

## Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE): 2025 Legislative Bill Tracker

Bill	Short Title	Author of Bill	Description	Action (As of 12:00 noon 2/20/25)
<b>Bills Under Consideration</b>				
HB 1	"Build Up Mississippi Act"; create ( <i>House's tax reform bill</i> )	Rep. Trey Lamar	Tax reform bill phases out the personal income tax over the next 10 years; adds a new 1.5% sales tax on items currently taxed at 7% (so 8.5% sales tax); steps down the sales tax on groceries from 7% to 2.5%; creates a 5% sales tax on fuel; and directs the first \$100 million of lottery proceeds each fiscal year to PERS, with proceeds greater than \$100 million being split evenly between the Education Enhancement Fund (EEF) and the Multimodal Transportation Improvement Fund	Passed House Ways and Means; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Finance
HB 246	16th section land; authorize local school board to grant an extension to holder of a long-term lease in good standing.	Rep. Missy McGee	16th section land; authorize local school board (Hattiesburg) to grant an extension to holder of a long-term lease in good standing	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 532	School nurses; direct the Office of Healthy Schools to develop salary schedule for that all school districts shall use when employing	Rep. Jody Steversen	MDE's Office of Healthy Schools to develop minimum salary schedule for school nurses based on their education and experience	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education and Appropriations
HB 703	School resource officers; authorize local law enforcement agencies to enter into agreement with independent nonpublic schools to provide.	Rep. Billy Calvert	Local law enforcement agencies may enter into memorandums of understanding with independent, private schools to employ law enforcement officers to serve as School Resource Officers at such private schools.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 809	Students of active duty service members and civilian personnel; clarify "active duty" status for purpose of school enrollment and transfers	Rep. Kevin Felsher	Clarifies school choice enrollment choices for children of active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and current members of the Mississippi National Guard; requires such students to reapply for admission if they return to their previous district or school.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 810	State JROTC Coordinator; exempt from qualification requirements of the State Personnel Board	Rep. Kevin Felsher	Exempts the JROTC statewide coordinator employed by the State Department of Education from the State Personnel Board qualifications	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education

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HB 962	Energy Academy Act; extend repealer on authority of Vicksburg-Warren & Claiborne County schools to partner with nuclear plant	Rep. Fred Shanks	Reenacts the partnership between the Vicksburg-Warren and Claiborne County school districts with Grand Gulf for the Energy Academy and extends the repealer to 7/1/28	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1063	MS State Employees Paid Parental Leave Act; create	Rep. Kevin Felsher	Provides eight weeks of paid parental leave to state employees, but leaves any such leave for public school and community college employees to the discretion of their respective local boards	Passed House Public Health and Human Services; Passed House Appropriations; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Judiciary A
HB 1066	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; correct reference to statutory provision for the U.S.	Rep. Kevin Felsher	Amends current law to correct a reference to a statutory provision of the U.S. Code	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1078	"Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act"; remove wait list requirement and restrictive certification of services language	Speaker Jason White	Removes changes made during the 2024 Legislative Session to enhance oversight and accountability of the ESA voucher program for special needs students; removes current law's cap of 500 new enrollees each year; eliminates the ESA wait list and expands program to include children in foster care who do not have special needs. (NOTE: Empower Mississippi supports this school choice bill.)	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1081	Parental rights; authorize fundamental to direct upbringing of children	Rep. Kimberly Remak	Declares the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children and prohibits any state agency from infringing on the fundamental rights of parents	Passed House Judiciary A; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1133	Cardiac Emergency Response Plans and Automated External Defibrillators; expand access and provide funding	Rep. Kent McCarty	Requires Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) to include athletic venues/grounds; requires an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to be accessible during the school day and any other time in which students participating in an athletic practice or sporting event; directs MDE to provide \$2.49 million to districts to aid in implementing CERPs	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education

