

**2022 LEGISLATIVE BILL SUMMARY
MISSISSIPPI INSURANCE DEPARTMENT**

COMMISSIONER MIKE CHANEY

2022 Mississippi Legislative Session - Department of Insurance – Legislative Summary

General:

<p>HB 1187 – Mississippi Insurance E-Commerce Model Act; enact.</p>	<p>Approved: 3/23/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022</p>	<p>HB 1187 allows policyholders to affirmatively opt-in to receive insurance notices or documents via electronic means. The policyholder may later withdraw consent of electronic delivery of notices and documents. This bill does not preempt the provisions in <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> §75-12-5(b)(4), which excludes notices of cancellation and termination of health insurance or benefits or life insurance benefits excluding annuities from being delivered electronically.</p>
<p>HB 1426 – Salary statutes; revise certain provisions relating to salaries of state employees and officials.</p>	<p>Approved: 4/25/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022</p>	<p>Amends § 25-3-31 to increase the salaries of the elected state and district officers from and after 1/1/24; and revises the salary ceiling established for public officers' employees from and after 7/1/22.</p>
<p>SB 2620. –Public records; award attorney's fees for duplicative requests.</p>	<p>Approved: 4/18/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022</p>	<p>Court may award a third party's costs and attorney's fees from a requestor making duplicative requests for public records that are the subject of a protective order.</p>
<p>SB 2669 - Insurance company licenses, perpetual until revoked or forfeited.</p>	<p>Approved: 4/18/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022</p>	<p>Amends §§ 27-15-205, 27-15-223; 83-5-71 and 83-17-25 to make company licenses issued by the Commissioner perpetual until such time as the license is either revoked, surrendered or forfeited. Companies will still be required to pay the annual privilege tax; failure to do so would be grounds for revocation. This bill does not affect producer licenses. MID Bulletin 2022-3 provides further guidance.</p>
<p>SB 2810 - State employees; provide the terms and conditions for state employees to engage in telework.</p>	<p>Approved: 4/18/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022</p>	<p>Amends § 25-1-98 to allow state agencies to authorize telework for one or more employees in accordance with a telework policy approved by the State Personnel Board.</p>

Health:

HB 155 - . State Health Plan; delete prohibition on covering hearing aids.	Approved: 4/13/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	Amends §§ 25-15-7 and 25-15-15 to remove the prohibition under the State Health Plan from providing hearing aids to children; removes the prohibition on the Health Insurance Management Board from imposing a surcharge based on the use or nonuse of tobacco-related products. Bill also extends the repealer to 7/1/26 on the authority of the board to collect premium payments from plan participants.
SB 2738 - Health insurance; revise mandated coverage for telemedicine services.	Approved: 4/18/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	Amends § 83-9-351 to revise the definition of telemedicine to expand its usage; and to require all health insurance and employee benefits plans to reimburse providers for telemedicine services using proper medical codes.

Property and Casualty:

HB 160 - Travel Insurance Act of 2022; create.	Approved: 3/22/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	Amends §§ 83-83-1; 83-83-3; 83-83-5; 83-83-9; and 83-83-13 to create the limited lines travel insurance producer license; to clarify the premium tax requirements of travel insurers; to set forth how travel insurance plans may be sold; and to create a new statute, § 83-83-10, that provides the requirements for travel administrators.
HB 451- . Nonadmitted policy fee; revise distributions of and delete repealer on.	Approved: 4/18/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	Amends § 83-34-4 to provide the following manner in which the nonadmitted policy fee shall be distributed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 60% of monies collected from the nonadmitted policy fee shall go to the Windpool; • An annual of diversion of \$500,000 shall go to the First Responder Health and Safety Trust Fund;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.5M shall be annually diverted to the Annual Fire Fund; • Any remaining monies to be split equally between the Windpool and the Annual Fire Fund. <p>The Bill also creates the First Responder Health and Safety Trust Fund and the Annual Fire Fund. HB 451 also provides that if the Windpool's total admitted assets are less than \$250M, then all diversions shall cease and the all monies shall go directly to the Windpool.</p>
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Fire Marshal/Fire Services:

HB 821 - Nontransport emergency medical services; develop coordinated entity to provide statewide system for.	Approved: 4/1/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	Authorizes the MID and the Department of Health to develop a coordinated program to provide a statewide system for nontransport emergency medical services which would allow for trained first responders to provide initial treatment and medical intervention.
HB 823 - Mississippi Electronic Protection Licensing Act; revise regarding battery-charged security fences.	Approve: 3/9/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	Amends §73-69-5 to revise the definition of "electronic protective system" to include a battery-charged security fence and defines a battery-charged security fence for the purposes of the statute. HB 823 also prohibits municipalities or counties from regulating battery-charged security fences and battery-charged security fence contracting.
HB 842 - Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program; authorize two additional rounds for counties and municipalities.	Approve: 4/18/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	Authorizes an additional round under RFTAAP. Allows RFTAAP monies to be used for the purchase of new or used fire trucks that meet the NFPA standards in the 1900 series and are approved by the Rural Fire Truck Review Committee. HB 842 also creates the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance Fund which shall be used provide a maximum of 80% of the purchase price of a fire truck to assist counties and municipalities with remaining eligibility under the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Program, subject to certain eligibility criteria.

<p>HB 1427 - Mississippi Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program; create.</p>	<p>Approve: 4/21/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022</p>	<p>Creates the “Mississippi Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program” to be administered by the Department of Public Safety which shall provide funds to law enforcement officers and fire fighters as premium pay for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>SB 2335 - State Fire Academy; remove limitation on the number of Emergency Medical Responder students trained per year.</p>	<p>Approve: 4/14/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022</p>	<p>Amends §§ 45-11-7; 83-1-37; and 83-1-39. Removes the 120 student limitation on the number of emergency medical responder students the State Fire Academy may train per year. Also revises how counties and municipalities may use their fire rebate funds by allowing them to be used for emergency services training and equipment, and allows for these funds to be used to provide remuneration to volunteers in accordance with guidelines established by the Commissioner.. Also provides for each county and municipality to receive a set amount of fire rebate funding with the remainder of any monies to be issued on a population basis.</p>
<p>SB 2357 - Volunteer firefighters; allow local governments to pay certain expenses for injury, illness and insurance.</p>	<p>Approve: 4/22/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022</p>	<p>This bill would authorizes counties the option to expend from their general fund monies to pay for the reasonable hospital and medical expenses for paid or volunteer fire department members incurred in the line of duty, and allow the county to purchase ADD and/or insurance coverage for medical costs and expenses incurred in the line of duty for paid or volunteer fire department members. The bill amends Section 21-25-9 to allow municipalities to purchase ADD and/or insurance coverage for medical costs and expenses incurred in the line of duty for paid or volunteer fire department members.</p>

Appropriation:

HB 1593 – Appropriation, Department of Insurance.	Approve: 4/18/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	\$13.07M appropriation to the Department of Insurance. Bill includes \$6M total for RFTAAP; \$1.36M reappropriated for REFTAAP; \$2M for new fire truck fund RFTMAF; and \$250,000 for fire safety prevention and services that include the purchase of smoke alarms.
HB 1594 – Appropriation, State Fire Academy.	Approve: 4/18/2022 Effective: 7/1/2022	\$6.9M total appropriation to the State Fire Academy.