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Chapter No. 61
16/HR26/A501SG
AM / CST

HOUSE BILL NO. 1639

Originated in House _____ Clerk

HOUSE BILL NO. 1639

AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM GENERAL FUNDS IN THE STATE TREASURY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017 ..... $ 13,026,673.00.

SECTION 2. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act, the following positions are authorized:

AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

Permanent:	Full Time	153
	Part Time	0
Time-Limited:	Full Time	0
	Part Time	0

With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2018 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2017 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2017 budget by the Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to ensure that no single personnel action increases this projected annual cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations for "Personal Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds and the award of benchmarks. If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2017 "Personal Services" appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State

Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated level.

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

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

SECTION 3. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Department of Insurance shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2016. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2018 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request process.

SECTION 4. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1, Fifteen Thousand Seventy-nine Dollars ($15,079.00) is provided for the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards and Certification Board.

SECTION 5. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1, funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00) are provided and shall be expended to pay the annual dues for the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

SECTION 6. It is the intention of the Legislature that none of the funds appropriated above shall be expended unless members of the Mississippi House of Representatives and Mississippi Senate are notified at least five (5) days prior to a public ceremony announcing the award of any grant in their district or any public announcement or ceremony regarding the groundbreaking or opening of a facility, roadway or bridge for which the Legislature has made funds available. Any signage regarding any public event or any new facility, roadway or bridge shall include the following language: "Funds were made available for this project by the Mississippi State Legislature."

SECTION 7. It is the intention of the Legislature that whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price, quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to

the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids.

SECTION 8. Within the limits of the funds available to the Mississippi Insurance Department for such purpose, the Commissioner of Insurance for the Mississippi Insurance Department may grant a paid internship to students pursuing junior or senior undergraduate level year coursework toward a bachelor's degree in risk management insurance or graduate level coursework towards a master's degree in business administration. Those applicants deemed qualified by the Mississippi Department of Insurance shall receive funds that may be used to pay for tuition, books and related fees to pursue their degree. It is the intent of the Legislature that the paid internship program shall be used as incentive for risk management insurance careers at the Mississippi Insurance Department.

SECTION 9. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000.00) is provided for the State Fire Marshal's Office for fire safety prevention and services, including, but not limited to, fire protection supplies and materials, smoke alarms, and public service announcements providing fire prevention information.

SECTION 10. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Fund and/or the Supplementary Rural Fire Truck Fund,

which was created in Section 152 of Chapter 1, Laws of 2004, Third Extraordinary Session, to the Mississippi Department of Insurance for the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017 .... $ 1,750,000.00.

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

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2016.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
April 18, 2016

Philip Gunn
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PASSED BY THE SENATE
April 18, 2016

Tate Reeves
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR

Phil Bryant
GOVERNOR

May 11, 2016
8:42 am