

2025 Mississippi
Legislative
Session
SUMMARY
A Highlight of Important
Laws



Still Fighting... Still Leading For You!
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Hello Friends and Constituents,

I am proud to present this year's legislative package—a reflection of the challenges we faced, the progress we fought for, and the values we carried into every debate and decision. It is my ultimate honor to serve you as State Representative for District 68 (Hinds, Rankin) in the Mississippi House of Representatives. I want to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to FIGHT AND LEAD for you, our families, and our communities.

The Mississippi Legislature convened the 2025 Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 7. Collectively, more than 3,300 bills were filed with 259 becoming law. Approximately 406 became law. The Mississippi House of Representatives adjourned sine die on Wednesday, April 2, four days ahead of schedule.

This session was fraught with deep divisions, marked by polarizing legislation such as House Bill 1, which eliminates Mississippi's personal income tax, and a sweeping anti-DEI bill that threatens to roll back decades of progress on inclusion in education and government. Our efforts to advance voter restoration met significant resistance and ultimately were defeated—an unfortunate reminder of the ongoing struggle for full democratic participation in our state. At the time of publication, we had not completed a budget, which will result in a special session likely without funding of local projects.

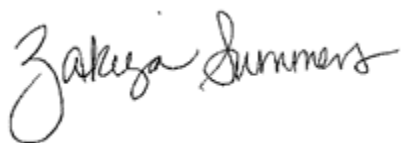
And yet, in the face of these headwinds, we pushed forward.

Together with my colleagues and community partners, we made strides in several key areas. We secured paid parental leave for state employees, expanded presumptive eligibility for pregnant women to improve maternal health outcomes, stabilized polling locations to protect voter access, and supported community health workers through certification and Medicaid reimbursement pathways. Each of these wins moves us closer to a healthier, more equitable Mississippi.

Outside the chamber, I had the honor of publishing an [opinion editorial](#) in Essence magazine advocating for equal pay—lifting up the stories and struggles of working women across our state. On a personal note, I was proud to graduate with a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from Jackson State University, deepening my commitment to evidence-based governance and public service.

Thank you for your continued support, advocacy, and belief in a state where equity and justice are not just ideals, but everyday realities. We won't stop.

In service and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zakiya Summers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Zakiya Summers

PHOTO COLLAGE



Left: Earned a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Jackson State University, May 2025

Top Right: Honored as a Mississippi Legend from Woman to Woman Magazine with Joanne Bell

Bottom Right: Became a member of the Jackson Medical Mall Rotary Club

PHOTO COLLAGE



Upper Left: Named a 2025 Women in Power honoree by the Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable

Bottom Left: Celebrated the Birthplace of Southern Soul Music News Conference at the Mississippi State Capitol

Right: Selected as the Hometown Hero - Professional Achievement Award in Government and Public Service from the Greater Jackson Kappa Foundation and the Jackson Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

PHOTO COLLAGE



Top: Ribbon Cutting News Conference for the Disc Golf Course at Livingston Park

Bottom Left: WLBT's Maggie Wade delivers a blessed prayer during the Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable Awards Reception

Bottom Middle: Getting out the vote on April 1, 2025

Bottom Right: Greeting the Mississippi NAACP during the 2025 Advocacy Day

I penned several statements regarding pressing legislation throughout the session. I've posted them within this document with links to accompany those bills. Here are the Legislative Highlights from the 2025 Session by Committee.

APPORTIONMENT AND ELECTIONS

House Bill 289 revises the staggered terms of election commissioners in Districts Two and Four.

House Bill 291 requires all candidates running in the state general election to secure the majority vote to be elected.

House Bill 293 revises the time for holding primary elections for representatives in the Congress of the United States in years without a presidential election.

House Bill 724 provides that if any person assisting an elector with voting in accordance with Section 23-15-907 willfully fails to transmit the ballot that was mailed to the elector with the intent of the ballot not being cast and counted in the election, the person shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than one year, and subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000.

House Bill 811 revises the process for candidate qualifications.

LINK: [Statement on House Bill 811: Gatekeeping Disguised as Governance](#)

April 1, 2025 - House Bill 811 contains strategic barriers designed to silence the political voice of Mississippians. This bill is steeped in the same voter suppression logic that once fueled Jim Crow. It erects unnecessary hurdles, disqualifies candidates for technicalities, and criminalizes mobility—all under the guise of 'election integrity.'

This bill:

- *Punishes people who legally voted in another district during residency transitions—targeting students, renters, and working-class Mississippians.*
- *Expands felony disenfranchisement in ways that we know disproportionately impact Black Mississippians.*
- *Bans online candidate filing in the year 2025—as if access is a threat to integrity.*
- *Gives partisan committees the unchecked power to disqualify candidates without sufficient recourse.*

This bill doesn't fix anything. It just makes it harder for the students, working parents, and returning citizens to run and represent their communities.

