

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

The Legislature adjourned the 8th week of session and will reconvene Monday afternoon. This week marked the first major revenue and appropriations deadline. While most appropriations bills were addressed ahead of the cutoff, several significant revenue measures advanced on deadline day. In addition, committees met on general bills that have crossed over to the opposite chamber in advance of next Tuesday's major committee deadline.

The Senate Appropriations Committee, along with select House members, held a hearing Tuesday to discuss technology issues impacting the state. The committee heard testimony from multiple agencies requesting increased resources for IT upgrades, equipment replacement, cybersecurity enhancements, procurement modernization, and improved interagency collaboration. Agency heads from ITS, DFA, CPS, DHS, and Medicaid testified to the committee, and a link to these comments can be viewed [here](#).

KEY REVENUE MEASURES PASSED THIS WEEK INCLUDE:

Children's Promise Act (HB 1944) – The House approved legislation authored by Ways & Means Chairman Trey Lamar (R-Senatobia) revising and expanding Mississippi's charitable contribution tax credits under the Children's Promise Act. The bill increases the annual cap from \$18 million to \$40 million over time and creates a new income tax credit for contributions to qualifying nonprofits serving individuals with significant intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities. Both credits remain subject to percentage-of-tax-liability limits, Department of Revenue certification, and annual allocation procedures. The measure now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Mobile Sports Wagering (HB 4074) – The House passed a revised version of mobile sports betting legislation that would authorize statewide mobile wagering, allowing bets to be placed anywhere within Mississippi. The bill sets a 22% tax on mobile wagering revenue and reduces the gaming tax on brick-and-mortar casinos from 8% to 6%. Supporters estimate the proposal could generate approximately \$100 million annually, with \$50 million directed to PERS. The measure faces continued debate in the Senate.

NOTABLE GENERAL BILLS ADVANCING THIS WEEK INCLUDE:

Fraudulent Utility Conversion (HB 1404) – The Senate Judiciary B Committee passed legislation creating the new crime of “fraudulent utility conversion.” The bill makes it a criminal offense for a landlord to collect utility payments from tenants and knowingly fail to remit those funds to the utility provider, resulting in service disconnection. The issue gained attention after multiple apartment complexes in Jackson lost water service due to unpaid landlord accounts. The measure establishes tiered felony and misdemeanor penalties based on the amount converted, requires restitution to affected tenants, and clarifies that failure to pay required utilities constitutes grounds for lease termination. The bill now awaits further Senate action.

Economic Development Incentive Restrictions (SB 2202) – The House Business and Commerce Committee approved legislation establishing new conditions for employers receiving Mississippi economic development incentives. The bill prohibits incentive recipients (and certain subcontractors) from recognizing labor unions solely through signed authorization cards if a secret ballot election is available, from voluntarily sharing employee contact information with labor organizations without written consent, and from entering into neutrality agreements. The Attorney General is authorized to investigate alleged violations and the state may recover incentive funds from noncompliant employers. A similar bill was considered by both chambers last year but did not make it to the Governor’s desk.

One measure that is not advancing this session is SB 2523, which addresses a performance-based funding model for Mississippi’s Institutions of Higher Learning. There are plans for a select committee to study this formula post-session and the extra time allows the IHL Board the opportunity to bring forward a solution ahead of next session.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Tuesday, March 3 – Deadline for committees to report general bills originating in the other chamber
- Wednesday, March 11 – Deadline for original floor action on general bills originating in the other chamber
- Tuesday, March 17 – Deadline for original floor action on appropriations and revenue bills originating in the other chamber