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HB 1139	Statewide Student Assessment Program; exempt test security plans for public records disclosure	Rep. Kent McCarty	Exempts local school districts' test security plans for the administratio of the state assesment program from the Mississippi Public Records Act	Passed House Education; Passed House Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1142	Early childhood education employees; clarify qualifications exemption for those employed in programs not granted by SDE	Rep. Kent McCarty	Clarifies charter schools with a State Invested PreK (SIP) program must adhere to same employee qualifications as early learning collaboratives so as to comply with the grant deliverables.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1143	School districts under states of emergency; clarify role of interim superintendent appointed by the SBE when district returns to local control	Rep. Kent McCarty	Upon the return of a local school district to a newly reconstituted local school board, the interim superintendent appointed by the State Board will serve in an advisory capacity for one year, rather than two years as in current law, with the new board and superintendent	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1186	Natural gas piping systems; require testing in school facilities.	Rep. Brent Powell	Requires public elementary or secondary school, charter school, or private elementary or secondary school to have a qualified plumber perform an annual pressure test on the natural gas piping system in the school facility. Reports of test must be submitted to MDE within 30 days of the test.	Passed House Public Utilities; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Energy
HB 1193	Public K-12 and Post Secondary schools; prohibit DEI statements and practices	Rep. Joey Hood	Eliminates diversity training programs related to “race, sex, color, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or national origin” in K-12, community colleges & universities. Bans school officials from asking job applicants to submit diversity statements in the hiring process. Any public school/college/university or state-accredited nonpublic school that receives more than two complaints of an alleged violation is subject to the loss of state funding. Anyone may file a complaint and schools accused of violating the law may be sued.	Passed House Judiciary A; Passed House; Motion to Reconsider Entered; Motion to Reconsider Tabled; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Universities & Colleges

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HB 1412	MS Workforce Dual Enrollment for Career and Technical Education Grant Program; create pilot program for	Rep. Donnie Bell	Creates a pilot program to provide grants to each community college equal to \$150/credit hour/student for each student enrolled in a dual enrollment course in a priority sector strategy	Passed House Workforce Development; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Universities & Colleges and Appropriations
HB 1417	One Mississippi; require State Dept of Ed. to provide copies to every student in Grade 2 for instruction during "Read Across America Week"	Rep. Becky Currie	Provides a copy of "One Mississippi" to each second grader in a public or charter school during Read Across America Week	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education and Appropriations
HB 1431	School districts; require administrative efficiency joinder of multiple districts in a county into a single countywide district	Rep. Rob Roberson	Creates task force to study the potential for consolidation and the efficiency of districts throughout the state, especially those in counties with two or more school districts and those school districts whose boundaries are within two counties.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1432	MS Charter School Act of 2013; revise to expand opportunities for establishment of charter schools in certain districts	Rep. Rob Roberson	Creates additional opportunities for charter schools to expand, diminishes accountability for charter schools, allows multiple charter authorizers which weakens oversight of charters, and allows charters to be approved in C rated districts until the State Board of Education adjusts the cut scores for the accountability model. (Charters are currently only allowed in D and F districts.) (NOTE: Empower Mississippi supports this school choice bill.)	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1434	Aeronautics, Geospatial, Engineering, Nursing and Technical Skills (AGENTS) of Excellence Program Act; create to improve academic and workforce outcomes	Rep. Rob Roberson	Creates AGENTS programs at Delta State, MS Valley State, and Alcorn State University with priority given to low-income students in grade 9-12. Program to be jointly administered by MDE and the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). Amended on House floor to add MS University for Women and to require the universities to submit report to legislature after one year regarding the feasibility of residential programs.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Motion to Reconsider Entered; Reconsidered and Amended; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education

