

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JANUARY 30, 2026

We have concluded the fourth week of the legislative session, and lawmakers will reconvene earlier than usual on Monday as the week was impacted by a variety of unforeseen events. An ice storm has crippled north Mississippi and much of the south, leaving many residents without power and water for several days. In response, the Governor has deployed the National Guard to affected areas and utility linemen and crews continue to work around the clock to assist with restoration areas. The University of Mississippi was forced to cancel classes on its campus, along with multiple surrounding school districts in areas hit hardest by the storm. Additionally, legislative business was also affected by the storm, as well as the passing of the Speaker Jason White's father and memorial services held in his honor on Thursday. All of these events condensed what was already scheduled to be an incredibly busy week of committee meetings.

Lawmakers are pressing forward toward the first major deadline of the session. Tuesday, February 3, marks the deadline for committees to report out general bills originating in their own chamber. As is typical, a substantial number of bills will "die" at this deadline. However, it will be important to continue monitoring surviving code sections, as legislation can and will be amended throughout the remainder of the process.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED

On Wednesday afternoon, House Public Health Chairman Sam Creekmore unveiled the language for his second Certificate of Need (CON) reform bill of the session, [HB 1622](#). The overarching theme of CON reform discussions over the past year has been the goal of "saving rural hospitals," though questions remain about the impact on other healthcare providers. HB 1622 would allow rural hospitals, defined as those located in municipalities with 15,000 or fewer residents and not within a metropolitan statistical area, to be fully exempt from all CON requirements for all service lines, provided the service is located within a five-mile radius of the main campus. Chairman Creekmore distributed a map identifying more than fifty hospitals that would qualify under this provision.

The bill also proposes a significant change to current CON law by requiring physicians to obtain a CON to build a single-specialty ambulatory surgery center (ASC). Currently, multi-specialty ASCs require a CON, while single-specialty ASCs are exempt, an exemption that has supported the broader industry trend of moving procedures into outpatient settings. HB 1622 represents one of the most substantial efforts in years to dismantle Mississippi's CON system and significantly disrupt existing healthcare service lines.

Meanwhile, [HB 3](#)—the CON reform bill that was vetoed last session and subsequently revised this year is now headed to the Governor's desk and awaits his signature.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

The Senate also advanced [SB 2344](#), legislation focused on improving financial literacy among Mississippi students. The bill would require students attending state institutions of higher learning, community colleges, and junior colleges to complete a financial literacy course, or demonstrate equivalent competency, as a condition of graduation, credential completion, or certificate attainment. The legislation establishes minimum course requirements while granting authority to the appropriate educational boards to set learning outcomes, competency standards, and implementation guidelines. Institutions would be given flexibility in how the material is delivered, including online, hybrid, or integration into existing coursework. If enacted, SB 2344 would take effect in the fall of 2027.

Conversations with industry leaders have highlighted the importance of basic financial skills, including managing student loan debt, fraud prevention, and retirement planning. While some post-secondary institutions already offer financial literacy education, it is not currently mandatory statewide.

Additionally, efforts to make financial literacy a requirement for graduation from high school continue to gain momentum in the Capitol. Both the House and Senate Education Committees have passed their versions of this legislation in [HB 1710](#) and [SB 2483](#).

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Tuesday, February 3 – Deadline for committees to report bills originating in their own chamber
- Tuesday, February 12 – Deadline for original floor action on bills originating in their own chamber
- Wednesday, February 25 – Deadline for original floor action on appropriations and revenue bills in their own chamber