



MISSISSIPPI STATE LEGISLATURE WEEKLY REPORT

Legislators finished the second week of session a day early and adjourned for the week on Thursday afternoon. Legislators bank these unused days to have for future use in case of deadlock during the legislative process. If necessary, the days can be added to session at no cost to the taxpayers. During the second week of session, legislators continued committee and floor work on previously introduced and assigned bills making progress toward the January 30th committee deadline.

Deadlines play an important role in the legislative process by providing a timeline for the introduction and passage of various pieces of legislation. Typically, deadlines are divided into three types of bills: General Bills and Constitutional Amendments, Appropriations and Revenue Bills, and Local and Private Bills. The upcoming deadlines are as follows: Monday, January 15 – Deadline for the introduction of general bills and constitutional amendments; Tuesday, January 30 – Deadline for committees to report out general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own chamber; and Thursday, February 8 – Deadline for floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own chamber.

Both chambers spent time this week hearings from various state agencies and professional boards regarding general and special fund budgets. Agency needs, budget cuts, and financial outlooks

will all play a role in the setting of the 2018-2019 fiscal year's budget.

The highlight of the week was Governor Phil Bryant's State of the State address. During the address he spoke to the current opioid and illicit drug epidemic in Mississippi. Governor Bryant also expressed his goal of adding 1,000 new physicians to Mississippi's workforce by 2025. Governor Bryant touted the medical profession as an economic driver in Mississippi where physicians are responsible for 51,000 jobs and over \$8 billion in economic output. He also addressed increased costs of healthcare and a need for changing the way the legislature funds Medicaid. He stressed the importance of Medicaid recipients, providers, and managed care companies working together to prevent those in poor health from getting worse and to ensure Medicaid patients get well. Governor Bryant also encouraged legislators to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the Medicaid program through the Medicaid Technical Amendments Act which is due to be reauthorized this legislative session.

Currently, there have been 1,034 bills introduced in the House and 337 in the Senate.

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