

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1785: Appropriation; Pat Harrison Waterway District.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

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 authorized and approved for expenditure out of any
7 funds which are received by or otherwise become available to the
8 Pat Harrison Waterway District, for the purpose of defraying the
9 expenses of the district for the fiscal year beginning
10 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
11\$ 8,055,463.00.

12 **SECTION 2.** Of the funds approved for expenditure under the
13 provisions of Section 1, the following positions are authorized:

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 55

16 Time-Limited: 0

17 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
18 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal

19 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds
20 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
21 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi
22 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
23 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
24 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
25 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
26 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024
27 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
28 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
29 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
30 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
31 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
32 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
33 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

34 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
35 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
36 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
37 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
38 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
39 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the
40 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
41 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
42 essential for the agency.

43 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
44 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
45 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
46 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
47 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
48 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
49 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
50 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
51 appropriated level.

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

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

60 **SECTION 3.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
61 Pat Harrison Waterway District shall maintain complete accounting
62 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
63 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
64 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
65 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
66 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to
67 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of

68 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
69 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

70 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
71 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
72 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
73 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
74 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
75 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
76 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
77 made without competitive bids.

78 **SECTION 5.** The funds herein approved for expenditure, except
79 and less an amount approved by the State Fiscal Officer which
80 shall be sufficient to cover disbursements for current operations,
81 shall be deposited at interest with any official depository of the
82 state at a rate of interest numerically not less than one percent
83 (1%) below the bank discount rate on United States Treasury bills
84 of comparable maturity as determined by the State Treasurer.

85 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Seven
86 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) is authorized to be
87 expended to defray the cost of park facilities repairs only.
88 These repairs are to include bath houses and cabins and to exclude
89 any Flint Creek Horse Trail repairs.

90 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Four
91 Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000.00) is authorized to be
92 expended to defray the cost of dam repairs.

93 **SECTION 8.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide
94 a report on completed park facilities repairs. This report shall
95 be provided to the Legislature by December 1, 2024, and shall
96 include photos of stated repairs. The Pat Harrison Waterway
97 District shall provide the Joint Legislative Budget Committee a
98 copy of this report with the subsequent fiscal year's budget
99 submission.

100 **SECTION 9.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide
101 an annual five-year plan containing a prioritized list detailing
102 the purposes, goals and projected costs of projects which it
103 intends to implement or is in the process of implementing. This
104 report shall be provided to the Legislature on or before July 15
105 of each year as required in Section 51-15-119(2). The Pat
106 Harrison Waterway District shall provide the Joint Legislative
107 Budget Committee a copy of this report with the current year's
108 budget submission.

109 **SECTION 10.** The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide
110 an annual audit of the district operations. This report shall be
111 provided to the Legislature as required in Section 51-15-119(3).
112 The Pat Harrison Waterway District shall provide the Joint
113 Legislative Budget Committee a copy of this report with the
114 current year's budget submission.

115 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
116 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
117 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency

118 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
119 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
120 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
121 actions contrary to this provision.

122 **SECTION 12.** The money herein approved for expenditure shall
123 be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper person, officer
124 or officers, in the manner provided by law.

125 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
126 and after July 1, 2024.

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

1 AN ACT APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE
2 PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE PAT HARRISON WATERWAY
3 DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Bounds

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

X (SIGNED)
Read

X (SIGNED)
Branning

X (SIGNED)
Young

X (SIGNED)
Thompson