
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: PROSPERE
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION AGENDA FOR 2001 SESSION
DATE 1/8/01
CC: FILE

Per the Governor's instructions at this morning's legislative breakfast meeting, I am providing you with a list of the bills that we need to make sure are introduced in this session to advance the Governor's agenda. I have denoted those bills already introduced in applicable areas.

Education

1. Eliminate the 5% growth rate requirement for teacher pay raise
 - HB 75 deletes the 5% growth provision
2. Require local Superintendents of Education to be appointed
 - HB 54 establishes the alternative qualification for superintendent of holding a valid Certified School Business Administrator's certificate issued by the State Department of Education and having not less than four (4) years of experience as a school business administrator
 - HB 64 provides for elected school boards and appointed superintendents
 - SB 2170 and SB 2196 require all superintendents to be appointed after 1/1/04.
3. Authorize leave for parents participating in parent-teacher conferences
4. Appropriation/budget matters: funding for teacher pay raise, Mississippi Adequate Education Program, the Critical Teacher Shortage Act, and continued implementation of the Classroom Technology Project

Bills to Watch:

- HB 62 requires compulsory school attendance until age 18
- HB 69 establishes a teacher performance pay plan

- HB 71 requires MDE to establish a school voucher program
- HB 391 provides for the State Superintendent of Education to be elected in a general state election
- HB 418 increases the salaries of Assistant Teachers
- SB 2071 authorizes the Three-for-Three Teacher Relocation Program which provides for certified teachers to be eligible for an annual relocation grant of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each of three (3) years, in addition to the reimbursement of relocation expenses authorized under the Critical Needs Teacher Shortage Act.
- SB 2164 establishes a Teacher Retention Scholarship Grant Program to provide scholarships to teachers currently employed in any school district in the state working toward a Master's or Doctorate of Education degree.
- SB 2188 provides graduate degree teacher incentive loans to applicants agreeing to teach in public schools or universities
- SB 2197 provides for the pupil-teacher ratio to be reduced on a phased-in basis
- SB 2198 establishes the Mississippi Children's Cabinet to serve as a coordinating agency for children and family services. The cabinet is to be comprised of the 1) State Superintendent of Education, 2) the Executive Director of the Department of Health, 3) the Executive Director of DHS, 4) the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, 5) the Attorney General, and 6) a representative from the Office of the Governor.
- HB 245 establishes the Debilitating Disease Scholarship Program
- HB 454 abolishes the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and places community colleges under IHL
- HB 523 and HC 10 abolish the IHL Board of Trustees and establish separate boards at each institution
- SB 2154 establishes the MS Gulf Coast Universities Center under the jurisdiction of IHL

Transportation

As discussed this morning, the legislative leadership will be introducing legislation relative to the Department of Transportation. I've identified the following bills for us to monitor:

- HB 228 provides for violation of the seat belt law to be a primary offense
- HB 233 creates the “State Aid Road Construction Supplemental Fund” special fund and provides for State Fiscal Officer to transfer \$25,000,000 annually from the state general fund to this special fund during FYs 2002 through 2006
- HB 237 authorizes the use of a portion of the Motor Fuel Tax diverted to MDOT that is not needed to pay annual debt service on certain highway bonds to be used for pavement maintenance on the four-lane highway program.
- HB 495 creates the “Multimodal Transportation Capital Improvement Program Fund” special fund and provides that money in the fund be expended by MDOT for capital improvement projects at ports, airports, publicly owned railroads and public transit providers in Mississippi.
- SB 2060 creates the Four-Lane Highway Maintenance Account for the purpose of repairing, rehabilitating and maintaining the pavement structure and shoulders of non-interstate four-lane highways. The bill also phases in a 3% increase in certain gaming license fees, the collection of such to be deposited into this maintenance account .