

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. 1786: Appropriation; Pearl River Valley Water Supply 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 special source funds which are received by or otherwise become
8 available to the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, for the
9 purpose of defraying the expenses of the district for the fiscal
10 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
11\$ 25,191,367.00.

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

14 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

15 Permanent: 109
16 Time-Limited: 1

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

68 and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail
69 provided 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.** None of the funds appropriated for expenditure
86 under this act may be expended by Pearl River Valley Water Supply
87 District until the district agrees to comply with the following
88 condition: the District shall waive traffic control fees for any
89 vehicle displaying a "REZ" tag.

90 **SECTION 7.** None of the funds appropriated for expenditure
91 under this act may be expended by Pearl River Valley Water Supply
92 District until the district agrees to comply with the following

93 conditions: (1) If any local governmental or nonprofit entity
94 wins the bid for the ESPN Bass Masters Classic or the FLW Major
95 Open, these events shall be exempt from the district's lottery
96 system for host events at the reservoir and given priority of any
97 and all date options available. (2) If any local governmental or
98 nonprofit entity wins the bid for such events, the district shall
99 waive the daily launch fees or any other special event fees for
100 the ESPN Bass Masters Classic or the FLW Major Open. (3) The
101 Catch A Dream Foundation Bass Classic shall be held on the first
102 Sunday in May unless any local governmental or nonprofit entity
103 wins the bid for the ESPN Bass Masters Classic or the FLW Major
104 Open on that date. The Catch A Dream Foundation Bass Classic
105 shall be exempt from the district's lottery system for host events
106 at the reservoir and given priority for the first Sunday in May.
107 The district shall waive the daily launch fees or any other
108 special event fees for the Classic.

109 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated herein, Two Hundred
110 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) is provided for the purpose of
111 funding overtime, callback or standby pay.

112 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
113 Section 1, One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
114 (\$1,750,000.00), or so much thereof, shall be derived out of any
115 money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense
116 Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,
117 and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.

118 These funds are provided for dredging and other related
119 activities to remove sediments and debris from the bottom of the
120 Ross Barnett Reservoir.

121 **SECTION 10.** Funds are provided herein out of the Ross Barnett
122 Reservoir Dredging Fund for dredging and other related activities
123 to remove sediments and debris from the bottom of the Ross Barnett
124 Reservoir.

125 **SECTION 11.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
126 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital
127 Expense Fund, not otherwise appropriated for Pearl River Valley
128 Water Supply District for the purpose of reauthorizing the
129 expenditure of Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1631,
130 2023 Regular Session, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of
131 Pearl River Valley Water Supply District for the fiscal year
132 beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
133\$ 1,352,364.00.

134 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
135 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
136 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
137 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
138 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
139 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

140 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions
141 of Section 1 of this act, Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) is
142 provided for the construction of a new office building.

143 **SECTION 13.** The funds herein appropriated shall be expended
144 in compliance with Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972,
145 that no state agency shall incur obligations or indebtedness in
146 excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers,
147 either personally or upon their official bonds, shall be held
148 responsible for actions contrary to this provision.

149 **SECTION 14.** The money herein approved for expenditure shall
150 be disbursed upon bank checks signed by the proper person, officer
151 or officers, in the manner provided by law or in accordance with
152 the provisions of a valid trust indenture.

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

159 **SECTION 16.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
160 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 PEARL RIVER VALLEY WATER
3 SUPPLY DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)

Bounds

X (SIGNED)

Read

X (SIGNED)

Mangold

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)

Hopson

X (SIGNED)

Branning

X (SIGNED)

Jackson