



## **Mississippi House of Representatives Weekly Summary**

### **Week of March 25, 2013**

The week opened on a somber note as members mourned the passing of Representative Jessica Upshaw (R-Diamondhead) who died on Sunday, March 24. Rep. Upshaw was known for her keen ability to thoroughly read through and dissect bills in a short amount of time and for her passionate advocacy for issues in which she believed. Friends and coworkers will miss her sense of humor and her passion to serve.

This week, conference members were assigned to bills the Senate and House members did not agree or “concur” on changes that the other chamber made to a bill. Conferees from the House and Senate began meeting to work on bill language, in hopes of reaching an agreement.

The deadline to file conference reports on Appropriations and Revenue bills falls this weekend, March 28. Conferees must file reports, or final versions, before 8 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Monday, April 1, is the deadline for adoption of those conference reports filed. With deadlines back-to-back, it is likely members and staff will work through the Easter weekend.

On the House floor, House members voted to invite conference with the changes Senate members made to House Bill 890 (HB890), Governor Phil Bryant’s Education Works bill. Sixteen bills in the educational package are also in conference.

Bills where both chambers concurred with the changes were sent to the Governor’s desk. So far in the 2013 Legislative Session, Governor Bryant has signed 109 House Bills into law. Some of these signed bills originating in the House include:

- House Bill 2 clarifies the definition of concealed weapons.
- House Bill 117 creates the Mississippi Development Authority Job Training Grant Fund that will be applicable to certain eligible business enterprises.
- House Bill 481 prohibits counties and municipalities from establishing a mandatory minimum wage.
- House Bill 485 exempts weapon permit information from the Mississippi Public Records Act.

Late this week, House and Senate members began wrapping up their discussions regarding the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) budget. Both sides must agree on how to spend the approximately \$5.6 billion General Fund budget for FY14. At this stage in the conference process until the Saturday evening deadline is met and reports are adopted, exact numbers may change. However, areas



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expected to see increases in funding include K-12, Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) and community colleges.

Visitors to the Capitol this week included: The Ocean Springs High School Cheerleaders were recognized for winning the World Championship in Competition Cheerleading; the Ocean Springs Girls' and Boys' Cross Country Team were commended for winning the State Championship; the Ocean Springs High School Dance Team was acknowledged for winning the State Championship; the Ocean Springs High School Girls' Soccer team was recognized for winning the 6A State Championship title; the Amanda Elzy High School Boys' Basketball Team was recognized for winning back-to-back 4A State Championships for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013; actress and entertainer Cassandra "Cassi" Davis acknowledged for her achievements in the entertainment industry; Dr. Andy Mullins was commended for his years of service at The University of Mississippi and his career serving Mississippi; Athletic Director at The University of Mississippi Ross Bjork was recognized for the success of the school's football team in the BBVA Compass Bowl and its most recent SEC basketball title; Copiah Lincoln Community College Wolfpack Football Team was commended upon winning the 2012 State Championship; and the Hazlehurst High School Football Team and its coaching staff were honored for winning the 3-A state championships .