 2,013,054,634.00.

41 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
42 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
43 Division of the State Department of Education.....
44\$ 22,725,318.00.

45 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
46 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.
47\$ 268,025,562.00.

48 TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPECIAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED

49 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,303,805,514.00.

50 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One
51 Hundred Twenty-six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-two Dollars
52 (\$126,472.00), or so much of that sum as may be necessary, is
53 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit
54 of the Health Care Expendable Fund to the State Department of
55 Education for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
56 department for the Mississippi Eye Screening Program for providing
57 vision safety services.

58 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the
59 following sums, or so much of those sums as may be necessary, are
60 derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of
61 the Education Enhancement Fund pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and
62 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as follows:

63 (a) To the State Department of Education, excluding the
64 expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division, for
65 the following purposes:

66	Literacy Initiative and Assessment.....	\$ 6,805,774.00
67	Educable Child.....	\$ 9,500,000.00
68	Grants to school districts for	
69	capital facilities and buses.....	\$ 16,000,000.00
70	Instructional materials.....	\$ 25,000,000.00
71	Students with Special Needs.....	\$ 5,014,826.00
72	Implementing Performance-Based Data	
73	Collection and Accreditation	
74	Model.....	\$ 274,937.00

75	Testing.....	\$ 11,311,116.00
76	Mississippi School for Math and	
77	Science.....	\$ 1,131,000.00
78	Mississippi School for Fine Arts.	\$ 927,632.00
79	Early Learning Collaboratives.....	\$ 21,210,526.00
80	Other Early Learning Programs.....	\$ 13,000,000.00
81	Early Learning Coaches.....	\$ 4,254,299.00
82	Math Coaches.....	\$ 5,000,000.00
83	WorkKeys.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
84	Advanced Placement, Dual Credits,	
85	International Baccalaureate,	
86	Cambridge Diploma Endorsements.....	\$ 300,000.00
87	Vocational Technical Grants.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
88	Mississippi School for the Deaf	
89	and Blind.....	\$ 1,557,037.00
90	Mississippi Teacher Residency Program.....	\$ 3,500,000.00
91	Special Education Teacher Supplement.....	\$ 7,304,105.00
92	TOTAL.....	\$ 134,091,252.00

93 (b) To the State Department of Education to defray the
94 expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division.....
95\$ 6,637,258.00.

96 (c) To the State Department of Education to provide
97 funding for the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.....
98\$ 268,025,562.00.

99 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
100 this act, not more than the following amount of funds, with the

101 exception of the provisions in this section, shall be expended
102 only for "Personal Services," which includes "Vacancy Funding,"
103 for the following authorized number of employment headcount:

104 FUNDING:

105	General Funds:	\$ 20,907,446.00
106	Special Funds:	\$ 17,979,809.00
107	Total Funds:	\$ 38,887,255.00

108 PERSONAL SERVICES:

109	Employee Salaries, Wages and	
110	Fringe Benefits:	\$ 36,663,622.00
111	Progressions:	\$ 613,282.00
112	Vacancy Funding:	\$ 1,610,351.00
113	Total Personal Services:	\$ 38,887,255.00

114 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

115	Permanent:	353
116	Time-Limited:	124

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

121 It is the intention of the Legislature to ensure compliance
122 with the Variable Compensation Plan, as outlined in Section
123 25-9-147, Mississippi Code of 1972. Payment from these funds
124 shall be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan
125 promulgated by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the
126 Legislature's intention that no employee's salary falls below the

127 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel
128 Board.

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

133 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
134 responsibility to ensure that no single personnel action or
135 combination of personnel actions, when annualized, exceeds the
136 Fiscal Year 2027 appropriation for "Personal Services" with the
137 exception of escalated funds. Further, it shall be the agency's
138 responsibility to ensure that funds required to be appropriated
139 for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2028 do not exceed Fiscal
140 Year 2027 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or
141 positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2027 budget by the
142 Mississippi Legislature.

143 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change
144 "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the
145 agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the
146 agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when
147 annualized for Fiscal Year 2027 or increase the need for "Personal
148 Services" for Fiscal Year 2028, when annualized, the State
149 Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as
150 the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with
151 the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the
152 agency.

