

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SHAD WHITE, AUDITOR



State Auditor's Update SELECTED LEGISLATION 2023 Regular Session

Presented by:

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2023 SELECTED LEGISLATION

House Bill 4 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 41-29-117 to add Tianeptine (Stablon and Coaxil) to schedule III controlled substances.

House Bill 49 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 49-7-153 to issue a native son or daughter a resident lifetime sportsman-hunting license if one of the applicant's parents was born in Mississippi and was on active military service at the time of the applicant's birth. The applicant must provide a certified copy of the parent's birth certificate and official documents of military service at the time of the applicant's birth.

House Bill 231 (Effective July 1, 2023)

It is an act to direct the Department of Mental Health to develop and implement a comprehensive and statewide fentanyl and drug abuse education, prevention, and cessation program that is based on scientific data and research.

House Bill 252 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 67-1-51 by modifying the package retailer's permit to allow edible alcohol products to be sold at such licensed premises. To provide that, certain on-premises retailers may serve alcoholic beverages by the glass to a customer in a vehicle using a drive-through method of delivery if the location is located in a leisure and recreation district.

House Bill 281 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 45-9-131 to establish the price of a firearm purchased by a retiring law enforcement officer to be the fair market value as determined by the governing authority who employed the officer. Also, the next of kin of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty is authorized to purchase that officer's sidearm at an agreed-upon price as determined by the governing authority. This statute extends to state agencies and boards or commissions as well.

House Bill 388 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-7-805 to include a community hospital owned by one or more counties or municipalities in the definition of "Local Government" when used in this article with the authority to submit certain debts to the Department of Revenue for debt setoff purposes.

House Bill 405 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 99-1-5, amended by Senate Bill 2337, 2023 regular session, to revise the statute of limitations for bribery of a candidate to five years.

House Bill 419 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Provides additional funding for tourism.

House Bill 454 (Effective from and after passage)

Amends 63-3-519 and authorizes the use of radar speed detection equipment by municipal law enforcement officers in any municipality where the county seat is located and there is located public community college.

House Bill 485 (Effective July 1, 2023, or December 1, 2023)

Provides a process to collect and preserve sexual assault evidence collection kits; to require the law enforcement agency to immediately collect and store the kit in compliance with certain standards; to require the law enforcement agency to send the kit to the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory within a certain number of days; to require the forensics laboratory to process the kit and enter certain DNA information into the appropriate federal, state and local databases; to provide additional rights for sexual assault victims; to create the sexual assault evidence accountability task force to conduct a study and issue a report that examines the resources required to implement a rape kit tracking system; to amend 99-49-1 to revise the definition of the term "profile"; to conform.

House Bill 518 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 41-139-1 to provide for a second round of grants for the COVID-19 Mississippi Local Provider Innovation Grant Program. Local healthcare provider applicants that applied for the first round of grants may apply for the second round.

House Bill 521 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Authorizes the Mississippi Insurance Department to Create the Mississippi Length of Service Award Program. The program will provide a paid length of service award to eligible volunteer firefighters.

House Bill 522 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Reenacts 41-67-1 through 41-67-7, 41-67-9 through 41-67-12, 41-67-15, 41-67-19 through 41-67-29, 41-67-33 and 41-67-37 through 41-67-41, which are the Mississippi individual on-site wastewater disposal system laws; amends reenacted 41-67-33, to correct a grammatical error; amends 41-67-31, to extend the date of the repealer on the Mississippi individual on-site wastewater disposal system law.

House Bill 529 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 45-27-9 to direct the Mississippi Justice Information Center to pursue opportunities to purchase live scan equipment for law enforcement agencies around the state and provides that equipment provided shall be used by law enforcement agencies. This legislation requires local law enforcement to be compliant with all regulations promulgated by the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Information Center by December 31, 2025.

House Bill 535 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 67-1-5 to revise the definition of a qualified resort area, amends 67-7-16 to require an election before certain municipalities may be designated a qualified resort area and amends 67-1-7 to authorize certain governing authorities to permit package retailers related to the sale of alcoholic beverages.

