

**Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1936**

**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 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 .....\$           9,019,652.00.

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:

150		FY2027
151	<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.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the  
226 following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is derived

227 from the Education Enhancement Fund pursuant to Sections 27-65-75  
228 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.....\$ 600,000.00.

229 These funds are provided for repairs and replacements at  
230 microwave tower sites.

231 **SECTION 16.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
232 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
233 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
234 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
235 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
236 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

237 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
238 and after July 1, 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 DEFRAYING  
2 THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL  
3 TELEVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027.

SS15\HB1936A.J

Amanda White  
Secretary of the Senate