



## **Mississippi House of Representatives**

### **Weekly Summary**

#### **Week of February 13, 2012**

House members adopted Joint Rules on Monday, February 13, under House Concurrent Resolution 33 (HC33). Each chamber operates under its own set of rules. However, measures exist that require them to coordinate and work together. In such cases, Joint Rules exist to dictate how the two chambers operate together. New changes to HC33 state that if a member amends an appropriations bill to increase funds in one agency, the member must also provide the name of the agency from which they are cutting funds. The purpose for the Rule is to maintain a balance in proposed expenditures throughout the appropriations process. HC33 also notes that any deleted information from a bill may be signified through asterisks (\*\*\*) online. Once clicked, the document will expand to allow people to see what information was removed. HC33 was transferred to the Senate for further debate and was subsequently approved.

The House also passed House Bill 211 (HB211) by a narrow majority Wednesday, February 15. HB211 allows state agency heads to retain counsel and hire outside attorneys and/or law firms to represent them in lawsuits. Outside entities must apply to the Personal Service Contract Review Board and receive written input from the Attorney General regarding the potential hiring. Any contracts equaling or in excess of \$100,000 must be reported to the Personal Service Contract Review Board. The bill also requires the disclosure of attorney fees paid and work completed to justify these fees.

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