House Bill 584 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 41-99-5 to clarify the amount specified for grants under the Mississippi Qualified Health Center Grant Program and the maximum amount.

House Bill 603 (Effective from and after passage)

Provides funding for projects for state entities and local governing authorities.

House Bill 677 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 35-3-21 as amended by Senate Bill 2197, 2023 regular session, to revise certain qualifications for county veteran service offices.

House Bill 698 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 21-27-7 and 21-27-189 to ensure just, reasonable, and transparent billing for municipal water, wastewater, and sewer services.

House Bill 722 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 41-29-105 to exclude from the definition of paraphernalia materials used or intended for use in testing for the presence of Fentanyl.

House Bill 795 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 97-23-93 to revise how the fines for the crime of shoplifting are calculated; to require that fines be based on the total price of all shoplifted items.

House Bill 799 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 47-5-933 increase the amount the Department of Corrections pay for housing state offender in regional jails to \$32.71.

House Bill 894 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 17-1-27 to add administrative or civil penalties as an option that local governing authorities may pursue when a local zoning ordinance is violated.

House Bill 912 (Effective after the United State Supreme Court rules in favor of the Texas Attorney General)

Is an act to provide that a firearm suppressor manufactured and remaining in the state of Mississippi is not subject to federal laws and regulations governing firearm suppressors; to prohibit state and local governmental authorities from enforcing federal regulations on suppressors made in Mississippi; to require state funding to be withheld from any governmental entity that adopts a rule or policy enforcing the federal laws governing firearm suppressors; to require the dismissal of charges of illegally carrying a muffler or silencer which are pending on July 1, 2023; to amend 11-1-67 and 97-37-1 in conformity to the provisions of this act; to repeal 97-37-31 which creates the misdemeanor offense of making, manufacturing, selling or possessing a device that will muffle the report of a firearm by a person not authorized to do such under federal law.

House Bill 1027 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Designates the blueberry as the state fruit of Mississippi.

House Bill 1060 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 77-3-3, 77-3-201, and 77-11-305 to clarify the definition of public utility and to authorize electric vehicle charging by non-utilities.

House Bill 1110 (Effective January 1, 2024)

An act to create the "Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act" to prohibit a state agency or other political subdivision of the state, or any other person, public or private, from keeping any record of privately owned firearms or registry of the owner of those firearms; to prohibit a financial institution from using a firearms code to engage in certain discriminatory conduct in the state; to authorize the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations of this act; to authorize the Attorney General to pursue an injunction against any entity or individual in violation of this act.

House Bill 1111 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 93-15-105 to authorize youth court, in abuse or neglect proceedings, to have original, exclusive jurisdiction of both voluntary and involuntary termination of parental rights actions.

House Bill 1115 (Effective July 1, 2023)

An act to amend 43-21-609 to clarify the authority of the youth court regarding durable legal custody; to amend 43-21-613 to require all dispositions and modifications of durable legal custody to be reviewed by the youth court.

House Bill 1136 (Effective from and after passage and July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-19-56.549 and authorizes the issuance of additional distinctive license plates.

House Bill 1168 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-65-241 to provide the Department of Revenue the authority to withhold municipal payments from hotel and meal sales tax if financial audits are delinquent.

House Bill 1169 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-7-45 and 7-7-43 regarding outstanding Mississippi Income Tax due from state officers and employees.

House Bill 1170 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 63-21-16, 63-21-15, and 63-21-45 to authorize the Department of Revenue to issue electronic liens and titles for motor vehicles and manufactured homes.

House Bill 1217 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Creates 9-21-80 and amends 9-21-71, 9-21-73, 9-21-77, 9-21-79, 9-21-81, and 99-17-7 to revise when an interpreter is needed from a non-English speaker to a limited English proficient individual, to revise certain definitions, and to create 3 levels of interpreters authorized to serve in civil and criminal proceedings in all courts.

House Bill 1222 (Effective July 1, 2023)

This legislation creates "the Mississippi Collaborative Response To Mental Health Act" and provides for the following:

Each county and municipal law enforcement agency must provide mental health first aid training that is evidence-based and approved by the Department of Mental Health to all law enforcement officers by July 31, 2031.