Let's be clear: This is about exclusion, not fair elections. It's about disqualifying the next generation of leaders before they even get on the ballot. House Bill 811 does not

protect the integrity of our elections—it protects the power of the few by excluding the voices of the many.

House Bill 1419 prohibits polling places from being closed within 60 days before an election.

**Sponsor*

LINK: [Statement on the Passage of House Bill 1419 to Provide Stability for Polling Places](#)

Statement on the Passage of House Bill 1419 to Provide Stability for Polling Places

Updated: Apr 21

"I live in Oxford and I want to say thank you for the work on HB 1419. What an excellent way to destroy one of the more subtle methods of voter suppression in the state of Mississippi. Just wanted to say thank you Representative Summers. You've done a lot of outstanding work this session and I just really, really appreciate it."

April 21, 2025 - I am proud to have sponsored House Bill 1419, which will ensure that polling places cannot be moved or altered within 60 days of an election, except in cases of exigent circumstances. This legislation is a direct response to past efforts to shutter or relocate precincts in ways that have disrupted voters, particularly in Hinds County.

For too long, last-minute polling place changes have caused unnecessary confusion, disproportionately impacting voters who rely on familiar precincts to cast their ballots. With this bill, we are establishing clear guidelines that protect the integrity of our elections by ensuring stability in polling locations.

While election officials may still adjust precincts when truly necessary, they must now provide transparency and justification, with public notice requirements to ensure voters are informed. This bill is a crucial safeguard against voter suppression tactics that seek to undermine access to the ballot.

House Bill 1419 is a victory for election fairness in Mississippi, and I will continue fighting to protect the right of every voter to cast their ballot without unnecessary obstacles.

I thank my colleagues and the chairmen of the Elections committee in the House and Senate for their support. Governor Reeves signed this bill into law on March 12, 2025.

Senate Bill 2657 allows the board of supervisors, in their discretion, to pay election commissioners an additional \$35 for their work on election day.

Senate Bill 2659 changes the qualification deadlines for special elections and school board elections.

BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

House Bill 1077 prohibits the sale of kratom products to an individual under 21. Any person who violates or permits the violation will be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 per violation.

CORRECTIONS

Senate Bill 2242 authorizes the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) to establish an inmate work program under which eligible inmates perform services for the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Senate Bill 2360 requires notification to MDI and local law enforcement when inmate or detainee escapes.

COUNTY AFFAIRS

Senate Bill 2002 authorizes boards of supervisors to designate persons to serve as hearing officers for delinquent solid waste fees.

Senate Bill 2562 increases the circuit clerks' fee from \$75 to \$85 for each of the days a circuit clerk and any necessary deputies attend the circuit court term.

DRUG POLICY

House Bill 17 creates the Protecting Patient Access to Physician-Administered Drugs Act.

EDUCATION

House Bill 809 clarifies active duty status for purposes of school enrollment and transfers.

Senate Bill 2177 modifies description of programs eligible for payments out of state appropriations for vocational education.

LINK: [Welfare for the Wealthy: School Vouchers are a Misguided Policy for Mississippi](#)

School Choice Staved Off, but Not Dead, Dead

February 24, 2025 - Speaker Jason White in the fall of 2024 released polling data he commissioned on top policy priorities for the Mississippi House of Representatives. According to the Clarion Ledger article, of the 500 respondents to that poll, "50.2% identified as conservatives, 26.2% identified as moderates, 16.7% identified as liberal and 6.9% of respondents were not sure of their ideological identity". Among the issues on the survey was school choice, which garnered 72.4%.

On its face, school choice is a topic that generally people of all political philosophies would likely support. I agree that parents should have the ability to make the best choice for their child's education. However, the conservative's definition of school choice is a multifaceted approach to dismantling public education by using public funds to support private schools. Within this ongoing debate about the future of education in Mississippi lies school vouchers.

Proponents argue that vouchers offer parents the freedom to choose the best educational environment for their children, ostensibly driving competition and improvement among schools. However, this seemingly appealing proposal masks several deep-seated flaws that make school vouchers a detrimental policy for Mississippi.

First and foremost, school vouchers drain critical funding from public schools. The Mississippi Legislature created a new school funding formula this past session that was fully funded, and I supported it. However, under the previous MAEP formula, public education had only been fully funded twice since its inception and there is no guaranteed language in the new law to fully fund the formula going forward. Mississippi's historically underfunded public education system has struggled to provide adequate resources and support to its students. Diverting funds to private institutions through vouchers exacerbates this problem, leaving public schools with even fewer resources. This results in larger class sizes, reduced extracurricular programs, and diminished support services, disproportionately affecting students who rely on public education the most. It makes me wonder if the new funding formula was a ploy to send taxpayer dollars to private schools.

