
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS SPECIAL SESSION
DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2001
CC: RENICK

Attorney General Moore publicly asked you to add a couple of domestic terrorism items to the agenda for the Redistricting Special Session. You asked him to provide a comprehensive report of needs for a separate special session by November 15.

As the Anthrax scare has subsided, the need for a special session, in my opinion, is not necessary. Here is a summary of the information provided by Moore's Office and collected internally from affected 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