

End of Session Strategy/ Revised 04/9/03

I. Outstanding Legislative Issues:

- **Medicaid Appropriation bill, HB 1545** - \$90 million shortfall, \$300 million healthcare dollars. (Due 4/19)

Recommendation – sign the bill when signing other appropriation bills
Message upon request – “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.”

- **Medicaid Technical Amendments, HB 897** – (Due 4/21)
Sign it - Under Rica’s current flexibility, it is our opinion that she has the flexibility to run the entire program outside this legislation. Wanda has issue with one section, repository language. She has done a separate memo.

- **DHS (HB 1551) (Due 4/18) /MDOC (SB 2950) (Due 4/19) Appropriations**
 1. Sign bill
 2. Talk about must-have flexibility, especially during times of a national recession.

- **Pay Bill, HB 773** (Due 4/23)
(See Kelly Riley Memo) Passed both bodies. We continue to discuss. 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 – has repealer in it for personnel board. If veto, may be able to run by executive order. Lots of comments and requests to veto. Also press inquiries.

After meeting with group, consensus, outside of lam and kr was to sign.

- **Pay Bill, SB 2794**
Sign bill, need DA’s and Drs. Spell and Clark
Message – law enforcement/crime as message. Can mention reservations during tough budget times but have to place a priority on fighting crime.

- **Board of Health Composition – SB 2338** (due 4/21)
Sign bill.
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, HB 1544, (Due 4/18)**
(Note – part of Department of Health appropriations bill)
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, HB 1335, (Due 4/19)**
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

II. Media Opportunities Regarding legislation and economic development:

1. Press conference/press availability/press release outlining legislative successes
(Include talking points for agency heads.)

Issues: Putting our schools first
 Rural Economic Impact Authority
 Other agency wins - Boyd
 Appointments?

2. Recommended events for April:

SB 2445 – Do Not Call	April 9
Northrup Grumman	April 10
MS Rural Impact Act	Week of April 21
CDBG round –	Press Release, Spread events May, June & July
Statewide Drug Courts	April tbd

Economic Development

Northrup Grumman – April 10 – puts \$48 million in bonds if NG spends \$96 million for expansion of Gulf Coast ship building

Tishomingo Industrial Park – May?

HB 1335 – Mississippi Rural Impact Act – purpose of promoting business and economic development in rural areas to produce jobs – MDA - \$10 million for State GO bonds (due 4/19) **Select rural area of state with media coverage for signing.** Plan event week of April 21? Nettleton for Tupelo and Columbus TV as event site. Also consider Greenville and outside Hattiesburg.

HB 928 – Agriculture Com. Provide subsidy to producers of ethanol, bio-diesel, etc. (due 4/21)

HB 1337 – MDA - MS Business Investment Act, specify 2 to 1 private to public match for high tech enterprise projects. Authorizes \$3 million to port projects, reduces MDA from \$5 million to \$4 million to loan to ports for repair and improvements. (due 4/21)

DEQ – HB 861 – Establish MS Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems. (due 4/21) *This is one of our bills and a success.*
Council will

Coordinate remote sensing and GIS activity in MS

Establish policies and standards to guide MDITS in the procurement of hardware and software for both
Prepare a plan for MS remote sensing and GIS activities & MS digital earth model.

HB 1418 – Ask Steve Hale – regional economic development alliances – may be more administrative in nature. (signed 3/18)

HB 1592 – Issue Bonds for Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, increase bonds for local governments and rural water systems revolving loan fund (due 4/18) McCoy bill.

CDBG – MDA Next round of \$18 million approximately for CDBG. New strategy on announcement – need to discuss ASAP.

SB 2985 – local bridge replacement, (signed 3/23)

Education

SB 2404 – Schools – clarify minimum calendar regarding emergencies (like Columbus), provide for additional funds to certain growth districts (3 % or greater in ADA) – **DeSoto County** (MDE and Supts. Association support) Madison County will also benefit. (due 4/21)

SB 2636 - Early childhood education assessment to legislature by Jan, 04, AT bill, give \$1 million. Note: This is in addition to the study & plan of financing we are currently doing with DHS & Dr. Kagan. Recommendation – sign with other bills. We will do separate press for April 24 & 25th on next meeting of our work groups. (due 4/21)

HB 663 – Clarify method of distribution and administration of state classroom supply funds. (signed 3/17)

HB 1033 – Schools First - (signed 2/5)

SB 2678 – Community college and ihl – (signed 2/5)

SB 2394 – five year olds enrolled in full-day public school kindergarten; require attendance. (signed 3/14) - MAE supported

Crime

HB 971 – require notification of Bureau of Narcotics of death by drug overdose.

HB 1095 – traffic tickets may be issued by computer or electronic means. More importantly, section of Interstate 10 in Hancock County – Stephen Ambrose Memorial Highway.

SB 2446 – provides enhanced penalties for law breakers who flee and sets up at commission of police pursuit standards and procedures. (had several police pursuit wrecks lately) law enforcement training to be studied under this.

Criminal background checks for new workers at nursing homes & child care workers.

SB 2605 - Statewide drug courts, (due 4/19)

HB 637 – violation for bomb threats or chemical, biological, or weapons of mass destruction. Fine of not more than \$10,000 and not more than ten years. (signed by Governor 3/17)

HB 642 – delete statute of limitations for sexual abuse of children. (Frances Fredericks) (signed 3/31)

HB 1415 – allowed Leflore County to use private prison – big press on March 5 in Greenwood.

SB 2348 – DNA, biological sample from all convicted felons –(signed 3/23)

SB 2410 – weapons, forfeited to be auctioned, proceeds to buy bulletproof vests. (Signed 3/12)

Health

HB 1087 – authorizes health department to provide a vaccine program for first responders who may be exposed to infectious diseases when sent to bioterrorism or disaster locations. Also had controversial language on providing educational material on the avail. Of vaccines for meningitis and hepatitis A & B to public universities and colleges. (May be too controversial – no request from Dr. Amy)

SB 2001 – Environmental self-audit privilege – signed 1/20 – press in January

Msl. Public interest

SB 2445 - Do Not Call list for telephone solicitations - Covered by media, request by all three PSC, scheduled for Wednesday, April 9. (due 4/19)

HB 454/583 – open meetings law – (signed 3/31)

HB651 – Admin. Procedures Act – press in February.

HB 1426 – MS Fair Commission to lease certain lands to Homer's Barbecue.

HB 701 – provides a credit to taxpayers who convey land for conservation purposes, Sites under MS Natural Heritage Program or MS Scenic Streams Stewardship program. (Signed 3/23)

HB 2236 – State employee management training act, signed 3/12
& SB 2317 – Donation of leave time – signed 3/25 – sent out press release/pic. With Brenda Scott – may want to do again at bill signing day? Also, human interest story with Kelly & Boyd donating time to former coworker at Peer.

SB 2682 – Wildlife moratorium on importation of any susceptible to chronic wasting disease. (4/19) press in CL today.

Local press/press releases

HB 81 – local and private – Wilkinson County makes certain lakes public???

HB 405 – makes hospitality station in Cohoma County (Clarksdale daily paper) “Delma Furniss Hospitality Station” **Bill signing day or during trip to Clarksdale?** (signed 3/13)

HB 341 – Hwy 315 and 1 – Dr. Dewitt Clinton French & C.B. Buddie Newman – **request by French family for ceremonial bill day** (signed 3/12)

HB 1158 – State automobile museum – Tupelo Auto Museum – Next time he’s in Tupelo (signed 3/13)

HB 1560 – City of Columbus – authorizes to place military aircraft at certain locations on US Hwy 45 – (due from Gov. 4/19)