State Superintendent Dr. Lance Evans spoke to both the lack of accountability and inequity and exclusion when asked about vouchers and school choice during the October 2024 Capitol Press Corps Forum. He stated that private schools receiving voucher funds ought to be held to the same standards as public schools because right now they are not. Private schools are not subject to the same rigorous accountability measures, including standardized testing and public reporting requirements. This lack

of oversight means that there is no guarantee that these schools provide a high-quality education. In fact, studies have shown that students using vouchers to attend private schools often do not perform better academically than their peers in public schools, and in some cases, they perform worse. Mississippi should not position itself to siphon off precious taxpayer dollars to a school choice system that clearly does not work.

In addition, vouchers can exacerbate educational inequities. Private schools have the autonomy to set their own admission criteria, which can include selective enrollment practices. This can lead to a situation where students from disadvantaged backgrounds, or those with special needs, are effectively excluded from these institutions. Consequently, vouchers can create a two-tiered education system where public schools become repositories for the most challenging and costly-to-educate students, while private schools cherry-pick the best and brightest. Not to mention that in many rural communities, public schools are the only educational institutions available. Disinvesting in public schools encourages segregation and undermines state leaders' vision of preparing an educated workforce today to meet job and economic demands of tomorrow.

Finally, the use of public funds to support private, often religious, schools raises serious constitutional and ideological questions. The separation of church and state is a fundamental principle, and using taxpayer dollars to fund religious education blurs this line. This not only challenges constitutional norms but also risks alienating families who may not share the religious beliefs promoted in voucher-supported schools.

While the idea of school vouchers might appear to offer more choices to parents, the reality is that they create far more harm than good. They strip public schools of necessary funds, lack accountability, exacerbate inequities, undermine community cohesion, and raise constitutional concerns. Mississippi's focus should instead be on adequately funding and improving its public education system, ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. That's how we win. That's how we move Mississippi in the right direction. Investing in public schools is an investment in the future of our communities and our state, a commitment that vouchers cannot and will not fulfill.

Fortunately, our Senate colleagues killed several school choice measures this session, but we always say a bill is never dead, dead. So, we must remain vigilant with the leadership and our colleagues to ensure that our public education system is not dismantled.

INSURANCE

House Bill 1174 revises certain terms related to public adjusters, including "person" and "home state".

House Bill 1611 requires 45-day notice before change in coverage of property and casualty insurance coverage.

Senate Bill 2401 creates a study committee on the matter of certification of health benefit plans and health insurance issuers.

Senate Bill 2894 includes cybersecurity insurance in the Mississippi Insurance Guaranty Association statutes.

JUDICIARY A

House Bill 599 creates civil liability for distribution of child pornography and obscene matter by commercial entities on the Internet.

House Bill 1193 prohibits DEI statements and practices in public K-12 and postsecondary schools.

LINK: [Statement in Opposition to Anti-DEI Legislative Efforts in Mississippi](#)

March 30, 2025 - I strongly oppose the legislative efforts to prohibit Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives in Mississippi's public schools and colleges. These measures are not about protecting education—they are about limiting opportunity, silencing perspectives, and turning back the clock on progress.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are not partisan concepts; they are fundamental values that ensure all Mississippians—regardless of race, background, or socioeconomic status—have access to educational and professional opportunities. These initiatives help create an environment where every student can thrive, where faculty and staff are prepared to support diverse student bodies, and where Mississippi remains competitive in a global economy that values inclusivity.

Efforts to dismantle DEI programs send the wrong message about who we are as a state. Instead of working to improve educational outcomes, expand access, and prepare students for the future, these policies aim to score political points at the expense of students and institutions.

Mississippi has a history that demands we do better. We have seen the consequences of exclusion and division, and we have worked too hard to move forward. I will continue to stand against any legislation that seeks to undermine equity in education and strip away the tools that help all Mississippians succeed. Our focus should be on building a stronger, more inclusive Mississippi—not tearing down progress.

House Bill 1197 creates The Safe Solicitation Act to regulate issuance of solicitation permits. A fee for the solicitation permit in an amount which shall not exceed \$25.

House Bill 1200 creates the Real Property Owners Protection Act to regulate the crime of squatting. Any person who unlawfully detains, occupies or trespasses upon a residential dwelling and intentionally damages the dwelling in excess of \$1,000.

House Bill 1203 prohibits camping on public property.

House Bill 1451 removes the prohibition against circuit and chancery court clerks from receiving compensation for attending youth court.

Senate Bill 2328 clarifies eviction procedures, providing procedures for removal from RV parks of the Residential Landlord Tenant Act.

Senate Bill 2482 provides free access to public defenders and county prosecutors related to the Mississippi Electronic Court system.

Senate Bill 2899 increases court reporters salary. For reporters who have five or less years experience not to exceed \$59,400; more than five years experience but less than 10 years not to exceed \$72,200; and 10 years or more of experience not to exceed \$76,800.

JUDICIARY B

House Bill 565 requires law enforcement agencies to report terminated officers to the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training.

