



Mississippi House of Representatives

Weekly Summary

Week of February 20, 2012

Monday, February 20, at midnight was a filing deadline for all general bills and constitutional amendments to be submitted to the Clerk's Office.

On **Wednesday, February 22, 2012**, Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) met before the Appropriations Committee and asked for level funding. MPB emphasized they want to become more self-sufficient, but do not see complete independence from state funding at this time. MPB was one of 33 different state agencies that met in front of the Appropriations Committee this week to request funding for Fiscal Year 2013.

The House unanimously passed two bills (HB87 and HB773) Wednesday dealing with insurance. House Bill 87 (HB87) allows industrial life insurers to increase the maximum life insurance policy from \$5,000 up to \$20,000. This permits people with limited resources to bury their loved ones with more dignity.

House Bill 773 (HB773) revises the laws regarding eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program. It extends requirements to hunting camps.

On **Thursday, February 23, 2012**, the Appropriations Committee entertained a Performance Based Budgeting hearing from a representative with the office of Texas Governor Rick Perry. Performance Based Budgeting is designed to show what each dollar allotted to an agency accomplishes. This has been in place in Texas for several years and has been successful. The parameters for this are already in place in Mississippi; but, strategic plans to implement this must be activated.

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On the floor, the House unanimously passed several bills involved with renaming portions of local highways and interstates. House Bill 90 (HB90) designates the Mississippi Highway 30 Bypass in Prentiss County and the City of Booneville as “F. Wade Lambert Memorial Highway.” Lambert was a long-time Mayor of Booneville. House Bill 98 (HB98) designates a certain segment of U.S. Highway 78 in Benton and Marshall Counties as “William R. ‘Bill’ Minor Memorial Highway.” Minor was a former State Senator and Transportation Commissioner. House Bill 99 (HB99) designates a segment of Mississippi Highway 51 in the Town of Goodman in Holmes County as “Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Highway.” Martin Luther King Jr. was a prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. House Bill 166 (HB166) designates a certain segment of Interstate 55 in Copiah County as the “Robert L. Johnson Memorial Highway,” in memory of the Blues legend.

House Bill 479 (HB479) proposes a premium charge in State and School Employees’ Health Insurance plans based on behavioral risk factors. After lengthy discussion, HB479 was laid on the table subject to call and will be covered further at a later date.

Visitors to the Chamber this week included elected officials from Turkey and the visiting dignitaries from the Republic of Azerbaijan. They expressed their gratitude with the relationship they have with Mississippi and the United States, and they anticipate continuing to work together. Members also welcomed representatives from local Future Farmers of America groups, Mississippi Valley State University President Donna H. Oliver, PhD, the Mississippi Beekeepers Association and the National Bee Queen.

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