

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements  
June 30, 2018



**State of Mississippi  
State and School Employees' Life and Health  
Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**

**June 30, 2018**

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## Independent Auditor's Report

Members of the State of Mississippi State and School  
Employees' Health Insurance Management Board  
State of Mississippi  
State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)  
Jackson, Mississippi

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the State of Mississippi, State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Members of the State of Mississippi State and School  
Employees' Health Insurance Management Board  
State of Mississippi  
State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)

***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of the State of Mississippi, State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan) as of June 30, 2018 and the changes in its fiduciary net position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the State of Mississippi, State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan) and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State of Mississippi, as of June 30, 2018, the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

***Other Matters***

***Required Supplementary Information***

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the other postemployment benefits information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

***BKD, LLP***

Jackson, Mississippi  
May 6, 2019

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position**  
**June 30, 2018**

**Assets**

Cash and deposits	
Equity in the State's internal investment pool	\$ 1,000,000
Total assets	<u>1,000,000</u>

**Liabilities**

-

**Net Position Restricted for Postemployment Benefits**  
**Other than Pensions**

\$ 1,000,000

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2018**

**Additions**

Employer contributions:

Benefits paid by employers not reimbursed to the employers using OPEB plan assets	\$ 33,449,049
Transfer from the State of Mississippi	<u>1,000,000</u>

Total additions	<u>34,449,049</u>
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**Deductions**

Benefit payments	<u>33,449,049</u>
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Total deductions	<u>33,449,049</u>
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<b>Net Increase in Net Position</b>	1,000,000
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<b>Net Position Restricted for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>-</u>
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<b>Net Position Restricted for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions, End of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,000,000</u></u>
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**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2018**

**Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***Reporting Entity and Basis of Presentation***

On June 28, 2018 the State of Mississippi (State) and the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board (the Board) established the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan), an irrevocable trust designed to hold and manage the assets and income of the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan's other postemployment benefits (OPEB Plan) for the exclusive benefit of the State of Mississippi to provide OPEB to Plan participants. The trust was funded by a \$1,000,000 transfer from the State.

The OPEB Plan financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

The financial statements present only the State of Mississippi, State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan) and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State of Mississippi, as of June 30, 2018, the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis of Accounting***

The OPEB Plan accounts for and reports its activities by applying the Standards of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting, as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The OPEB Plan financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*. This statement establishes financial reporting standards for state and local governmental OPEB plans-defined benefit OPEB plans and defined contribution OPEB plans – that are administered through trusts or equivalent arrangements meeting the criteria of paragraph 3 of GASB 74.

The OPEB Trust meets the criteria of paragraph 3 of GASB 74 as a trust administering a defined benefit OPEB plan, the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan's other postemployment benefits (OPEB Plan), as described in *Note 2*.

Thus, the financial statements of the Trust represent those of the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan's other postemployment benefits (OPEB Plan).

***Investments***

Equity in the State's internal investment pool is carried at fair value as determined by the State.

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2018**

***Benefit Payments***

Benefit payments are recorded when the OPEB benefits come due.

***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of additions and deductions during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Note 2: Description of Plan**

***Plan Administration***

The State administers the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan's other postemployment benefits (OPEB Plan), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plan, for units of state government, political subdivisions, community colleges and school districts. Plan assets may be used to pay the benefits of the employees and retirees of any employer that participates in the Plan.

The State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan, which includes OPEB benefits, was established by Section 25-15-3 et seq., Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), which may be amended only by the State Legislature. The State and School Employees' Health Insurance Management Board (the Board) administers the OPEB Plan. The Plan is maintained solely for the benefit of eligible employees, dependents and retirees.

The 14-member board, which administers the Plan, is comprised of the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission; the State Personnel Director; the Commissioner of Insurance; the Commissioner of Higher Education; the State Superintendent of Public Education; the Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration; the Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board; the Executive Director of the Public Employees Retirement System; two appointees of the Governor; the Chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, or his designee; the Chairman of the House of Representatives Insurance Committee, or his designee; the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, or his designee; and the Chairman of the House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee, or his designee. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to manage the funds of the Plan. The Plan maintains a budget approved by the Board.

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2018**

***Benefits Provided and Contributions***

Per Section 12-15-15 (10) Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), a retired employee electing to purchase retiree life and health insurance will have the full cost of such insurance premium deducted monthly from his state retirement plan check or direct billed for the cost of the premium if the retirement check is insufficient to pay for the premium. If the Board determined actuarially that the premium paid by the participating retirees adversely affects the overall cost of the Plan to the State, then the Board may impose a premium surcharge, not to exceed 15%, upon such participating retired employees who are under the age for Medicare eligibility and who are initially employed before January 1, 2006. For participating retired employees who are under the age for Medicare eligibility and who are initially employed on or after January 1, 2006, the Board may impose a premium surcharge in an amount the Board determined actuarially to cover the full cost of insurance. Presently there are no such premium surcharges in place.