House Bill 623 increases compensation for indigent counsel. The amount is \$3,000.

House Bill 624 increases the salaries of criminal investigators for district attorneys to \$75,000.

House Bill 861 provides immunity for reporting a sexual offense.

House Bill 1189 increases deposits made into the Victims Of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund by adding fines or other penalties for misdemeanor violations of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000.

House Bill 1308 creates the felony crime of "Grooming of a Child".

House Bill 1338 revises requirements for and prohibits impersonation of law enforcement in unmarked vehicles.

House Bill 1509 revises district attorneys' salaries to a certain amount below chancery and circuit courts.

House Bill 1544 revises judicial redistricting for circuit courts.

Senate Bill 2204 requires law enforcement to report the theft of agriculture-related items.

Senate Bill 2208 provides enhanced penalties for threats against airports. A person convicted of the crime shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than five years.

Senate Bill 2211 requires right of information to victim and regulate rights of victims to care and exams by hospitals of a sexual assault kits.

Senate Bill 2311 creates criminal activity related to mail theft and credit card fraud.

Senate Bill 2315 makes certain amendments to provisions related to bail procedure and provides when bond is discharged.

Senate Bill 2768 revises provisions related to chancery courts, providing procedure for implementation of judicial redistricting.

Senate Bill 2803 requires titling, and is exempt from ad valorem tax when held by retailers on consignment or floor plan basis of ATVs and UTVs.

MARINE RESOURCES

House Bill 602 provides country of origin labeling requirements for crawfish and seafood.

House Bill 1095 exempt certain leases from any county or municipal tax levy upon leasehold interests by or through the Department of Marine Resources.

Senate Bill 2003 updates numbering requirements for compliance with federal regulations of certain boats and vessels.

Senate Bill 2263 clarifies authority for the approval of oyster leases by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

MEDICAID

*House Bill 662 revises the criteria for presumptive eligibility for Medicaid for pregnant women to conform to federal law and regulations. **Co-Sponsor*

*House Bill 1401 provides for certification by the Health Department and for Medicaid reimbursement for services of community health workers. **Co-Sponsor*

Senate Bill 2392 authorizes the Department of Mental Health and Division of Medicaid to apply for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) grant program.

Senate Bill 2867 makes various amendments to the provisions of the Medicaid program.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

House Bill 1268 creates to study and make recommendations concerning mental health needs of military members for the Mississippi Save Our Service Member Task Force.

Senate Bill 2052 authorizes tags to be labeled disabled veteran license tags.

Senate Bill 2434 authorizes local governments to enter into intergovernmental support agreements with military branches.

MUNICIPALITIES

House Bill 733 establishes the Property Cleanup Revolving Fund.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 610 defines certain terms in statute requiring vehicle permits and establishing standards for nonemergency medical transportation.

House Bill 807 establishes the Division of Autism Services within the Department of Mental Health.

House Bill 856 extends repealer on and makes various changes to the Mississippi Pharmacy Practice Act.

House Bill 1062 authorizes dental hygienists to provide services to patients under the general supervision of dentists under certain conditions.

*House Bill 1063 creates the Mississippi State Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

**Co-Sponsor*

LINK: [Statement on the Passage of the Mississippi State Employees Paid Parental Leave Act](#)

March 30, 2025 - As a co-sponsor of House Bill 1063, I am proud to see the Mississippi State Employees Paid Parental Leave Act pass the Legislature and go to the Governor's desk. This policy represents a significant step forward in supporting working families across our state, providing eligible state employees with six weeks of paid parental leave for primary caregivers following the birth or adoption of a child.

This initiative was a key recommendation I made to the House of Representatives Commission on the Sanctity of Life when it was first established by Speaker Gunn. By ensuring that new parents employed by the state have the time to bond with their children without financial strain, we are reinforcing our commitment to the well-being of families in Mississippi.

However, I am deeply disappointed that the final version removed two weeks of paid parental leave for secondary caregivers and does not extend to our teachers. Educators are fundamental to the success and future of our state, and they deserve the same opportunity to care for their growing families without financial hardship. Moving forward, I will continue to advocate for policies that ensure all public employees, including teachers, have access to paid parental leave.

This bill is a step in the right direction, but our work is not done. Mississippi must continue to invest in policies that support working families and create a more family-friendly state for all.

House Bill 1094 exempts certain contracts relating to the Public Health Lab from Public Procurement Review Board approval by the State Department of Health.

House Bill 1262 authorizes military medics to take exam to be licensed as a licensed practical nurse.

House Bill 1404 provides exemption from pre-affidavit screening for persons being treated in an acute psych hospital who have already had evaluations.

House Bill 1447 authorizes to increase fees for water quality analysis as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to \$3.75 per connection or \$50,000 per system, whichever is less.

Senate Bill 2664 ratifies the Dietitian Licensure Compact.