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HB 1435	Student transfers; provide greater access to open enrollment and remove requirement for home district approval of release	Rep. Jansen Owen	Allows a public school student in any public school district to transfer to another public school district. HB 1435 eliminates current law's authority for the releasing district to deny a transfer. HB 1435 requires districts to report their enrollment capacity three times each year, including space available for each school and grade. The district must also report its transfer policy. Athletic participation of students who transfer will be governed by MHSAA rules. (NOTE: Empower Mississippi supports this school choice bill.)	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1439	School Accountability Dashboard Act; establish to provide parents with critical student performance data	Rep. Zach Grady	Requires school districts to publish school accountability dashboards on district websites beginning with the 2025-26 school year so as to promote transparency and provide parents with critical student performance data. (NOTE: Empower Mississippi supports this bill and touts it as a school choice bill.)	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1522	Computer devices, equipment and adaptive devices; authorize school districts to sell to graduating senior at the residual value of such	Rep. Jansen Owen	Amends current law to authorize school districts to sell computer devices, peripheral equipment and adaptive devices to graduating seniors at the residual value.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Motion to Reconsider Entered; Motion to Reconsider Tabled; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1527	Financial literacy curriculum; require State Board of Education to create for all public school students in Grades 6-8	Rep. Rob Roberson	Requires the State Board of Education to develop a financial literacy curriculum in grades 6-8 no later than the 2026-27 school year and requires passage of a 1/2 carnegie unit course in financial literacy as a graduation requirement for all public and charter school students beginning with the graduating class of 2031.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education and Appropriations
HB 1555	MS Curriculum Alignment Task Force; create	Rep. Donnie Bell	Creates task force to review and make recommendations via report to legislature by 12/1/25 on how to align the curriculum at the secondary and post secondary levels throughout the state and to calculate the funding that would be necessary to align at both levels.	Passed House Workforce Development; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Universities & Colleges and Economic & Workforce Development

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HB 1556	Mississippi Career and Technical Education Employability (MissCATEE) Program; establish to provide tuition-free community college	Rep. Donnie Bell	Subject to appropriations, MissCATEE Program will provide tuition free tuition for community college for eligible recipients for CTE and training leading to AA credentials or industry certification. Grant recipients must commit to serving in industry sector of AA or certification for period of time determined by Office of Workforce Development	Passed House Workforce Development; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Universities & Colleges and Appropriations
HB 1562	Education Enhancement Fund procurement cards; bring forward provision related to	Rep. Kent McCarty	Brings forward the sections of current law governing EEF cards for possible amendment	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
HB 1563	School business officers; establish mentorship program for	Rep. Kent McCarty	Establishes a mentorship program for School Business Officials to be administered by MDE in partnership with the MS Association of School Business Officials (MASBO). Participation is voluntary. Mentors may be retired school business or finance officers.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1610	School attendance officers; transfer responsibility of employment from MDE to local school districts	Rep. Jansen Owen	Transfers responsibility for employing and managing duties of School Attendance Officers (SAOs) from MDE to local school districts effective 7/1/25 and provides 25% pay raise for SAOs. Requires the state to provide funding for 1 SAO for every 3,000 compulsory school-age children enrolled in the public schools of a county.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education and Appropriations
HB 1617	"Tim Tebow Act"; create to authorize homeschool students to participate in public school extracurricular activities	Rep. Rob Roberson	Allows homeschool students to participate in public school extracurricular activities. Such students must submit a portfolio of their work and public school administrators will determine the appropriateness of such portfolios in determining a student's eligibility to participate. Such students must also participate in the statewide testing program and their scores shall not impact the local district's rating.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education

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HB 1621	CTE; remove stipulation that only certain programs leading to industry certification are considered for the statewide accountability system and diploma endorsements	Rep. Rob Roberson	Section 1 of the bill which removed the stipulation that only certain programs leading to industry certification are considered for the accountability system and diploma endorsement was deleted via an amendment on the House floor. As passed the House, provides CTE grant funds may be used to purchase equipment for programs that lead to qualifying industry certifications.	Passed House Education; Passed House Workforce Development; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education
HB 1630	"Mississippi Student Funding Formula"; bring forward related sections for purpose of possible revisions	Rep. Rob Roberson	Makes technical amendments to the MS Student Funding Formula passed in the 2024 Legislative Session by eliminating old MAEP related language that was overlooked in 2024. Also changes the definition of enrollment to only include K-12 students and to omit pre-K students who were included in the original figures when the MSFF was adopted in 2024. Reverse repealer added to bill on House floor to ensure bill goes to conference so pre-K issue can be addressed and hopefully resolved.	Passed House Education; Passed House; Motion to Reconsider Entered; Reconsidered and Amended; Passed House; Sent to Senate; Referred to Senate Education and Appropriations
SB 2059	Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force Act; enact	Senator Chris Johnson	Creates Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force to evaluate the potential applications of artificial intelligence in K-12 education and to develop policy recommendations for responsible and effective uses by students and educators.	Passed Senate Technology; Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Double referred to House Technology and House Education
SB 2147	Financial literacy curriculum; require specific courses in public schools in Grades 6-12	Senator Dennis DeBar	Requires the State Board of Education to develop a financial literacy curriculum in grades 6-8 no later than the 2026-27 school year and requires passage of a 1/2 Carnegie Unit course in financial literacy as a graduation requirement for public school students.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate Appropriations; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education and Appropriations A
SB 2148 *	Preschool and prekindergarten tax credit; expand for contributions to programs serving three-year-old children	Senator Nicole Boyd	Provides that qualified contributions to preschool or preK programs serving 3-year old children are eligible for the income tax credit applying to preK program support contributions	Referred to Senate Education and Senate Finance