Employees' premiums are funded primarily by their employers. Retirees must pay their own premiums, as do active employees for spouse and dependent medical coverage. The Board has the sole authority for setting life and health insurance premiums for the Plan. Because the trust was established June 28, 2018, assets in the trust were not used to make benefit payments. Instead, the implicit rate subsidy OPEB benefits were paid by the participating employers.

Pursuant to the authority granted by Mississippi Statute, the Board has the authority to establish and change premium rates for the participants, employers and other contributing entities. An outside consulting actuary advises the Board regarding changes in premium rates. If premium rates are changed, they generally become effective at the beginning of the next calendar year or next fiscal year.

Plan participants are not subject to supplemental assessment in the event of a premium deficiency. At the time of premium payment, the risk of loss due to incurred benefit costs is transferred from the participant to the Plan. If the assets of the Plan were to be exhausted, participants would not be responsible for the Plan's liabilities.

At June 30, 2018, the Plan provided health coverage to 327 employer units.

Membership of the Plan consisted of the following at June 30, 2018:

Retired members and surviving spouses currently receiving retiree health benefits	25,562
Retired members receiving life insurance only	7,122
Active plan members	<u>108,918</u>
	<u><u>141,602</u></u>

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2018**

**Note 3: Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include equity in the State's internal investment pool. Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Plan's deposits may not be returned or the OPEB Plan may not be able to recover collateral securities in the possession of an outside party. None of the OPEB Plan's cash and cash equivalents is exposed to custodial credit risk.

The OPEB Plan is authorized by the Board and state statute to invest in demand deposits and interest-bearing time deposits such as savings accounts, certificates of deposit, money market funds, U.S. Treasury bills and notes, and repurchase agreements. Investment policy for the OPEB Plan is governed by State statute [Section 27-105-33, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972)].

***Equity in the State's Internal Investment Pool***

Equity in the State's internal investment pool is cash equity with the Office of the State Treasurer of the State of Mississippi (the State Treasurer) and consists of pooled demand deposits and investments recorded at fair value. The State Treasurer is authorized to invest all excess treasury funds of the State under Section 27-105-33, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972). Amounts on deposit with the State Treasurer are maintained in a pooled account, which is required by Mississippi statutes to be insured or collateralized. The amount of collateral securities required to be pledged to secure public deposits is established by rules and regulations promulgated by the State Treasurer.

In accordance with the State Treasurer's policies, the market value of collateral securities to be pledged by financial institutions through the State Treasurer's Office must be 105% of the carrying value of the amount on deposit, less any federal insurance coverage.

As of June 30, 2018, 100% of the Fund's investments are invested in the State's internal investment pool.

**Note 4: Net OPEB Liability of the Employers**

The components of the net OPEB liability of the participating employers at June 30, 2018, were as follows:

Total OPEB liability	\$ 774,550,000
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(1,000,000)</u>
Employers' net OPEB liability	<u><u>\$ 773,550,000</u></u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	<u><u>0.13%</u></u>

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2018**

**Note 5: Actuarial Assumptions and Methods**

The total OPEB liability was determined by an actual valuation as of June 30, 2018 using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Actuarial valuation date (date that total OPEB liability determined)	June 30, 2018
Measurement date	June 30, 2018
Experience study date	April 18, 2017
<b>Actuarial assumptions</b>	
Actuarial cost method	Entry Age Normal
Inflation rate	3.00%
Salary increases, including wage inflation	3.25%-18.50%
Long-term expected rate of return	4.50%
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	3.89%
Prior Measurement Date	3.56%
Year Fiduciary Net Position is to be depleted	2018
Projected cash flows	NA
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	3.89%
Prior Measurement Date	3.56%
Healthcare cost trend rates	7.25% decreasing to 4.75% by 2028

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2018**

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of projected benefits and assumptions about the probability of events far into the future. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

***Discount Rate***

The discount rate of 3.56% and 3.89% used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2018, respectively, was based on an average of the Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rates during the month of June published at the end of each week by the Bond Buyer.

***Long-Term Expected Rate of Return***

The long-term investment rate of return, net of OPEB Plan investment expense, including inflation, was 4.50%.

***Mortality***

Both pre-retirement and post-retirement mortality rates were based on the RP 2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Table projected with Scale BB to 2022, male rates set forward 1 year and adjusted by 106% for males at all ages, and females adjusted to 90% for ages less than 76, 95% for age 76, 105% for age 78 and 110% for ages 79 and greater. Post-disability mortality rates were based on the RP 2014 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table set forward 4 years for males and 3 years for females.