Senate Bill 2690 deletes the repealer on certain provisions relating to the Health Care Expendable Fund.

Senate Bill 2691 amends to prohibit the sale of tobacco or tobacco products to those under age 21 provisions of the Mississippi Juvenile Tobacco Access Prevention Act.

Senate Bill 2695 extends repealer on the Mississippi Professional Massage Therapy Act.

Senate Bill 2697 extends expenditure period of COVID-19 Hospital Expanded Capacity Program.

Senate Bill 2698 extends the period of operation of the Mississippi Dementia Care Program.

Senate Bill 2699 deletes the repealer on the Patient's Right to Informed Health Care Choices Act and prohibitions against deceptive advertising by providers.

Senate Bill 2704 requires the State Department of Health to conduct an annual inspection of the infirmary at the State Penitentiary at Parchman.

Senate Bill 2727 enacts the Social Work Licensure Compact.

Senate Bill 2729 establishes a special fund known as the "Mississippi Public Health Trust Fund" to support public health programs funded from medical cannabis taxes.

Senate Bill 2731 extends repealer on licensure law related to psychologists.

Senate Bill 2741 provides for the licensure of professional music therapists by the State Department of Health.

Senate Bill 2743 allows use for public health programs and completion of other recordkeeping and statistics funds collected for certified copies.

Senate Bill 2748 revises provisions related to Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act.

Senate Bill 2767 creates the Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Council.

Senate Bill 2886 enacts the Mississippi Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Law.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

House Bill 556 authorizes the Department of Finance and Administration to purchase certain real property known as the "East Hamilton Street Properties" in the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

House Bill 1167 renames certain facilities located on the premises of the State Fire Academy to honor numerous individuals for their service to the state, including:

- ▶ Education Building and Auditorium: renamed as the "Honorable Mary Ann Stevens Education Building and Auditorium" to honor Representative Mary Ann Stevens for her contributions.

- ▶ Administration Building: renamed as the "Commissioner George Dale Administration Building" in recognition of former Mississippi Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal, George Dale.

- ▶ Fire Station: renamed as the "Reggie Bell Fire Station" to honor former State Fire Academy Executive Director, Reggie Bell.

- ▶ Apparatus Building: renamed as the "Bill Warren Apparatus Building" in tribute to former State Fire Academy Executive Director, Bill Warren.

- ▶ Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission Building: renamed as the "Liles Williams Workers' Compensation Building" to honor Liles Williams for his service as former Chairman of the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission.

Senate Bill 2297 provides for between federal and state governments over certain lands concurrent jurisdiction.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

House Bill 1186 requires testing natural gas piping systems in school facilities.

House Bill 1191 revises requirements for excavators and utility operators underground and submerged utility lines and facilities.

House Bill 1211 removes municipal approval of municipal ordinance for granting of utility franchises or use of streets.

Senate Bill 2368 amends penalties of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Standard.

STATE AFFAIRS

House Bill 1194 authorizes conversion of a for-profit entity formed solely to comply with federal or state order to water authority.

House Bill 1284 renames and revises various provisions "Mississippi Native Spirit Law" as the "Mississippi Native And Craft Spirits Law".

House Bill 1459 authorizes Supreme Court Justice to appoint full-time and part-time judges to the CCID.

House Bill 1491 establishes for phased-in cloud computing and storage by state agencies and governing authorities Cloud Center of Excellence Act.

Senate Bill 2143 revises definition of "qualified resort area" Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Law.

Senate Bill 2145 authorizes the direct shipment of wine, light beer or alcoholic beverages.

Senate Bill 2210 revises dates of sale of fireworks and reduces violation to misdemeanor.

Senate Bill 2383 designates the sweet potato as the state vegetable.

Senate Bill 2851 allows persons to bring onto premises with on-premise retailer's permits in certain qualified resorts alcoholic beverages.

TECHNOLOGY

Senate Bill 2426 creates and prescribes responsibilities of the Artificial Intelligence Regulation Task Force.

Senate Bill 2835 creates the Mississippi Emergency Communications Authority Act.

TOURISM

Senate Bill 2424 creates the Entertainment Industry and Workforce Development Task Force.

TRANSPORTATION

House Bill 150 increases maximum gross vehicle weight of Concrete and solid waste vehicles.

House Bill 638 authorizes the Mississippi Transportation Commission to delegate authority to enter into supplemental agreements for expenditures not exceeding \$250,000.

House Bill 953 extends repealer on provisions establishing maximum weight and approved routes of vehicles harvest permit.