153 When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds
154 included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and
155 designated for approved vacancies in Fiscal Year 2027. These
156 funds are to be utilized to increase the number of filled
157 headcounts that were authorized but unfilled as of the last day of
158 Fiscal Year 2026. If the agency fills additional headcounts after
159 March 1, 2026, until the end of Fiscal Year 2026, the amount of
160 available Vacancy Funding may be proportionally adjusted to
161 reflect the updated number of filled headcounts. The agency shall
162 be responsible for ensuring that "Vacancy Funding" is used to
163 increase headcounts and not for promotions, title changes,
164 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
165 salaries for current employees.

166 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
167 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
168 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
169 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions or increase the
170 Personal Services total without written approval from the
171 Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of
172 Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to
173 escalate any funds for salaries and/or headcounts without proof of
174 availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated
175 level. Unless specifically noted, all Fiscal Year 2026 escalated
176 headcounts have been accounted for and shall be converted to
177 authorized time-limited headcounts.

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

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

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

189 With the funds herein appropriated, the Legislature has
190 authorized progressions for attendance officers employed by the
191 department in order to support of a Five Thousand Dollar
192 (\$5,000.00) increase in the salaries authorized in general law for
193 eligible employees.

194 The Legislature authorized twenty-three (23) new headcount,
195 which is included in the authorized headcount above for Fiscal
196 Year 2027.

197 New Headcount Titles Authorized:

198 Education Program Specialist Job Classification (13)

199 General Management Job Classification (1)

200 School Attendance Officer Job Classification (9)

201 **SECTION 6.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
202 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
203 the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be

204 utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to
 205 achieve the intended mission of the State Department of Education,
 206 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
 207 Division. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make
 208 every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided
 209 below:

210	FY2027
211 <u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
212 Special Education	
213 Number of Special Education Teachers (FTE)	6,500
214 Number of Gifted Education Teachers	750
215 Percent of Children with Disabilities in	
216 General Education Early Childhood	
217 Programs while Decreasing the Percent in	
218 Self-Contained Special Education Early	
219 Childhood Classrooms	76.00
220 General Administration	
221 Total Dollars Spent on General	
222 Administration	16,000,000.00
223 Percent of Total Budget Spent on General	
224 Administration	10.00
225 Create a Public-Facing Data System for	
226 All Stakeholders	100.00
227 Create a User-Friendly Website for the	
228 Public and School Districts to Access	
229 Data to Make Decisions	100.00

230	Create a Roadmap to Improve the	
231	Mississippi Student Information System	100.00
232	Number of Research Results Published to	
233	Support Improved Student Outcomes and	
234	Teacher Effectiveness	9
235	Graduation & Career Readiness	
236	Percent of Students Graduating from High	
237	School Ready for College or Career in	
238	Each Subgroup	100.00
239	Early Childhood Education	
240	Percent of Kindergarten Students	
241	Achieving End-Of-Year Target Score on	
242	Kindergarten Readiness Post-Test	100.00
243	Percent of Early Learning Collaborative	
244	Sites Meeting Required Rate of Readiness	100.00
245	Number of Students Enrolled in Title I	
246	or Locally Funded Pre-K Classes	3,500
247	Teacher Tng & Professional Dev	
248	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
249	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	31.00
250	Percent of Districts Reporting	
251	Professional Growth System (PGS) Ratings	
252	for Teachers and Leaders	100.00
253	Percent of Teacher Candidates Passing	
254	Licensure Exams on the First Attempt	75.00
255	Elementary Education	

