

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

APRIL 3, 2026

The Mississippi Legislature has adjourned for the week, marking the conclusion of regular business for the 2026 Regular Session. The Legislature has adjourned the session “on paper” through April 15 in accordance with [House Concurrent Resolution 64](#), which allows the Speaker and Lt. Governor to call the Legislature back in session to handle any business before they officially adjourn sine die that day. There was a flurry of final negotiations and final measures adopted the last two weeks on a variety of general bills in addition to revenue matters. The Governor may now sign these bills into law, allow them to become law without his signature, or veto them. He has five days to act on legislation while the Legislature remains in session, and 15 days once it is fully out of session.

Lawmakers finalized passage of a state budget totaling approximately \$7.4 billion, ensuring continuity of government operations ahead of the new fiscal year beginning July 1st. Throughout the 90-day session, lawmakers navigated significant fiscal challenges, including ongoing pressures within the Medicaid program and long-term funding concerns related to the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS). While no direct cash infusion into PERS was adopted, policymakers approved structural adjustments aimed at improving the system’s sustainability, including changes to retirement eligibility, benefit calculations, and return-to-work provisions. In addition, legislators increased funding for the Division of Medicaid by approximately \$200 million, an increase of 16% but still short of the total \$390 million request made by the Division. The anticipation is that this issue will be debated again in the 2027 session.

A major focus of the session was the state’s K-12 education budget, which totals approximately \$3.4 billion, nearly half of general fund spending. The final agreement includes an increase in overall education funding and provides for a \$2,000 pay raise for K-12, community college, and university teachers. Additional investments were made in literacy initiatives, a new statewide math program, and financial literacy education, increasing per-student spending to \$7,202. Key bills are listed below:

- K12 Appropriation: [HB 1935](#)
- Teacher Pay Raise: [SB 2103](#)
- Education Reform Package: [SB 2294](#)

In addition to core agency funding, lawmakers reached agreement on [SB 2189](#), the “projects bill,” allocating \$253 million in capital expense funds for local projects and infrastructure improvements across the state. The bill’s passage represents a notable point of consensus in an otherwise challenging budget environment, particularly after similar funding efforts were not completed during the 2025 session. Notable investments include \$100 million in funding to support the building of a new Cancer Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, \$40 million in funding to support the Vicksburg Military Park, \$10 million in funding towards the University of Mississippi School of Accounting for construction of a new building on campus, and \$150 million for the widening of Interstate 55 in Madison County. The Legislature also reached an agreement on funding Gulf Coast Restoration Fund (GCRF) projects including creating a new revolving loan fund utilizing GCRF funds, and several Opioid Settlement Fund projects were funded as well.

One of the biggest debates this final week was around [HB 1224](#), the “Keeping Kids Safe Online Act.” As presented on the floor, the bill aims to increase protections for minors by requiring online platforms to obtain parental consent before allowing children to create accounts and by restricting minors’ access to harmful content. It gives the state Attorney General authority to enforce compliance, while including safe harbor provisions for companies that implement reasonable age verification or parental control systems. Opponents raise concerns about potential violations of free speech, increased data collection and privacy risks, vague enforcement standards, and the burden placed on digital platforms, among other issues. The legislation has been actively supported by Republican women’s organizations and faith-based groups and was ultimately adopted.

After years of working on the issue, the legislature this week approved [SB 2409](#), the “Strengthen Mississippi Homes Act,” creating a statewide program within the Mississippi Department of Insurance to help homeowners strengthen their homes against hurricanes and other windstorms by providing grants of up to \$10,000 for upgrades that meet certain standards. The program includes inspections, contractor-certified retrofits, and public awareness efforts. It also establishes an advisory council, requires annual reporting on outcomes like insurance savings and homes improved, and is intended to reduce disaster damage and stabilize insurance costs over time.

Despite many notable measures passing this session, several high-profile policy initiatives did not reach final passage this year. Efforts related to school choice and pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reform stalled amid continued disagreement between the House and Senate. There are rumors that Governor Reeves is entertaining the idea of calling special sessions on both topics, but to date the Governor has only convened special sessions related to economic development issues during his tenure.