House Bill 1245 designates various segments of highways and bridges across the state as memorials to honor distinguished individuals and groups. The designations are as follows:

- ▶ "Medal of Honor Trail": Designates the entire segment of Interstate 22 traversing through DeSoto, Marshall, Benton, Union, Pontotoc, Lee and Itawamba Counties, Mississippi, along with a portion of U.S. Highway 78 in Byhalia, DeSoto County, extending to the Mississippi-Tennessee state line, as the "Medal of Honor Trail."
- ▶ "MSgt. Bridgette R. Horn Memorial Highway": Names a segment of Mississippi Highway 19 South in Neshoba County as the "MSgt. Bridgette R. Horn Memorial Highway," honoring her service and marking her "End of Watch" on November 19, 2020.
- ▶ "Meaghan Bedford Reed Memorial Highway": Designates a portion of Mississippi Highway 9 South in Pontotoc County in memory of Meaghan Bedford Reed.
- ▶ "Badger-Malone-Igleharte Memorial Bridge": Names the Strong River Bridge on Mississippi Highway 149 in Simpson County to honor the contributions of individuals with the surnames Badger, Malone, and Igleharte.

- ▶ "Houston 'Dale' Kennedy Memorial Highway": Designates a segment of Mississippi Highway 366 in Prentiss County in memory of Houston 'Dale' Kennedy.
- ▶ "Jerry Wilburn Memorial Bridge": Names the bridge on Regional Center Drive in Oxford, Lafayette County, in honor of Jerry Wilburn.
- ▶ "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge": Designates the bridge on U.S. Route 72 spanning Turner Creek in Corinth, Alcorn County, as a tribute to Vietnam veterans.
- ▶ "Timothy Jones-Willie Jones-George Hilton Stephenson-Adam J. Sims-Johnny Lee Jones Memorial Road": Names a segment of County Road 14 in Jasper County in honor of these individuals.
- ▶ Berean Children's Home Signage: Mandates the erection of signage for the Berean Children's Home on U.S. Route 84 in Lincoln County, approaching the intersection with Mississippi Highway 583.
- ▶ "Elizabeth 'Lake' Little Memorial Highway": Designates a segment of Mississippi Highway 82 East in Oktibbeha County in memory of Elizabeth "Lake" Little.
- ▶ "Officer Liquori T. Tate Memorial Road": Names a segment of Blackjack Road in Oktibbeha County in honor of Officer Liquori T. Tate, honoring his service and marking his "End of Watch" on May 9, 2015.
- ▶ "Winfred T. Aiken Memorial Highway": Designates a portion of Mississippi Highway 4 East in Tate County in memory of Winfred T. Aiken.
- ▶ "Mary Kalene 'Katie' Pipkins Memorial Highway": Names a segment of Mississippi Highway 63 North in Leakesville, Greene County, in honor of Mary Kalene "Katie" Pipkins.

Senate Bill 2260 establishes the Blue Envelope Program to enhance effective communication between law enforcement and drivers with autism.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

House Bill 3 revises composition of the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation to ensure adequate representation.

Senate Bill 2216 removes the date of repeal of IHL .

Senate Bill 2517 defines the Mississippi Intercollegiate Athletics Compensation Rights Act.

Senate Bill 2518 increases certain universities and colleges renovation funds and requires the IHL board to develop private public partnership policies.

Senate Bill 2519 allows the IHL board to lease on behalf of the University of Mississippi public-private partnerships.

Senate Bill 2525 includes technical amendments for cosmetology and barbering.

Senate Bill 2526 allows nonresident veterans to fully participate and receive Yellow Ribbon Program funds.

WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill 1 creates the Build Up Mississippi Act.

LINK: [Mississippi's Future at Risk: Why Eliminating the Income Tax is the Wrong Path](#)

May 8, 2025 - At a time when our schools need more teachers, our hospitals are fighting to stay open, and our roads are crumbling, Mississippi lawmakers are making a dangerous gamble with our future.

House Bill 1 (HB 1), recently passed by the Legislature during the 2025 Session, sets the state on a path to eliminate the personal income tax—Mississippi's most reliable revenue source. This reckless move risks slashing more than \$2 billion from the state budget each year, threatening the very services that keep our communities strong.

What Will HB 1 Do?

- *Drops flat income tax rate from 4.4 percent this year to 3 percent in 2030 (an annualized cut of \$647 million)*
- *Additional cuts to the income tax rate down to 0 percent will occur beginning in 2031 based on the state meeting a meaningless revenue growth trigger set at .85%*
- *Drops sales tax on grocery purchases from 7 percent to 5 percent on July 1, 2025 (an annualized cut of \$127 million)*
- *Approximately \$200 million in additional revenue for roads and bridges will be produced through a 9-cent increase in the fuel excise tax over a 3-year phase-in period*
- *Creates a Tier 5 in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) for newly hired government workers after March 2026 that slashes benefits in half compared to current members, putting public sector recruitment and retention at risk particularly for teachers and public safety personnel*

Who Really Benefits from HB 1?

Let's be clear: this isn't tax relief for everyday Mississippians. The wealthiest 1% will see an average annual tax cut of \$41,000, while low-income families might save just \$42. Meanwhile, rural towns, working families, and public sector workers will bear the brunt of disappearing resources.