256	Percent Increase of Students who Pass	
257	the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment at the	
258	First Administration in Each Subgroup	78.00
259	Secondary Education	
260	Increase the Number of Students	
261	Participating in and Passing Advanced	
262	Placement (AP), International	
263	Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Exams	
264	in Each Subgroup	60.00
265	Percent of Students Ready for College as	
266	Measured by Meeting ACT Benchmarks in	
267	Each Content Area (Public School Class	
268	Data, Grade 11)	90.00
269	Assessment & Development	
270	Percent of Students Proficient (Levels	
271	4-5) on Statewide Assessments (Grades	
272	3-8 & High School Composite) in Each	
273	Subgroup	80.00
274	Percent of Students Scoring Levels 1-3	
275	on Statewide Assessments in Each	
276	Subgroup	20.00
277	Percent of Pre-Kindergarten Students in	
278	Public Schools Attaining Kindergarten	
279	Readiness on the Pre-K End-Of-Year	
280	Assessment	90.00
281	School Performance	

282	Percent of Schools Rated "C" or Higher	90.00
283	Percent of Districts Rated "C" or Higher	90.00
284	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
285	on Statewide ELA Assessments in Each	
286	Subgroup	70.00
287	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
288	on Statewide Math Assessments in Each	
289	Subgroup	75.00
290	Percent of Students Participating in	
291	Dual Credit in Each Subgroup	60.00
292	Percent of Students Passing Dual Credit	
293	in Each Subgroup	98.00
294	Increase the Growth of D and F Districts	
295	Demonstrating Growth, by Improving the	
296	Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
297	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	80.00
298	Increase the Growth of D and F Schools	
299	by Improving the Letter Grade and/or	
300	Increasing the Number of Points within a	
301	Letter Grade	80.00
302	Increase the Growth of Districts of	
303	Transformation by Improving the Letter	
304	Grade and/or Increasing the Number of	
305	Points within a Letter Grade	100.00
306	Increase the Growth of Schools Under	
307	Districts of Transformation by Improving	

308 the Letter Grade and/or Increasing the
309 Number of Points within a Letter Grade 100.00
310 Number of High Schools Rated D or F 10

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

315 **SECTION 7.** No school district shall expend any funds,
316 received under the School Ad Valorem Reduction Grant, unless such
317 school district has specifically identified the amount of the
318 grant within the published budget as required by Section 37-61-9,
319 Mississippi Code of 1972. The published budget shall include the
320 following statement: "Ad Valorem taxes will be \$_____ less as
321 a result of the Ad Valorem Reduction Grants enacted by the
322 Mississippi Legislature in 1992."

323 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in
324 the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from
325 income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement
326 Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of
327 1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for
328 the School for Math and Science.

329 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
330 this act, not more than the following amount of funds, with the
331 exception of the provisions in this section, shall be expended
332 only for "Personal Services," which includes "Vacancy Funding,"
333 for the following authorized number of employment headcount:

334 FUNDING:
335 General Funds: \$ 3,560,928.00
336 Special Funds: \$ 503,683.00
337 Total Funds: \$ 4,064,611.00

338 PERSONAL SERVICES:
339 Employee Salaries, Wages and
340 Fringe Benefits: \$ 3,658,150.00
341 Progressions: \$ 0.00
342 Vacancy Funding: \$ 406,461.00
343 Total Personal Services: \$ 4,064,611.00

344 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:
345 Permanent: 48
346 Time-Limited: 5

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

351 It is the intention of the Legislature to ensure compliance
352 with the Variable Compensation Plan, as outlined in Section
353 25-9-147, Mississippi Code of 1972. Payment from these funds
354 shall be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan
355 promulgated by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the
356 Legislature's intention that no employee's salary falls below the
357 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel
358 Board.

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

363 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
364 responsibility to ensure that no single personnel action or
365 combination of personnel actions, when annualized, exceeds the
366 Fiscal Year 2027 appropriation for "Personal Services" with the
367 exception of escalated funds. Further, it shall be the agency's
368 responsibility to ensure that funds required to be appropriated
369 for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2028 do not exceed Fiscal
370 Year 2027 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or
371 positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2027 budget by the
372 Mississippi Legislature.

373 If, at the time the agency takes any action to change
374 "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the
375 agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the
376 agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when
377 annualized for Fiscal Year 2027 or increase the need for "Personal
378 Services" for Fiscal Year 2028, when annualized, the State
379 Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as
380 the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with
381 the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the
382 agency.

