



## MISSISSIPPI STATE LEGISLATURE WEEKLY REPORT

The third week of the 2018 session was a short week due to inclement weather. Legislators finished a day early and adjourned on Thursday morning. This extra day saves taxpayers approximately \$35,000.00. Even though this was a short week, work was completed in both committees and floor action. As the remaining bills receive committee assignments, chairmen will determine which pieces of legislation to bring before full committees for vetting. Committees will meet several times over the next week and a half as they work toward the January 30<sup>th</sup> committee deadline.

Committee work is an important step in the legislative process. Committee chairmen have the vital task of bringing up the most important pieces of legislation, then a committee vote will determine whether or not a piece of legislation moves forward. There are 47 committees in the House and 39 in the Senate. The Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House review each piece of legislation and assign it to the appropriate committee for review. Once assigned, the chairman will determine whether or not the bill merits further discussion. If the chairman moves the bill to the full committee, the bill is then

debated and a vote is taken. If a bill passes out of the committee, it finds a place on the floor calendar of the respective chamber. If a chairman decides to not bring forward a bill or there is a majority no vote, then the bill dies in committee. In total, committee chairmen will review approximately 3,000 bills this year.

This week the House passed HB 957, the Mississippi Uniform Per Student Funding Formula Act of 2018. This controversial bill was met with over 4 hours of spirited debate and passed the House by a vote of 66 yeas and 54 nays. HB 957 overhauls the Mississippi Adequate Education Program funding formula. It now moves to the Senate for further review. The Senate passed SB 2176 to create the Gulf Coast Restoration Reserve Fund. The bill provides for monies deposited into the state treasury from the BP Settlement to fund project primarily benefiting the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Currently, there have been 1,519 bills introduced in the House and 833 in the Senate.

Both Chambers will reconvene on Monday at 4:00 pm.