The trade off between raising the gas tax and slightly reducing the grocery tax means higher costs at the pump and fewer dollars for schools, healthcare, and infrastructure for most working families in Mississippi.

The Risks Are Real Without Stable Funding:

- *Class sizes will grow and teacher shortages will worsen. Tuition will increase at Mississippi's colleges and universities.*
- *Rural hospitals could shut their doors for good.*
- *Delayed repairs will make our roads and water systems more dangerous.*
- *State credit ratings could fall, making it more expensive to borrow for essential projects.*

We've Seen This Before

States like Kansas and Arizona have tried similar tax-cut schemes—and they failed. Budget crises, slashed services, and economic stagnation followed. Mississippi should learn from their mistakes, not repeat them.

What Mississippi Needs Instead

We deserve a government that works for everyone—not just the wealthy few. That means:

- *Fair tax policies that don't overburden working families.*
- *Strong investment in schools, health care, and infrastructure.*
- *A Mississippi Child Tax Credit to reduce child poverty and support families.*
- *Legalizing Marijuana to increase tax revenues, job growth, and investment opportunities.*
- *Real transparency and accountability from lawmakers about the cost of their choices.*

Let's Build a Better Path Forward

Mississippians deserve more than vague promises of growth. We need a bold, inclusive vision that invests in our people and communities. Let's demand better. Stop the cuts. Start investing in Mississippi.

House Bill 812 provides additional homestead exemption for unremarried surviving spouses of certain veterans. **Successfully added amendment to include unremarried surviving spouses of classified as totally disabled*

House Bill 916 requires the Commissioner of Revenue to establish separate directories to regulate sale of cigarettes and vape products.

House Bill 920 authorizes the issuance of distinctive motor vehicle license tags to supporters of:

- ▶ The Declaration of Independence Center for the Study of American Freedom at the University of Mississippi;
- ▶ Mississippi Land Bank;
- ▶ Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International;
- ▶ National Guard Association of Mississippi;
- ▶ Mississippi College School of Law;
- ▶ Magnolia Honeybee Education Exchange;
- ▶ Jackson State Tigers 2024 HBCU National Champions; and
- ▶ Promoting Peace, accomplished through the cooperation between Promote Peace Foundation and Mississippi Rotary clubs.
- ▶ Pascagoula High School; and
- ▶ Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation.

House Bill 961 codifies and extends repealers on tax credits for certain charges for using certain port and airport facilities.

House Bill 964 extends repealer on authority to issue bonds by the MS Business Finance Corporation to finance economic development projects.

House Bill 970 extends repealer on exemption of certain sales tax to Toughest Kids Foundation for Camp Kamassa in Copiah County.

House Bill 972 extends repealer on jobs income tax credit for certain water transportation enterprises.

House Bill 1196 authorizes the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District to participate in the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan and Grant Program.

House Bill 1201 creates income tax and ad valorem tax incentives for developers to improve tax forfeited, blighted properties in MS.

House Bill 1341 extends repealer on act and related tax incentives on the Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Act.

House Bill 1461 revises definition of "capital improvements", extends repealer on Mississippi Development Authority authority to use certain funds for expenses of local governments capital improvements revolving loan program.

House Bill 1644 revises certain provisions regarding tax exemptions for equipment used in the deployment of broadband technologies .

House Bill 1896 imposes an excise tax on kratom products and revises provisions relating to purchase of tobacco products from outside Mississippi.

House Bill 1897 authorizes Tate, Panola, Lafayette and Yalobusha Counties to form the Northwest Regional Alliance (NWRA) for economic development purposes.

House Bill 1901 increase the amount of tax credits that the Mississippi Development Authority may allocate during a state fiscal year under the program that authorizes it to allocate income tax credits and insurance premium tax credits for taxpayers holding certain qualified equity investments, and to extend the authority of the Mississippi Development Authority to allocate credits under the program to July 1, 2029.

Senate Bill 2266 requires the Department of Revenue to publish a list of agricultural items eligible for sales tax exemption or reduced rate.

Senate Bill 2802 increases municipal and county fire funds transferred to the Department of Revenue from the collection of certain taxes.

Senate Bill 2846 expands local government authority to enter certain agreements in support of economic development projects .

Senate Bill 2854 revises various provisions of the tourism project sales tax incentive program.

Senate Bill 2857 increases grant amount that may be awarded by the Mississippi Development Authority from the Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Fund.

Senate Bill 3165 authorizes bonds issuance for various Mississippi Development Authority as follows:

- ▶ \$20,000,000 for the Mississippi Site Development Grant Fund.
- ▶ \$10,000,000 for the ACE Fund.

Senate Bill 3166 directs the Department of Revenue to assign separate industrial multiplier for commercial solar and wind facilities.

WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS

House Bill 1637 revises provisions relating to payment of restitution hunting and fishing on another's land.

Senate Bill 2276 extends open seasons ending on a Friday until 30 minutes after sunset on the following Sunday.