383 When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds
384 included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and

385 designated for approved vacancies in Fiscal Year 2027. These
386 funds are to be utilized to increase the number of filled
387 headcounts that were authorized but unfilled as of the last day of
388 Fiscal Year 2026. If the agency fills additional headcounts after
389 March 1, 2026, until the end of Fiscal Year 2026, the amount of
390 available Vacancy Funding may be proportionally adjusted to
391 reflect the updated number of filled headcounts. The agency shall
392 be responsible for ensuring that "Vacancy Funding" is used to
393 increase headcounts and not for promotions, title changes,
394 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
395 salaries for current employees.

396 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
397 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
398 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
399 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions or increase the
400 Personal Services total without written approval from the
401 Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of
402 Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to
403 escalate any funds for salaries and/or headcounts without proof of
404 availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated
405 level. Unless specifically noted, all Fiscal Year 2026 escalated
406 headcounts have been accounted for and shall be converted to
407 authorized time-limited headcounts.

408 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
409 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for

410 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are
411 withdrawn and no longer available.

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

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

419 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
420 not to exceed One Million Twenty-three Thousand Five Hundred
421 Seventy-four Dollars (\$1,023,574.00) is authorized for the support
422 of vocational and technical education programs as authorized in
423 Section 37-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a period in excess
424 of ten (10) months in a calendar year.

425 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
426 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State
427 Department of Education shall, with the funds appropriated in
428 Section 1, transfer no more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars
429 (\$75,000.00) to the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation
430 Commission for the purpose of providing matching funds to purchase
431 soil conservation equipment.

432 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), no
433 more than One Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00)
434 is provided for the purpose of supporting the Future Farmers of
435 America Center.

436 **SECTION 13.** The State Department of Education shall transfer
437 the designated amounts to the appropriate entities, which shall
438 assume full responsibility for the expenditure of these funds in
439 accordance with state laws and accept all responsibility for any
440 improper expenditure, for the following:

441	Detention Centers.....	\$	3,000,000.00.
442	Dyslexia Program.....	\$	225,000.00.
443	Magnolia Speech School.....	\$	1,000,000.00.
444	Sight Savers.....	\$	475,000.00.
445	Teach for America.....	\$	860,000.00.
446	Teacher Corp and Principal Corp.....	\$	300,000.00.
447	Vision Screening Research.....	\$	325,000.00.
448	Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia.....	\$	200,000.00.
449	Mississippi Construction Education Program.....	\$	212,500.00.
450	T. K. Martin Center.....	\$	100,000.00.
451	JumpStart Act.....	\$	225,000.00.
452	Mastery Prep.....	\$	225,000.00.
453	Arts for All Mississippi.....	\$	50,000.00.
454	Reading Clinic.....	\$	700,000.00.
455	TOTAL.....	\$	7,897,500.00.

456 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of
457 the funds provided for Other Early Learning Programs in Section
458 4(a), Thirteen Million Dollars (\$13,000,000.00) is included for
459 the Mississippi Department of Education to provide grant
460 opportunities for Other Early Learning Programs through public

461 schools including other public school preschool programs not
462 participating in Early Learning Collaboratives.

463 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
464 not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
465 (\$1,500,000.00) shall be used for technological methods for
466 agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic
467 engineering programs and equipment upgrades and Mississippi
468 Elementary (ME) STEM and STEAM programs from the Career and
469 Technical Education Division of the State Department of Education.
470 All programs must meet Mississippi Science Standards and/or
471 College and Career Standards.

472 Of the funds appropriated in this section, an amount not to
473 exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be distributed to
474 the Mississippi State University Center for Cyber Education and
475 used for computer science programs development and teacher
476 training for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools
477 for the purpose of developing K-12 computer science curricula,
478 including both academic and career and technical education
479 programs, developing and delivering teacher training, and working
480 with the State Board of Education and Institutions of Higher
481 Learning in the state to develop teacher preparation programs for
482 computer science endorsements. All programs must meet the 2018
483 Mississippi Computer Science Standards and/or Mississippi College
484 and Career Standards.