***Sensitivity***

The following presents the net OPEB liability calculated using (1) healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point higher than the assumed health care cost trend rates and (2) health care cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower than the assumed health care cost trend rates and using (1) a discount rate that is one-percentage-point higher than and (2) a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower than that described above

**Healthcare Cost Trend Rates Sensitivity**

	<b>1% Decrease</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>1% Increase</b>
Net OPEB liability (\$ thousands)	\$ 716,563	\$ 773,550	\$ 838,271

**Discount Rate Sensitivity**

	<b>1% Decrease</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>1% Increase</b>
	<b>2.89%</b>	<b>Discount Rate</b>	<b>4.89%</b>
	<b>2.89%</b>	<b>3.89%</b>	<b>4.89%</b>
Net OPEB liability (\$ thousands)	\$ 857,461	\$ 773,550	\$ 701,384

## **Required Supplementary Information**

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Schedule of Changes in the Employers' Net OPEB Liability**  
**(\$ Thousands)**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2018**

<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>	
Service cost	\$ 20,467
Interest	27,337
Changes of benefit terms	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	1,867
Changes of assumptions	(26,281)
Benefit payments	<u>(33,449)</u>
<b>Net Change in Total OPEB Liability</b>	(10,059)
<b>Total OPEB Liability - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>784,609</u>
<b>Total OPEB Liability - End of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ 774,550</u></u>
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position</b>	
Employer contributions:	
Benefits paid by employers not reimbursed to the employers using OPEB plan assets	\$ 33,449
Transfer from the State of Mississippi	<u>1,000</u>
	34,449
Benefit payments	<u>(33,449)</u>
<b>Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position</b>	1,000
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>-</u>
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position - End of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,000</u></u>
<b>Employers' Net OPEB Liability - End of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ 773,550</u></u>

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Schedule of the Employers' Net OPEB Liability**  
**(\$ Thousands)**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2018**

Total OPEB Liability	\$ 774,550
OPEB Plan Fiduciary Net Position	<u>1,000</u>
Net OPEB Liability	<u><u>\$ 773,550</u></u>
Liability	0.13%
Covered payroll	\$ 4,552,932
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered payroll	17.10%

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health**  
**Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Notes to Schedules of the Changes in the Employers' Net OPEB Liability**  
**and Employers' Net OPEB Liability**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2018**

**Note 1: General Information**

The schedules are intended to show a ten-year trend. Additional years will be reported as they become available.

Because the trust was established on June 28, 2018, there is no annual money-weighted rates of return for the year ended June 30, 2018.

*Changes to benefit terms:* None.

*Changes in actuarial assumptions and methods:* The discount rate was changed from 3.56% for the prior Measurement Date to 3.89% for the current Measurement Date.

**State of Mississippi**  
**State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan (OPEB Plan)**  
**Schedule of Employers' Contributions**  
**(\$ Thousands)**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2018**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution	\$ 47,070	\$ 43,673	\$ 47,297	\$ 48,308	\$ 43,939	\$ 44,906	\$ 46,131	\$ 51,735	\$ 55,991	\$ 43,025
Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	34,449	30,872	32,270	32,245	30,503	29,490	20,570	18,365	35,154	35,375
Annual Contribution Deficiency	\$ 12,621	\$ 12,801	\$ 15,027	\$ 16,063	\$ 13,436	\$ 15,416	\$ 25,561	\$ 33,370	\$ 20,837	\$ 7,650
Covered Payroll	\$4,522,932	\$ 4,492,725	\$ 4,552,979	\$ 4,617,302	\$ 4,406,047	\$ 4,425,943	\$ 4,312,956	\$ 4,238,716	\$ 4,470,558	\$ 4,613,682
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	0.76%	0.69%	0.71%	0.70%	0.69%	0.67%	0.48%	0.43%	0.79%	0.77%

**State of Mississippi**  
**Mississippi State and School Employees' Retiree Insurance Trust (OPEB Plan)**  
**Notes to Schedule of Employers' Contributions**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2018**

**Note 1: Methods and assumptions used in calculations of Actuarially Determined Contributions**

The Actuarially Determined Contribution rates, as a percentage of payroll, used to determine the Actuarially Determined Contribution amounts in the Schedule of Employer Contributions (Schedule A) are calculated as of the most recent Valuation Date. The following actuarial methods and assumptions (from the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation) were used to determine contribution rates reported in that schedule for the year ending June 30, 2018:

Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level dollar
Amortization period	30 years, open
Asset valuation method	Market Value of Assets
Price inflation	3.00%
Salary increases, including wage inflation	3.25% to 18.50%
Initial health care cost trend rates	
Medicare Supplement Claims – Pre Medicare	7.75%
Ultimate health care cost trend rates	
Medicare Supplement Claims – Pre Medicare	5.00%
Year of ultimate trend rates	
Medicare Supplement Claims – Pre Medicare	2023
Long-term investment rate of return, net of pension plan investment expense, including price inflation	3.56%