Senate Bill 2280 establishes Mississippi Wild Turkey Stamp.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

House Bill 1414 revises administration of and makes technical changes to the Workforce Enhancement Training Fund.

Senate Bill 2285 amends to ensure the Mississippi Department of Employment Security background check requirement comply with the Internal Revenue Service regulations.

Senate Bill 2286 provides Workforce Enhancement Training Fund contributions for suspensions under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 2290 creates the Task Force to Study Work Force and Social Service Reform and Implementation of a One Door Policy .

Senate Bill 2300 amends certain provisions of construction contractions.

Senate Bill 2357 authorizes a work release program for eligible inmates at Delta Correctional Facility.

YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

House Bill 1387 revises who may be paid relative care payments from the Department of Child Protection Service for foster children .

Senate Bill 2766 clarifies that attached certificates to an adoption petition may be executed by any physician.

Senate Bill 2771 revises timeline for permanency hearings in youth court.

Looking for bill language??

To find these laws and all bills from the 2025 Legislation Session, visit www.legislature.ms.gov. Under Measure Number Search on the home page, select the session, bill type, and type in the bill number.

Where's the budget??

The Mississippi State Legislature did not pass a budget before the end of the 2025 session. Therefore, Governor Reeves will call us back for a special session. As of the printing of this document, that date had not been determined.



Zoe Gordon and Morgan Grace Brewer served as my 2025 Pages. Zoe is a junior at Clinton High School. Morgan Grace is a graduating senior at Puckett High School.

RESOLUTIONS

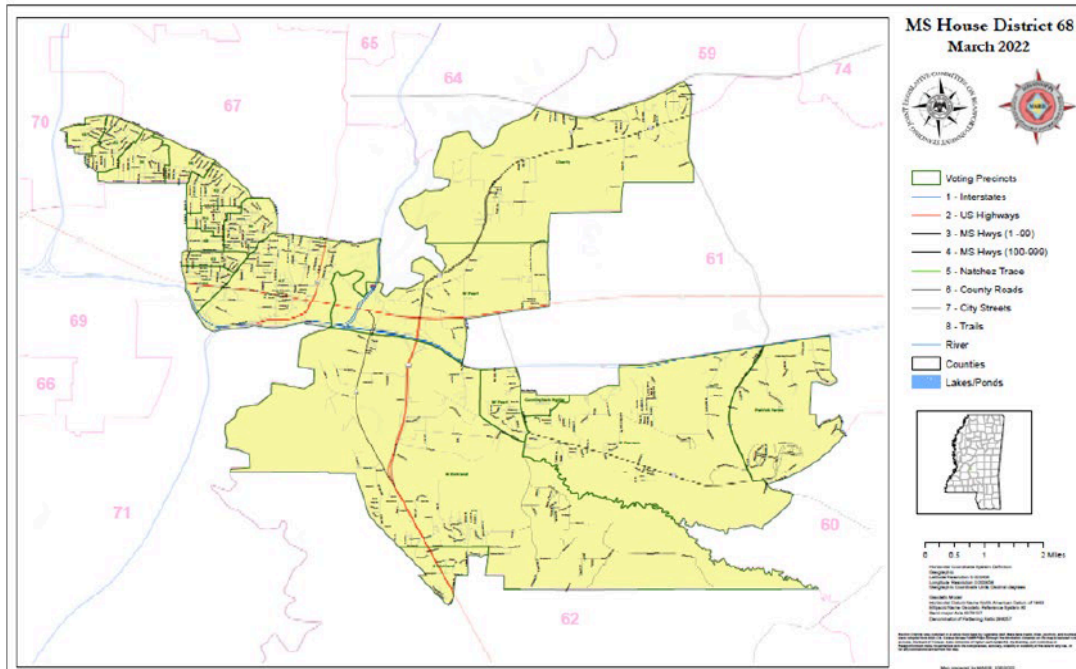
[HR 29](#) - JSU "Sonic Boom of the South"; commend upon dynamic performance at 136th Tournament of Roses Parade (Bottom Left: With JSU Sonic Boom Director Dr. Roderick Little).

[HR 30](#) - Jackson State University Women's Softball Team; commend and congratulate upon winning the 2024 SWAC Championship (Top Right: With former JSU President Thompson, Softball Coach Kevin Montgomery, and Athletic Director Ashley Robinson) .



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

New Redistricting Map for House District 68:



New Precincts for District 68 (2023)

Hinds County:

47 - Blackburn
 49 - JSU
 51 - Blackburn
 55 - JPD Academy
 56 - Zoo Fire
 60 - Lake Elementary
 61 - Jayne Ave Community Center
 63 - Davis Temple COGIC
 64 - St. James Baptist

Rankin County:

Liberty
 West Pearl
 N Richland
 S Richland
 Cunningham Heights
 S Pearson
 Patrick Farms



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