485 **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
486 computer science courses may be taught by certified teacher or for

487 elementary level classes, computer science courses may be taught
488 by teachers who are trained by the district in computer science
489 instruction.

490 **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum
491 of Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-one Dollars (\$62,191.00),
492 which is the aggregate sum that the school districts in the
493 Chickasaw Cession receive annually from interest payments from the
494 Chickasaw School Fund under Section 212, Mississippi Constitution
495 of 1890, shall be deducted from the allocations to the school
496 districts as provided in Section 29-3-137, Mississippi Code of
497 1972, and shall be distributed among the school districts in the
498 Chickasaw Cession by the State Department of Education in the
499 manner that those interest payments were distributed during Fiscal
500 Year 1985.

501 **SECTION 18.** Of the funds provided in this act for the
502 purpose of funding the Mississippi Student Funding Formula, the
503 Student Base Amount in Fiscal Year 2027 shall be Six Thousand Nine
504 Hundred Sixty-one Dollars and Forty-five Cents (\$6,961.45).

505 **SECTION 19.** With the funds provided in this act, it is the
506 intention of the Legislature that School Attendance Officers and
507 academic teachers at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the
508 Mississippi School for the Blind shall receive their annual
509 increment.

510 **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
511 State Board of Education shall maintain complete accounting and
512 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds

513 appropriated in this act and that those records shall be in the
514 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
515 2026. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
516 budget requests for Fiscal Year 2028 shall be submitted to the
517 Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail
518 comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the
519 Fiscal Year 2027 budget request process for each agency and
520 institution appropriated funds within the provisions of this act.

521 **SECTION 21.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) to the
522 State Board of Education, not less than Twenty-four Million Eighty
523 Thousand Dollars (\$24,080,000.00) shall be used for National Board
524 Certification. Of this amount, Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars
525 (\$700,000.00) shall be used for the World Class Teacher Program
526 providing instruction and assistance to teachers seeking National
527 Board Certification.

528 **SECTION 22.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and
529 Section 4(a) not less than Seventeen Million Five Hundred
530 Fifty-eight Thousand Dollars (\$17,558,000.00) shall be used for
531 the Educable Child Program. It is the intention of the
532 Legislature that the State Board of Education shall allocate
533 funding for the Educable Child Program based upon a recalculated
534 formula in a manner to include only those billable days funded
535 through appropriation of state funds and not District funds. It
536 is the intent of the Legislature that the Educable Child funds
537 shall be exempt from budget cuts made to the Department of
538 Education by the Legislature and/or the Office of the Governor.

539 **SECTION 23.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 4(a), not
540 less than Five Million Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-six
541 Dollars (\$5,014,826.00) shall be used for the Education
542 Scholarship Account (ESA) Program. It is the intent of the
543 Legislature that the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) funds
544 shall not be reduced by the State Department of Education and/or
545 the Office of the Governor.

546 **SECTION 24.** The public school districts of the state are
547 authorized at their discretion to pay with local funds one hundred
548 percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance premiums of the
549 State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan for all retired
550 members of the Public Employees' Retirement System who are
551 employed as school bus drivers by the school districts. It is the
552 intention of the Legislature that no state funds shall be used for
553 this purpose.

554 **SECTION 25.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
555 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
556 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
557 stated in those received bids are equal with respect to price,
558 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
559 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
560 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
561 made without competitive bids.

562 **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, not less
563 than Seven Million Three Hundred Eighty-three Thousand Seven
564 Hundred Four Dollars (\$7,383,704.00) shall be used for the

565 Compulsory School Attendance Office and Student Success and
566 Graduation Coaches to employ (1) one school attendance officer for
567 every four thousand (4,000) compulsory-school-aged children, as
568 defined in Section 37-13-91(2) (f), Mississippi Code of 1972.

569 **SECTION 27.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the
570 intention of the Legislature that Three Million Sixty Thousand
571 Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) shall be used for the Mary
572 Kirkpatrick-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program. The
573 amount of Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) is
574 provided from the Department of Health.

