

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

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

S. B. No. 3041: Appropriation; Gaming Commission.

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

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House 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 hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated for the purpose of  
8 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Gaming Commission for  
9 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
10 June 30, 2025.....\$           9,237,934.00.

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 Gaming  
14 Commission, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the  
15 commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
16 June 30, 2025.....\$           1,662,486.00.

17           **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
18 this act, the following positions are authorized:



19 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

20 Permanent: 120

21 Time-Limited: 0

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

39 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
40 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
41 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
42 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
43 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If



44 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the  
45 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
46 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
47 essential for the agency.

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

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

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

65 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this  
66 act, a portion shall be derived from the amount of forfeited  
67 property that is seized by the Gaming Commission, which shall be  
68 deposited into a special fund created by the Department of Finance



69 and Administration and may be expended by the commission for the  
70 specific purpose of increasing law enforcement resources as  
71 outlined in Section 41-29-185, Mississippi Code 1972.

72 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this  
73 act, a portion shall be derived from the amount that is received  
74 by the Gaming Commission under the Gaming Control Act, which shall  
75 be deposited into a special fund created by the Department of  
76 Finance and Administration and may be expended by the commission  
77 for the purpose of investigating, permitting, interagency fees,  
78 and providing fingerprint analysis by the Department of Public  
79 Safety.

80 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
81 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
82 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
83 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
84 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
85 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
86 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
87 made without competitive bids.

88 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
89 Gaming Commission shall maintain complete accounting and personnel  
90 records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under  
91 this act and that such records shall be in the same format and  
92 level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further  
93 the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request



94 for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative  
 95 Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the  
 96 format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025  
 97 budget request process.

98 **SECTION 8.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
 99 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
 100 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
 101 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
 102 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
 103 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
 104 performance measures provided below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Riverboat Gaming	
Annual State Riverboat Gaming Revenues	
(Billions)	2.00
Number of Casinos Regulated	26
Average Cost per Employee to Total State	
Riverboat Gaming Revenues	18,476,000.00
Charitable Bingo	
Number of Bingo Applications Received	30
Number of Bingo Halls Regulated	50
Average Cost per Employee to Total State	
Charitable Bingo Revenues	4,676,905.00



118 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets  
119 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the  
120 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget  
121 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

122 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
123 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
124 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
125 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
126 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
127 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
128 actions contrary to this provision.

129 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
130 act, it is the intention of the Legislature that Seventy-five  
131 Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) is authorized to be transferred to  
132 the nonprofit organization, Mississippi Council on Compulsive  
133 Gambling, which provides crisis intervention and support services.

134 **SECTION 11.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
135 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
136 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
137 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
138 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
139 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

140 **SECTION 12.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
141 and after July 1, 2024.



**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 GAMING COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR  
3 2025.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
Bounds

X (SIGNED)  
Williams

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Michel

X (SIGNED)  
Eure

