

Outstanding Legislative Issues

4/4/03 Draft

■ **Medicaid Appropriation bill** - \$90 million shortfall, \$300 million healthcare dollars.

1. Option 1 – veto
2. Option 2 – sign the bill when signing other appropriation bills
3. Message Option 1 – We have made a commitment to our seniors and our children and the under-funding of health care in Mississippi is wrong. A \$90 million shortfall equals approximately \$300 million in health care dollars to our seniors, to our children, and to our health care providers. We can do better. The budget I submitted prioritized education, healthcare and jobs, funded the shortfalls, and did not raise taxes. We must cover our commitment to health care for our seniors and our children.”
4. Message Option 2 – “We/or the Governor is committed to the Medicaid program. It is a commitment we have made to our seniors and our children. We have always fought for the Medicaid program and we will continue to do so.”
5. Governor Musgrove and Bill Renick meet with Rica ASAP to discuss strategy.

■ **Medicaid Technical Amendments –**

1. Option 1 - sign it
2. Option 2 – veto it
3. Under Rica’s current flexibility, it is our opinion that she has the flexibility to run the entire program outside this legislation.

■ **DHS/MDOC Appropriations –**

1. Sign
2. Talk about must-have flexibility, especially during times of a national recession.

■ **Voter ID – dead.**

Hob is saying we will get the money anyway? Will still have to pass the law next year to get the money.

“We have been reassured by Washington that Mississippi will get its share of the money. We were disappointed that the Senate decided to play politics on this issue. Secretary of State Eric Clark has worked hard to upgrade (improve) our voter system.”

■ **Pay Bill, HB 773**

Passed today by both bodies. We recommend veto.

Micromanages MDE. Places salary of state superintendent under approval of personnel board. Treats MDE, IHL, and JUCO inequitably. Also puts MDA under same advisory language.

One issue – also funds personnel board. If veto, have to run by executive order. Talk to Hoopy Stringer about this ahead of time if decision is to veto.

■ **Pay Bill, SB 2794**

Sign bill, need DA's and Drs. Spell and Clark

■ **Board of Health Composition – SB 2338**

Right now, no limit on makeup of board other than by congressional district. This bill changes that by requiring 9 members to be engaged in health services, no more than 4 of the same profession or have the same license. No 2 members can work for same employer.

Some controversy between MSMA and MHA. Review and sign – not a fight we want to enter. Still leaves you enough flexibility.

■ **The Med bill/Trauma Care Network**

Sign bill, right thing to do. The Med takes care of a large part of North Mississippi for trauma. One problem with the bill is that the Med will potentially take 1/6 of the pie that has been otherwise divided by the Mississippi hospitals. Forrest General has already complained. Legislature will have to shore up the Trauma fund during the next session.

■ **Bond bills, including MS Rural Impact Authority**

Sign all bills, make a big deal on Rural Economic Impact Authority.

Message: Rural Mississippi has been hardest hit by the national recession and NAFTA

The Rural Impact Authority will give us the ability to help existing business and attract new jobs to those areas that need the most help

End of session strategy:

1. Press conference/press availability/press release outlining legislative successes

Note: Vehicle to be coordinated
Include talking points for agency heads.

Issues:

Putting our schools first
Rural Economic Impact Authority
Other agency wins
Appointments

2. Special bill signing for:

Northrup Grumman – April 10
Tishomingo Industrial Park?

3. Bill signing day for legislators – May?