



Mississippi House of Representatives Weekly Summary

Week of January 27, 2014

House members were faced with a full week of committee work in anticipation of the approaching February 4 deadline for reporting general bills originating in the House out of committee. However, the inclement winter weather put a kink in the first part of the week's schedule. Amidst snow flurries Tuesday morning, House members proceeded with normal committee activity. As conditions deteriorated, it was decided to gavel in and out at 2 p.m. in order for members and staff to get home safely. Activity at the Capitol resumed Wednesday at 2 p.m. Committee Chairmen whose meetings were affected rescheduled their meetings to meet the deadline.

The House Corrections Committee passed several bills out of committee this week. [House Bill 63](#) (HB63) prohibits persons convicted of two violent crimes from obtaining earned time allowances/trustee time. The committee members also passed [House Bill 926](#) (HB926) that restricts the Mississippi Department of Corrections' usage of full-body imaging scanners. Currently, the scanners are used in contraband searches on all employees and visitors. The change to this bill addresses concerns about the right to privacy and restricts usage of the scanners to being used only if there is a reasonable suspicion that a person might have contraband on their person.

Members of the House Judiciary A Committee addressed and passed several bills focused on Second Amendment rights. [House Bill 485](#) (HB485) deals with the gun buy-back program. This measure says that public entities do not need to be in the business of using municipal or public funds for the purpose of gun buy-back programs. If they participate in such activities, other funds must be used, and a federally licensed firearm dealer must be offered the sale first. Proceeds from the transaction can revert back to the general operating fund of the county. If no bids are received, they can destroy the gun. [House Bill 705](#) (HB705) ensures that in times of distress, a person's gun(s) may not be confiscated from them if they are in lawful possession. [House Bill 764](#) (HB764) allows disabled veterans to receive discounts on conceal carry permits. Enactment of this measure would grant them exemption from the cost of a conceal carry permit and its renewal cost. This also applies to current law enforcement.

The House Insurance Committee passed several measures this week, as well. [House Bill 1433](#) (HB1433) proposes to extend an increase in death benefits to emergency management agency personnel. Enactment of this measure would increase not only law enforcement and fire fighter death/disability benefits from \$65,000 to \$100,000, but also include personnel of emergency management agencies. "The Clarity Act" or [House Bill 753](#) (HB753) requires admitted homeowners insurance carriers in Mississippi to provide data to the public on premiums collected, the amount of losses incurred and the total number of policies in affect. The information will be reported by zip code. The bill intends to help in determining actuarial and that fair application rates are being charged to homeowners.



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The House Judiciary B and Corrections Committees each met on Thursday to discuss [House Bill 585](#) (HB585), which is the omnibus bill that presents provisions compiled by the bipartisan, inter-branch Corrections and Criminal Justice Task Force established during the 2013 Legislative Session. The goal of the 21-member Task Force was to develop policies to improve public safety, reduce repeat offenders, restore certainty and clarity to the sentencing process, and control corrections costs. This proposed measure comprises several different reforms: institute true minimums for time served; eliminate the ability of The Department of Corrections to release offenders early to House Arrest, leaving the decision to the sentencing judge; clarify what constitutes a violent crime; streamline Mississippi's parole system requiring every offender to develop a case plan with the assistance of the Parole Board; and enhance and standardize victim notification regarding an offender's release. Additional reforms include changes to drug sentencing laws and property crime. The measure passed out of both the House Judiciary B and

During the fall of 2013, Governor Phil Bryant proclaimed that 2014 would be the Year of the Creative Economy. In line with that, the House Ways and Means Committee presented [House Bill 733](#) (HB733) to the entire membership after passing the economic development package out of committee. HB733 creates a loan guaranty program as an incentive for motion picture productions to come to Mississippi. Mississippi currently has a rebate program in place. However, this new effort would allow motion picture production companies to be based in Mississippi as long as they spend \$100 million in production costs over a three year period, making three movies each year. At least half of their production budget must be spent in Mississippi. If a film is successful, Mississippi would receive 10 percent of the profits that would then be placed into a new motion picture fund.

Committee meetings are expected to continue Friday, Monday and Tuesday to meet deadline.