



THE CLAY FIRM

NEWSLETTER

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CAPITOL REPORT

The Legislature hit its first major committee deadline this week, as Tuesday was the deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in their own house. More than 1,700 bills died in committee, leaving roughly 300 general bills still alive and facing a Thursday, February 12, deadline to pass their originating chamber.

The House passed a bill this week to legalize mobile sports betting in Mississippi. [HB 1581](#) legalizes online sports pools and race books, requiring platforms to partner with brick-and-mortar gaming establishments in the state. The first \$6 million in gaming revenue for the first five years would be set aside to compensate casinos for any loss in sports wagering revenue once mobile betting begins.



The remaining revenue would go to the Mississippi Public Employees' Retirement System. An amendment was made on the floor to transfer \$600 million from the state's Capital Expense Fund to PERS. Both the gaming revenue and cash infusion are contingent upon the PERS Board reporting out an annual rate of return of no less than 7.75 percent.

[HB 1665](#), which revises the Pharmacy Benefit Prompt

Pay Act, also passed the House floor this week. This bill transfers regulatory authority over Pharmacy Benefit Managers and Pharmacy Services Administrative Organizations to the Mississippi Commissioner of Insurance and makes several changes to the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan, including adjustments to board composition, contract requirements, and specialty drug designations.

Governor Tate Reeves postponed his State of the State address for the second time this year, citing the need to support Mississippians affected by the winter storm that swept the state a few weeks ago. He has not set a new date for the annual address.

HOUSE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT DIES, TEACHER PAY RAISE CONTINUES ON

Speaker Jason White's signature bill, [HB 2](#), the Mississippi Educational Freedom Act, died in the Senate Education Committee this week. HB 2 was an omnibus education freedom reform package that included public-to-public school transfers, the creation of Magnolia Savings Accounts, charter school expansion, and more. Senate Education Chairman Dennis DeBar brought the bill

up for debate on Tuesday, but the measure unanimously died with no discussion. DeBar said the Senate has passed its own bills that cover much of what HB 2 addressed, but he said he was not in favor of the voucher aspect of the bill.

The House passed another key education bill this week, giving teachers a \$5,000 pay raise. [HB 1126](#)

increases the state's minimum annual teacher salary from \$41,500 to \$46,500 and would also give special-education teachers an additional \$3,000 a year. The measure would create a fund to support low-performing districts, cap superintendent salaries, revise the state employee retirement system, and raise the base student cost in the funding formula.



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Delivering direct access to Mississippi's decision makers for more than 40 years. Located in the heart of the Capitol complex and recognized by Mississippi policy-makers for superior government relations and advocacy, the Clay Firm provides top-tier lobbying and public affairs services.

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Q U I C K H I T T E R S

1) Mississippi's campaign finance reports were due last week, showing which of the state's elected officials may be vying for higher office in 2027. Below is a breakdown of potential candidates' fundraising efforts in 2025:

Governor Tate Reeves:

Contributions received: \$81,851
Money spent: \$135,883
Cash on hand: \$2 million

Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann:

Contributions received: \$1.6 million
Money spent: \$404,112
Cash on hand: \$2.8 million

Attorney General Lynn Fitch:

Contributions received: \$1.6 million
Money spent: \$615,053
Cash on hand: \$3.5 million

Secretary of State Michael Watson:

Contributions received: \$1.1 million
Money spent: \$182,905
Cash on hand: \$2.4 million

State Auditor Shad White:

Contributions received: \$1 million
Money spent: \$216,876
Cash on hand: \$3.8 million

Agriculture and Commerce

Commissioner Andy Gipson:

Contributions received: \$477,481
Money spent: \$443,367
Cash on hand: \$272,148

Treasurer David McRae:

Contributions received: \$125,940
Money spent: \$112,061
Cash on hand: \$84,959

Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney:

Contributions received: \$66,213
Money spent: \$64,568
Cash on hand: \$196,822

House Speaker Jason White:

Contributions received: \$268,700
Money spent: \$44,105
Cash on hand: \$1.1 million

Former House Speaker Philip Gunn:

Contributions received: \$84,392
Money spent: \$132,659
Cash on hand: \$590,531

Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Commissioner Sean Tindell:

Contributions received: \$478,985
Money spent: \$0
Cash on hand: \$507,339

2) Seven months into the fiscal year, Mississippi's revenues have surpassed legislative expectations. According to the Legislative Budget Office, the January revenue report showed collections totaling \$451,213, or 0.08% above the revised estimate. Fiscal year-to-date collections through January 2026 stand at \$164,772,343, which is 3.97% above the revised annual estimate of \$7.552 billion. Overall revenue collections through January 2026 total \$132,116,572, or 3.16% higher than the same period last year.