
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS LEGISLATION
DATE: JANUARY 7, 2002
CC: RENICK, PROSPERE

Here is a summary of the information provided by Moore's Office and collected internally from the impacted agencies.

1. Moore's office is seeking the strengthening of two pieces of legislation:
 - a. Felony hoax penalty with financial retribution penalties.
 - b. Importation of contagious or infectious diseases changed to a felony charge with up to 20 years.
2. State Health Department included changes in Mississippi's public health statutes to better conform with the Model State Emergency Health Powers Act.
 - a. Amending 41-1-23(1) to permit the Board of Health to adopt rules and regulations regarding the "conditions or threats" of contagious and infectious diseases and other reportable conditions.
 - b. Require pharmacists to report unusual prescriptions or prescription rates, including antibiotics.
 - c. Permit disclosure of medical or other information to third parties in the event of an emergency declaration by the Governor or determination of a public health emergency by the Board of Health.
 - d. Amend 41-3-15(4)(k) to permit the Department of Health to inspect any place rather than "public place."
 - e. Changes 41-23-2 to include that any person who violates a lawful order of the county, district, or state health officer where such is intended to prevent the spread of a disease shall be guilty of a felony.
 - f. Health Department is also seeking the expansion of authority to decontaminate buildings in 41-23-5.

- g. Expand authority for mandatory medical examinations to “diseases and other conditions.”
 - h. *****Obtain a MOU with Military Department to enforce quarantine or other health officer orders, if AG’s opinion determines NGMS is required to assist.**
 - i. Amend 41-23-5 to add subsection (b) providing the State Health Officer power and authority to protect the public health.
 - j. Provide for the authority of the safe disposal of corpses.
 - k. Authority for State Registrar to obtain presumptive death order from Hinds Chancery Court, and authority to issue such certificate.
3. The Department of Public Safety is seeking the following changes:
- a. Establish a 1-year driver’s license for non-U.S. residents;
 - b. Require all counties to collect a \$10 assessment on all MHP citations—provides funding for communications and personnel within MHP and DPS. (\$3 million)
 - c. **Support laws for actual use of biological, chemical, or other substances and stronger misdemeanors for hoaxes.**
4. MDOT seeks:
- a. Clearer authority over closing roadways, especially to potential targets.
 - b. Criminal penalties for the possession or transportation of devices that would interrupt or destroy transportation structures.
 - c. Immunity for actions taken as a result of terrorist act or threat.
 - d. Emergency power to enter into contracts for the repair of terrorist-damaged infrastructure above budget authority.
 - e. Permit Weight Division to be temporarily assigned to Highway Patrol when needed.
 - f. Additional funding for law enforcement training (\$50,000).
5. MEMA seeks:
- a. Support for 34 full-time county EMA managers.
 - b. Modification of 33-15-15 and 33-15-307 to develop and allocate for 5 regional hazardous material and weapons of mass destruction teams.
 - c. Lump sum appropriation authority.

SUMMARY OF AGENCY FINANCIAL NEEDS

| Agency | Needs | Total |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| MEMA | Salaries and new positions | 1,431,801 (GF) |
| | Disaster Trust Fund | 3,000,000 (GF) |
| Health Dept. | Lab expansion | 7,530,000 (Bonds) |
| | Additional Security and Police | 6,857,320 (GF) |
| Military | Facility and system improvements | 8,300,000 (Bonds) |
| | Salaries and new positions | 2,000,000 (GF) |
| DEQ | Salaries, equipment, and contractors | 1,068,000 (GF) |
| TOTALS: | | |
| | Total Bonding Requested | 15,830,000 |
| | Total General Funds Requested | 14,357,121 |
| | | \$30,187,121 |