575 **SECTION 28.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
576 State Board of Education shall charge a fee for room and board for
577 students who enroll in the Mississippi School for Mathematics and
578 Science and the Mississippi School of Arts. Such fees will be
579 waived for any student enrolled in the State Children's Health
580 Insurance Program. The amount of such fees shall be Five Hundred
581 Dollars (\$500.00) for each semester.

582 **SECTION 29.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
583 eligible employee who meets the National Board requirements under
584 Section 37-19-7(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be paid the
585 full supplement and that such supplement shall be included on a
586 prorated basis in the employee's monthly paycheck.

587 **SECTION 30.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
588 Mississippi Department of Education may loan any general or
589 special source fund amount, not to exceed Five Million Dollars
590 (\$5,000,000.00), to any school district for the purpose of

591 providing funds to school districts through the Emergency
592 Assistance Fund as outlined in Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code
593 of 1972, during the period beginning July 1, 2026, and ending
594 June 30, 2027. The school districts receiving these loans shall
595 repay the Mississippi Department of Education the amount of the
596 loan on or before June 30, 2027.

597 **SECTION 31.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
598 Million One Hundred Sixty-five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Dollars
599 (\$2,165,290.00) is provided for the operation of a State-Wide
600 Synchronous Instructional Project.

601 **SECTION 32.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Seven
602 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be transferred to the
603 Board of Health no later than December 31, 2026.

604 **SECTION 33.** Any school district receiving funds through Save
605 the Children may provide a ten percent (10%) match from local
606 funds for implementation of the program.

607 **SECTION 34.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
608 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi
609 Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant
610 program. A portion of these funds not to exceed one percent (1%)
611 may be used for training and administrative costs related to
612 oversight and auditing of the program.

613 **SECTION 35.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
614 Section 2(a), Twenty-nine Million Dollars (\$29,000,000.00) is
615 provided for an Early Childhood Education Initiative program. The
616 funding shall be provided to early learning collaboratives in

617 Fiscal Year 2027 as follows: no less than Two Thousand Five
618 Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) per student in a full-day program and
619 no less than One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00)
620 per student in a half-day program. Funds must be matched as
621 provided by Section 37-21-51, Mississippi Code of 1972.

622 **SECTION 36.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
623 Section 4(a), Fifteen Million Ninety-four Thousand Five Hundred
624 Dollars (\$15,094,500.00) shall be used for the Literacy Initiative
625 and Assessment and monitoring and evaluating the adoption and
626 implementation of high-quality instructional materials that have
627 been reviewed through the approved state process and distributed
628 through regional textbook depository as outlined in Section
629 37-43-23, Mississippi Code of 1972.

630 **SECTION 37.** Of the funds appropriated herein, funding is
631 provided for the ACT test, which is the college readiness portion
632 of the state accountability model.

633 **SECTION 38.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
634 Million Eight Hundred Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-four
635 Dollars (\$2,811,474.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School
636 of the Arts and Four Million One Hundred Twelve Thousand Nine
637 Hundred Four Dollars (\$4,112,904.00) shall be used for the
638 Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science. It is the
639 intention of the Legislature that of the funds appropriated in
640 Section 1(a) for the Mississippi School of the Arts, One Million
641 Four Hundred Five Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-seven Dollars
642 (\$1,405,737.00) shall be paid to the school no later than July 10,

643 2026, and One Million Four Hundred Five Thousand Seven Hundred
644 Thirty-seven Dollars (\$1,405,737.00) shall be paid no later than
645 January 10, 2027. All funds appropriated from Section 4(a) for
646 the Mississippi School of the Arts shall be paid to the school
647 each month within ten (10) working days after such amount was
648 received by the Department of Education. It is the intention of
649 the Legislature that the State Board of Education shall not reduce
650 the appropriated amounts provided in this act for the Mississippi
651 School of the Arts and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and
652 Science.

653 **SECTION 39.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) and
654 Section 2(b), Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is
655 provided for career and technical grants to schools for qualified
656 students as authorized by Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of
657 1972.