On or before July 1, 2025, each municipal and county law enforcement agency must have at least one crisis intervention trained officer. An agency that employs less than five law enforcement officers may execute an agreement with one or more law enforcement agencies to have a crisis intervention team officer serve as the officer for that agency.

41-21-77.1 provides funding for the Department of Mental Health to assist community mental health centers with the cost of designating court liaisons.

41-19-35 provides Regional Mental Health Commissioners shall serve at the will and pleasure of the appointing board of supervisors. Commissioners may be a clerk, sheriff, or deputy. In addition, the chancery clerks of the counties in each region shall select a chancery clerk or a deputy clerk to serve as a nonvoting liaison to the commission, and the sheriffs of the counties in each region shall select a sheriff or a deputy sheriff to serve as a nonvoting liaison to the commission. Each member of the commission shall attend the orientation training for new commissioners and the annual training for all commissioners held by the Department of Mental Health. The Department of Mental Health shall notify the board of supervisors when a commissioner does not attend either the orientation training or annual training. Upon notice from the Department of Mental Health that a commissioner has failed to attend the required meetings, the appointing board of supervisors shall remove the commissioner unless the department and the commission agree to an alternate arrangement to allow the commissioner to continue to serve until the next opportunity to attend the orientation meeting and/or the annual training.

House Bill 1222 (Effective July 1, 2023) continued

41-21-77 provides:

- (a) When admission to a treatment facility is ordered by the court, the chancery clerk shall make a record of the admission. Each chancery clerk shall maintain a record of the number of persons ordered by the court to be admitted to a treatment facility, the number of hearings held by the court to determine whether a person should be admitted to a treatment facility, and the number of affidavits filed to admit a person to a treatment facility under Section 41-21-61, etc.
- (b) The chancery clerk shall maintain a record each time such clerk receives a denial for admission to a community mental health center crisis stabilization bed, the reason provided to the clerk for such denial, and the subsequent action taken by the clerk upon receiving the denial.
- (c) Each chancery clerk shall provide the records required by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (2) to the Department of Mental Health within thirty (30) days of the end of each calendar quarter. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of the chancery clerk records, the Department of Mental Health shall provide a summary to the Chairpersons of the Appropriations, Public Health, and Judiciary A and B Committees for the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi Senate, the Coordinator of Mental Health and the President of the Mississippi Association of Community Mental Health Centers.

House Bill 1276 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 23-15-193 to provide that the state officers that receive a majority of votes cast for the office at the general election shall be elected, but if no candidate receives a majority number of votes cast at the election, then the two candidates who receive the highest number of votes cast shall have their names placed on the ballot for the runoff election to be held three weeks later; to amend 23-15-603 and 7-3-5, to conform.

House Bill 1306 (Effective January 1, 2024)

Amends 23-15-211 to revise the duties of the State Board of Election Commissioners to remove the duty of the Board to remove the names of candidates from the ballot for failure to comply with campaign finance filing requirements; to amend 23-15-811, to provide that no person shall be qualified to appear on the ballot if, by the time the candidate is approved to appear on the ballot for the office sought, he or she has failed to file all reports required to be filed within the last five years; to amend 23-15-807, to provide that candidates for judicial office shall not be required to file an annual report in an election year but shall file one in other years; to amend 23-15-753, to provide a penalty for any person who fraudulently requests or submits an absentee ballot application for any voter.

House Bill 1310 (Effective January 1, 2024)

Creates 23-15-615 and authorizes the Secretary of State to audit election procedures of the 2023, 2024, 2026, and 2027 general elections in the counties of the state; to provide how the counties shall be selected; to provide what the Secretary of State may audit during a procedural audit; to require the Secretary of State to create a post-election audit manual; to require the Secretary of State to compile a report of the procedural audits; to repeal 23-15-613 which provides that election commissions and county and municipal executive committees shall report residual vote information to the Secretary of State; to amend 23-15-153 to authorize election commissioners to receive a per diem of \$110 for conducting an audit of an election; to amend 23-15-5 to revise how the monies in the elections support fund are distributed; to create new 23-15-152 to provide that an elector who fails to respond to a confirmation notice and who fails to vote during a certain period of time shall be removed from the statewide elections management system; to provide definitions for "confirmation notice" and "fails to respond to the confirmation notice"; to provide those registered voters who shall receive confirmation notices; to provide that a registered voter who is mailed a confirmation notice shall be placed on inactive status in the statewide elections management system but shall be able to vote by affidavit ballot; to provide the time for removal of voter registration records; to provide for the retention of removed voter registration records; to amend 23-15-125 to conform to the preceding section; to amend 23-15-15 to provide that by January 1, 2025, the Secretary of State shall compare the entire statewide election management system to the Department of Public Safety Driver's License Database; to provide that all documentation provided to show proof of citizenship shall be exempt from the Mississippi Public Records Act; to amend 23-15-165 to conform to the preceding section.

House Bill 1318 (Effective from and after passage)

Amends 43-15-201 thru 43-15-211, 93-15-103, and 93-15-109 relating to "Baby Drop-Off Law."

House Bill 1561 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-31-101 to include controlled environment agriculture enterprises meeting minimum criteria established by the Mississippi Development Authority in the types of new enterprises for which county boards of supervisors and municipal governing authorities may grant ad valorem tax exemptions; to amend 51-7-29, to remove the requirement that the board of supervisors of any county, which has a master water management district within a county, to implement a tax assessment that is levied by the commissioners of a master water management district; to amend 51-7-23, to conform to the preceding

Senate Bill 2011 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-65-201 to exempt from sales tax transfers of motor vehicle titles between a trustee and a beneficiary of a trust, between a corporation and one of its shareholders under section 351 of the IRS code, and between a partnership or limited liability company and one of its partners or owners.

Senate Bill 2187 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-19-53 and 27-19-56.444 provides veterans having a rating of 100% permanent service-connected disability or 70% nonpermanent service-connected disability as established by the Veterans Administration or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs may purchase 2 car tags for \$1 per plate.

In order for a person who is rated as having at least seventy percent (70%) nonpermanent service-connected disability to renew a license plate or tag issued under this section, the person must provide an updated benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs indicating that the person's rating has not been adjusted to less than seventy percent (70%) nonpermanent service-connected disability.

Senate Bill 2197 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 35-3-21 to authorize county veteran service officers to act for a veteran for certain services under a written power of attorney authorized by the veteran for the purpose of assisting with claims, benefits, and appeals in an administrative hearing before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; to provide county veteran service officers with legal immunity only for such actions except in cases of abuse, fraud or breach of fiduciary duty.

Senate Bill 2199 (Effective from and after passage)

Amends 19-23-13 to clarify that a county prosecuting attorney may defend any person in any criminal prosecution in another county.

Senate Bill 2212 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amend 43-13-115 to authorize and direct the Division of Medicaid to provide up to 12 months of continuous coverage postpartum for any individual who qualifies for Medicaid as a pregnant woman to the extent allowable under federal law.

Senate Bill 2298 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 21-23-8 to revise the procedure to determine bail in municipal court; to amend 99-5-11 to revise the procedure to determine bail in justice court.

The court shall not set the financial conditions of bail solely for the purpose of detaining the defendant. When bail is set, it is presumed that the amount of bail is both necessary to reasonably assure the safety of a victim, witness, or the general public and to guarantee the appearance of a defendant as required by the court. The amount of bail is also presumed to be attainable by the defendant. The presumption that bail is attainable by the defendant may be rebutted by the defendant, who may file a motion to reduce or set aside the bail requirement with the court due to lack of financial means, which shall also consider the availability of a third-party support system to obtain the defendant's release. The court shall rule on any such motion within forty-eight (48) hours of the filing. If the defendant or his counsel asserts that the defendant is indigent and cannot afford the amount of bail, the municipal judge shall make a determination of whether the defendant can be released on recognizance based on the standards enumerated in the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure and any other factors considered relevant by the municipal judge. No misdemeanor defendant shall be incarcerated solely because the defendant cannot afford to post bail, nor shall a misdemeanor defendant be released solely because the defendant cannot afford bail. It is the duty of the municipal judge to ensure that release of the defendant does not jeopardize the community.

The accused may waive an appearance before the judge and execute an appearance bond in an amount determined by the court from the bond guidelines set out in the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure and agree to appear at a specified time and place.

Senate Bill 2312 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 19-7-3 to provide that after advertising for 3 consecutive weeks in a newspaper to lease county-owned real property, the board may reject all bids or accept the highest and best or may hold an auction among the bidders. No bidder shall be granted preference, and the opening bid shall be the highest bid received.

If it's the last year of an existing lease, the leaseholder shall be notified of the intention to re-lease after such required advertising. If the board elects not to hold an auction, then the leaseholder may submit a 2nd bid not less than 5% of the highest acceptable bid received if the leaseholder 1) submitted a bid, 2) constructed/made improvements to the property with the board's approval, 3) current on all rent and taxes, and 4) otherwise not in default. If the leaseholder submits 2nd bid, then the board shall hold an auction, with the 2nd bid being the opening bid.

Senate Bill 2323 (Effective from and after passage)

Amends 41-13-35, 41-13-29, 37-115-50, 41-9-301 thru 41-9-307, and creates 37-115-5.2 and 37-115-50.3 to provide the board of trustees of community hospitals the authority to participate with private, public, and non-profit organizations to improve health care.

Senate Bill 2337 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 99-1-5 to provide the time limitation on prosecution for conspiracy, as described in 97-1-1, shall be the same as for the underlying offense for which the defendant is accused of conspiring to commit.

Senate Bill 2339 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 57-39-21 which requires certain standards that promote efficient energy use to be implemented during the design, direction, construction, and alteration of certain buildings, creates a new section to provide that state, county, or municipal building codes may not prohibit or limit the use of federally approved substitute refrigerants.

Senate Bill 2353 (Effective July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023)

Amends 23-15-227, 23-15-229, and 23-15-239 to provide that the board of supervisors, at their discretion, may pay poll managers up to \$125.00 for each election versus the minimum \$75.00 as required through December 31, 2023. Thereafter the minimum amount is \$125.00 for each election.

Senate Bill 2358 (Effective July 1, 2023)

A person shall not knowingly collect and transmit a ballot that was mailed to another person except as follows:

- (a) An election official while engaged in official duties as authorized by law.
- (b) An employee of the United States Postal Service while engaged in official duties as authorized by law.
- (c) Any other individual who is allowed by federal law to collect and transmit United States mail while engaged in official duties as authorized by law.
- (d) A family member, household member, or caregiver of the person to whom the ballot was mailed.
- (e) A common carrier that transports goods from one place to another for a fee. No parcel shall contain more than a single ballot.

Any violation of this section shall be subject to the penalties of 97-13-37.

Senate Bill 2359 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Creates the Mississippi Main Street Revitalization Grant Program.

Senate Bill 2372, funded by House Bill 271 (Effective from and after passage)

Establishes the Mississippi Hospital Sustainability Grant Program.

Senate Bill 2373 (Effective from and after passage)

Creates the skilled nursing home and hospital nurses retention loan program for new nursing graduates.

Senate Bill 2376 (Effective from and after passage)

Amends 43-21-261 to provide nothing in this section or chapter shall require youth court approval for disclosure of records involving children as defined in 43-21-105(u) if the disclosure is made in a criminal matter by a municipal or county prosecutor, a district attorney, or statewide prosecutor, pursuant to the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure and the records are disclosed under a protective order issued by the Circuit Court presiding over the criminal matter which incorporates the penalties stated in 43-21-267.

Senate Bill 2392 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 19-5-22 To require a county board of supervisors to notify the county tax collector when unpaid fees assessed under section 19-5-21 (solid waste) are past due; to require the tax collector to index the delinquency notice received from the board of supervisors; to provide that liens created under this statute shall be available in a registry in the chancery clerk's office.

Senate Bill 2420 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Creates a public registry of offenders whose crimes involved the embezzlement or misappropriation of public funds; define terms; direct the Department of Public Safety to create a registry of offenders; require responsible agencies to forward certain information to the department; require offenders to report to the department within a prescribed timeframe; to authorize the department to promulgate rules for the implementation of the act; amends 25-1-113 to prohibit local governments from hiring persons on the registry for certain positions.

Senate Bill 2444 (Effective from and after passage)

Amends 49-2-131 to provide that DEQ will only accept 2 rounds of applications under the Mississippi Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant Program. DEQ must have a ranking system for applications unless the Legislature funds all eligible requests.

Amends 41-3-16.1 to provide rural water associations and any entity that received funding under the ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Program or the Mississippi Municipality and County Water Infrastructure (MCWI) Grant Program before the date of passage of this act shall be ineligible for additional grants under this section.

Amends 57-123-11 and provides the funding formula for MS Main Street Grants to municipalities.

Amends 45-2-41 Any law enforcement officer or firefighter who received \$1,000.00 or more of premium pay from the county, municipality, or other governmental entity that employed them from funds received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act is not eligible to receive monies from the MS Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program. Eligible law enforcement or firefighters that received less than \$1,000.00 will be paid the difference in actual and the \$1,000.00 maximum.

Amends 25-3-25 and allows the Sheriff to receive the \$1,000.00 premium pay in addition to the statutory salary.

Senate Bill 2454 (Effective from and after passage)

Provides funding for various grant programs.

Senate Bill 2495 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 47-5-909 to expedite the removal of inmates from county jails by directing the Department of Corrections to pay county jails for housing state offenders; to amend 99-19-42 to increase the rate of pay for housing state offenders in county jails; to amend 47-5-901 to conform.

Senate Bill 2512 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Authorizes the board of supervisors to allocate (make grants) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds made available under ARPA to entities that supply water, sewer, or storm water services.

Senate Bill 2525 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Creates the Mississippi Forestry Facility Grant Fund and Program to be used for utility, infrastructure, and transportation projects with a 10,000,000 investment.

Senate Bill 2526 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 51-15-103, 51-15-107, 51-15-109, 51-15-113, 51-15-115, and 51-15-117 to authorize municipalities located in counties that are not members of the Pat Harrison Waterway District to join the district.

To amend 51-15-118 to authorize the governing authorities of a member municipality to withdraw the municipality from the district.

Senate Bill 2538 (Effective from and after passage)

Creates the Mississippi Regional Pre-Need Disaster Clean Up Act; to amend 31-7-13 as amended by House Bill no. 249, 2023 regular session, to authorize counties and municipalities to opt into regional pre-need contracts for disaster clean-up services under contracts administered by the Department of Finance and Administration.

Senate Bill 2548 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 63-5-19 to clarify the length restrictions for vehicles transporting forest products or agriculture products in their natural state are the same for daylight and nighttime operation.

Senate Bill 2561 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 65-1-179 to change the requirement of a unanimous vote of the Mississippi Transportation Commission regarding the use of the emergency road and bridge repair fund monies to a majority vote.

Senate Bill 2562 (Effective from and after passage)

To allow for public and private partnerships to establish electric vehicle charging stations and allow the Transportation Commission to provide grants to private companies for the purpose of providing such stations.

Senate Bill 2652 (Effective July 1, 2023)

To require the Department of Public Safety to establish a registry for individuals convicted of certain crimes against a vulnerable person.

Senate Bill 2663 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 39-5-22 to revise the eligibility requirements to receive a grant from the Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund; to require the Department of Archives and History to submit an annual report to members of the legislature.

Senate Bill 2681 (Effective after June 30, 2023)

Amends 57-80-9 to specify that if the annualized unemployment rate in a growth and prosperity county falls below 150% of the state's annualized unemployment rate for three consecutive calendar years and less than 30% of the population of the county is at or below the federal poverty level for three consecutive years according to the most recent official data compiled by the United States Census Bureau, the tax exemptions authorized under the growth and prosperity act may not be granted to additional business enterprises.

Senate Bill 2698 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-31-46.1 to extend the period in which certain renewable energy projects may begin construction in order to be eligible for a partial ad valorem tax exemption; to extend the time period within which county boards of supervisors and municipal governing authorities may authorize a partial ad valorem tax exemption for certain renewable energy projects; to amend 27-31-104 which authorizes county boards of supervisors and municipal governing authorities to enter into agreements with certain enterprises granting a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes, to revise the enterprises with which county boards of supervisors and municipal governing authorities are authorized to enter into such agreements; to extend the time period within which county boards of supervisors and municipal governing authorities may enter into such agreements with certain renewable energy projects.

Senate Bill 2700 (Effective January 1, 2023)

Amends 27-33-75 to allow an exemption from all ad valorem taxes on the assessed value of the homestead property to a qualified homeowner who is the un-remarried surviving spouse of a member of the US Armed Forces who was killed or died on active duty or a member of a reserve component who was killed or died on active duty for training.

Senate Bill 2728 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 25-53-5 to authorize statewide master agreements; to authorize utilization of information technology acquisitions made by other entities, including cloud-based storage.

Senate Bill 2734 (Effective from and after passage)

Amends 19-11-27 to include projects funded by ARPA as well as any required matching funds to be exempt from the ¼ of the budget last term of office spending restrictions.

Senate Bill 2751 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 29-3-132 to provide that no law, ordinance, or regulation shall prohibit, restrict or interfere with school districts' use of sixteenth-section lands for the construction and operation of educational or extracurricular facilities.

Senate Bill 2839 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 19-31-9, 19-31-11, 19-31-17, 19-31-19, 19-31-25, 19-31-39, and 19-31-41 to authorize the governing authorities of the municipality in which a public improvement district is contained to perform the duties and exercise the powers of the board of the district in the event the board is unable or unwilling to perform its duties or exercise its powers.

Senate Bill 2841 (Effective January 1, 2024)

Amends 27-19-31 to allow regular black and white license plates for automobiles.

Senate Bill 2842 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Amends 27-67-35 and limits the use of “Modernization Funds.” These funds shall not be used for salaries, benefits, or any form of compensation for employees, or for contract employees, administrative costs, debt service except as provided in this section, personal property, or equipment (other than equipment to be permanently installed as part of a road or bridge), or for the construction or maintenance of public buildings or other structures that are not integral to the system of roads and bridges.

Senate Bill 2853 (Effective July 1, 2023)

Requires after January 1, 2025, state-purchased (including political subdivisions) small unmanned aircraft systems or drones to be manufactured in the United States of America by an American-owned company and to possess collision avoidance systems and grants a 10% bid preference in public procurement for small unmanned aircraft systems and related services to Mississippi manufacturers and servicing companies. Requires all public agencies to solicit at least one bid from a Mississippi-based small unmanned aircraft system manufacturer. Prohibits purchasing or operating small unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled from parts manufactured in the People’s Republic of China.

2022 SELECTED LEGISLATION

The following code sections were amended during the 2022 Regular Session and provide for action beyond January 1, 2023. Sections amended as follows:

9-1-43 increases the limit on chancery and circuit clerk compensation to \$99,500.00.

23-15-225 increases the limit on circuit clerks' compensation for conducting elections from \$2,500 to \$5,000, effective 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2027. Effective 01/01/2028, the limit on compensation for conducting elections increases to \$10,000.

25-3-3 increases the salaries of the tax assessor, the collector, or the assessor/collector by \$5,000 effective after 01/01/2024 and another \$5,000 effective 01/01/2028.

25-7-9 provides the chancery clerk an annual sum not to exceed \$2,500 for attending board of supervisors meetings (after 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2027). After 01/01/2028, the sum not to exceed is increased to \$5,000. Further, the amount provided for the chancery clerk for performing other services for the board of supervisors is increased to a sum not to exceed \$5,000 from 01/01/2024 until 12/31/2027. After 01/01/2028, the amount not to exceed is \$10,000.

41-61-75 provides that after 1/01/2024, increases the fee a medical examiner or his deputy shall receive to \$185.00 for each completed report of investigation of death, plus the examiner's actual expenses. The fee is increased to \$195 after 01/01/2028.

25-3-13 provides that the salary of the board of supervisors may be increased over the amounts set in subsection (1) of this section by \$2,000.00 after January 1, 2024, and \$4,000.00 after January 1, 2028. The salary shall not be increased in the last year of the term.