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SB 2151	Education; require public schools to adopt policies prohibiting or restricting cell phone possession or use by students in class	Senator Briggs Hopson	Requires public school districts, charters and ag high schools to adopt and send MDE by 1/1/26 policy banning or restricting use of cell phones by students during class or while under supervision of a school employee. If district does not send policy, MDE will deduct one day's funding for each day after 1/1/26 that district doesn't submit policy.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
SB 2162	Cardiac Emergency Response Plan; revise to include airway clearance devices	Senator Philman Ladner	Requires Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPS) to include use of airway clearance devices beginning with 2025-26 school year.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education
SB 2176	Interim superintendents; modify role when state of emergency is lifted	Senator Dennis DeBar	Upon the return of a local school district to a newly reconstituted local school board, the interim superintendent appointed by the State Board will serve in an advisory capacity for one year, rather than two years as in current law, with the new board and superintendent	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education
SB 2177	Vocational education; modify description of programs eligible for payments out of state appropriations	Senator Dennis DeBar	Removes current language that solely refers to the use of extended contract days between academic years and adds language allowing for extended contract days to also be utilized during the intersessions between quarters in those districts following the modified school calendar. This will result in more days meeting the eligibility criteria for CTE instructor extended contracts.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education, Workforce Development, and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
SB 2178	School boards; authorize to vote on providing members and their dependents with health insurance paid for by local funds	Senator Dennis DeBar	Authorizes local districts to provide health insurance for their school board members and their eligible dependents if the insurance is paid for with local funds and not state funds.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education
SB 2181	Public Records Act; exempt school district Test Security Plans for administration of Statewide Student Assessment Program	Senator Dennis DeBar	Exempts local school districts' test security plans for the administration of the state assessment program from the Mississippi Public Records Act	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education



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SB 2245	16th section land; remove board of supervisors from having to approve leases and substitute Secretary of State	Senator Tyler McCaughn	Allows the Secretary of State to approve 16th section land leases rather than the local board of supervisors	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Motion to Reconsider Entered; Reconsidered and amended; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
SB 2247	16th section land; authorize local school board to grant an extension to holder of a long-term lease in good standing	Senator Chris Johnson	16th section land; authorize local school board (Hattiesburg) to grant an extension to holder of a long-term lease in good standing	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education
SB 2438	Mississippi State Employees Paid Parental Leave Act; enact	Senator Jeremy England	Provides six weeks of paid parental leave to state employees. Amended on Senate floor to include public school and community college employees.	Passed Senate Judiciary A; Amended and passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Public Health and Human Services
SB 2439	PERS; create a fifth tier, and terminate SLRP, for employees hired on or after July 1, 2025	Senator Daniel Sparks	Creates new Tier 5 for new employees who become members of PERS on or after March 1, 2026: Hybrid plan consisting of a defined benefit component (4% of employee contributions) and a defined contribution component (5% of employee contributions). This Tier 5 significantly reduces the guaranteed benefits for state employees. Current Tier 4 PERS member receives 2% for the first 30 years of service and 2.5% for each year above 30. The defined benefit portion of Tier 5 only provides 1% for each year of service. An employee's average salary benefit under the defined benefit portion of Tier 5 is based on the employee's eight highest consecutive years, rather than highest four years under Tier 4. Tier 5 does not include a guaranteed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and does not provide service credit for unused leave.	Passed Senate Rules; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House State Affairs and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency

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SB 2515	REFOCUS Act; enact ( <i>Senate's DEI bill</i> )	Senator Nicole Boyd	Bans all college and university DEI training and programs, with DEI defined as any effort to influence the composition of the faculty or student body with reference to “race, sex, color, or ethnicity, apart from ensuring colorblind and sex-neutral admissions and hiring in accordance with state and federal anti-discrimination laws.” Only students, faculty & contractors may file complaint alleging violations. Also creates task force to review efficiencies of state's higher ed system.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; Passed Senate; Motion to Reconsider Entered; Motion to Reconsider Tabled; Sent to House; Referred to House Judiciary A
SB 2527	Mississippi Resident Promise Grant Program; create to provide financial assistance to community college students	Senator Nicole Boyd	Creates new grant program for community college students to provide grants equal to the full amount remaining of tuition and fees after all other state, federal, institutional and private aid has been applied.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; Passed Senate Appropriations; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Universities & Colleges and Appropriations A
SB 2530	Certain mental health trainings and support services; require community colleges and public universities to provide	Senator Nicole Boyd	Requires schools, community colleges and universities beginning in the 2025-26 school year to develop mental health emergency response plans	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Universities & Colleges and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
SB 2535	MS Future Innovators Act; enact to require high-school computer science or CTE with embedded computer science course	Senator Chris Johnson	Beginning with entering 9th grade class of 2027-28, students must earn. one unit in a high school computer science course or a CTE computer science course. Such courses must include the fundamental concepts of emerging computer science technologies, such as AI.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
SB 2596	Mississippi K-12 and Postsecondary Mental Health Task Force; extend operation of	Senator David Parker	Extends the task force for an additional year and requires task force to reports its findings/recommendations to the legislature by 10/1/25.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education

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SB 2597	Mississippi K-12 and Postsecondary Mental Health Act of 2025; enact, and establish Executive Committee of ICCCY	Senator David Parker	State Superintendent will serve on Executive Committee of the Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth (ICCCY) which is charged with coordinating responsibilities related to general mental health and well-being of children and adolescents.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education
SB 2598	Public schools; allow retired administrators to return to work as teachers	Senator David Parker	Expands current law to allow retired administrators to return to work as teachers and draw retirement benefits. Districts may pay up to 150% of the salary schedule (rather than 125% as passed last year) and may use local funds to pay all or a portion of health insurance for such teachers and/or administrators. Removes requirement that retired teacher must have 30- years creditable service to participate.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education; Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency; and Appropriations A
SB 2601	Education Scholarship Account Program; make certain changes to	Senator Dennis DeBar	Amends ESA (SPED Voucher) Program to allow parent to request reimbursement for qualifying expenses after an ESA student returns to a public school in their home district; remove cap of 500 new enrollees in ESA voucher program each year; remove MDE's authority to deduct up to 6% for administrative costs; require participating students to take the same pre- and post assessment.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education
SB 2605	School curriculum; require that schools teach civics courses before completion of high school	Senator Brice Wiggins	As passed Senate, beginning in 2026-27 school year, requires every public and charter school to teach standalone civics courses as part of required curriculum for graduation. MDE to prescribe course requirements and shall rename its US Government courses as "United States Government and Civics."	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education
SB 2612	Standard educator licenses; revise requirements for	Senator Nicole Boyd	Revises the qualifications for entry into an educator preparation program from and after 7/1/25 by eliminating the minimum 21 ACT score, PRAXIS passing score or 3.0 GPA requirement; and requires Teach MS Institute students to complete two semester, six-hour internships for a provisional teaching license	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education

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SB 2616	Education funding; update language, and include grades 7-8 in CTE multiplier for grades 9-12	Senator Dennis DeBar	Revises MSFF to include students in 7th and 8th grades in the multiplier for students enrolled in CTE courses	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education, Appropriations E, and Appropriations A
SB 2618	School attendance officers; transfer responsibility of employment from MDE to local school districts	Senator Dennis DeBar	Transfers responsibility for employing and managing duties of School Attendance Officers (SAOs) from MDE to local school districts effective 7/1/25 and provides 25% pay raise for SAOs. Requires the state to provide funding for 1 SAO for every 3,000 compulsory school-age children enrolled in the public schools of a county.	Passed Senate Education; Passed Senate; Sent to House; Referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
SB 3095	Tax; cut income and grocery taxes, increase fuel excise tax, and adjust distributions of certain fuel and sale taxes	Senator Josh Harkins	Senate tax plan reduces the 4% individual income tax to 2.99% over the next four years, but does not eliminate the income tax; reduces the 7% grocery tax to 5% effective July 1, 2026; includes a 9 cent per gallon gas tax over three years (3 cents/year); does not include a dedicated funding stream for PERS which is included in HB 1, the House tax cut plan.	
SN 1	William Orton (Bill) Jacobs, Brookhaven, Mississippi, State Board of Education, term effective July 1, 2024 and will end June 30, 2033	Appointed by Lt. Governor	Appoints Bill Jacobs to the State Board of Education for a nine-year term	Referred to Senate Education
SN 12	James E. (Jay) Carney, II, Tupelo, Mississippi, Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board to represent the Third Supreme Court District, three year term	Appointed by Governor	Appoints Jay Carney to the Charter School Authorizer Board for a three-year term	Referred to Senate Education
<b>Bills That Have Died</b>				
<del>HB 857</del>	<del>Literacy-based Promotion Act; revise to expand intervention and strategies for literacy proficiency among students in Grade 4 through 8</del>	<del>Rep. John Faulkner</del>	<del>Expands provisions of the Literacy Based Promotion Act (i.e., 3rd Grade Gate) to students in Grades 4-8 so as to provide interventions and strategies for literacy proficiency to such students</del>	<del>Passed House Education—</del>

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HB 1144	Teacher and administrator licensure; revise provisions related to educator preparation programs and criteria for entry into such programs	Rep. Kent McCarty	Revises the qualifications for entry into an educator preparation program from and after 7/1/25 by eliminating the minimum 21 ACT score, PRAXIS passing score or 3.0 GPA requirement; and requires Teach MS Institute students to complete two semester, six-hour internships for a provisional teaching license	Passed House Education
HB 1433	The "Flexible and Rightful Education-Enrollment (FREE) Act;" establish for students in "D" and "F" schools and districts	Rep. Rob Roberson	Allows students in public schools or districts rated D or F within the last 5 years to transfer to another public school/district or private school of their choice. State base per pupil funding follows the student, and the state reimburses parents of students who transfer to a private school this per pupil amount. (NOTE:- Empower Mississippi supports this school choice bill.)	Passed House Education
HB 1564	Credit Enhancement Program; establish to improve credit worthiness of schools	Rep. Kent McCarty	Establishes a credit enhancement program for school district bonds to lower borrowing costs through state guarantees.	Passed House Education; Passed House Ways and Means
HB 1619	Agricultural vocation instruction; clarify contract and compensation provision for those who teach in districts with an extended school year calendar	Rep. Rob Roberson	Removes current language that solely refers to the use of extended contract days between academic years and adds language allowing for extended contract days to also be utilized during the intersessions between quarters in those districts following the modified school calendar. This will result in more days meeting the eligibility criteria for CTE instructor extended contracts.	Passed House Education
SB 2152	Secondary school interscholastic athletics; establish property interest in, and guarantee due process	Senator Chad McMahan	Establishes a property interest in athletics for high school athletes and guarantees due process for such athletes when they are suspended, expelled or otherwise removed from athletics.	Passed Senate Education; Recommitted to Committee
SB 2521	Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program Act; extend date of repeal	Senator Nicole Boyd	Extends repealer date for scholarship program from 7/1/25 to 7/1/28 and brings forward relevant sections of state law governing the scholarship program for possible amendment.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges
SB 2897	Fundamental rights of parents; codify	Senator Tyler McCaughn	Declares the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children and prohibits any state agency from infringing on the fundamental rights of parents	Passed Senate Education