658 **SECTION 40.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, the
659 following amounts shall be available to the Schools for the Blind
660 and Deaf: Ten Million Seven Hundred Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred
661 Nineteen Dollars (\$10,711,919.00) from Section 1(a), One Million
662 Five Hundred Fifty-seven Thousand Thirty-seven Dollars
663 (\$1,557,037.00) from Section 4(a), and Two Million Four Hundred
664 Fifty-nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-five Dollars
665 (\$2,459,725.00) from Section 2(a).

666 **SECTION 41.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
667 not to exceed Four Million Two Hundred Thirty-eight Thousand Five
668 Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$4,238,525.00) is authorized to fully

669 fund the contract between the Department of Education and the
670 Research & Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to fund
671 career and technical curricula, services to secondary schools and
672 career and technical assessments.

673 **SECTION 42.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) to the
674 State Board of Education, Six Hundred Ninety-six Thousand Four
675 Hundred Two Dollars (\$696,402.00) is provided for secondary career
676 and technical education instructors teaching at post-secondary
677 institutions.

678 **SECTION 43.** In addition to all other funds appropriated
679 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
680 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to
681 the credit of the Charter School Authorizer Board for operational
682 expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending
683 June 30, 2027.....\$ 1,403,231.00.

684 **SECTION 44.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b), One
685 Million Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-two
686 Dollars (\$1,432,872.00) shall be provided for new Career and
687 Technical Education Programs as determined by the Division of
688 Vocational and Technical Education at the Mississippi Department
689 of Education. Of the funds appropriated to the department for
690 these programs, no amount shall be expended by the department to
691 defray administrative costs.

692 **SECTION 45.** The Mississippi Department of Education shall
693 provide an annual report detailing the funding of industry
694 certifications and the anticipated industry certifications that

695 will be achieved in the upcoming fiscal year to the Legislative
696 Budget Office and the Legislature no later than January 15, 2027.

697 **SECTION 46.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
698 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education
699 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Mississippi
700 Department of Education for the purpose of reauthorizing the
701 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House
702 Bill No. 42, 2025 First Extraordinary Session, for the fiscal year
703 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027..\$ 37,784,112.00.

704 This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
705 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

- 706 a. Instructional Materials.....\$ 3,403,478.00.
- 707 b. Early Learning Collaboratives.....\$ 20,935,632.00.
- 708 c. Other Early Learning Programs.....\$ 13,445,002.00.

709 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
710 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
711 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
712 remaining as of June 30, 2026, from the amount authorized for the
713 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
714 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

715 **SECTION 47.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), One
716 Hundred Twenty-one Thousand Dollars (\$121,000.00) is provided to
717 the Department of Education to incorporate financial literacy
718 components within the existing curriculum offered in grades 6-8 in
719 accordance with the J.P. Wilemon, Jr., Financial Literacy Act.

720 **SECTION 48.** Of the funds appropriated in Sections 1(a) and
721 1(b), an amount not to exceed One Hundred Two Million Two Hundred
722 Four Thousand One Hundred Eighty-three Dollars (\$102,204,183.00)
723 shall be allocated for the purpose of providing funds to each
724 public school district in the state as prescribed in the Minimum
725 Salary Schedule in Section 37-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, for
726 the 2026-2027 school year, and school years thereafter.

727 **SECTION 49.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2(a), Seven
728 Million Three Hundred Four Thousand One Hundred Five Dollars
729 (\$7,304,105.00) is provided for the annual salary supplement for
730 each licensed special education teacher employed by a school
731 district on a full-time basis and specifically providing special
732 education instruction.

733 **SECTION 50.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
734 eligible professional school counselor employee who meets the year
735 of teaching experience requirements under Section 37-151-5(m),
736 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be considered having a year of
737 experience for purposes of the annual experience salary increment.

738 **SECTION 51.** The money appropriated in this act shall be paid
739 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or
740 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State
741 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue warrants
742 upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or officers
743 in the manner provided by law.

744 **SECTION 52.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
745 and after July 1, 2026, and shall stand repealed from and after
746 June 30, 2026.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING
2 K-12 AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CERTAIN
3 AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE FISCAL
4 YEAR 2027.

SS15\HB1935A.J

Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate