

By: Harden

To: Fees, Salaries and
Administration

SENATE BILL NO. 2174

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-1-98, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE FOR EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS FOR CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES
3 PROVIDING SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR
4 STAFF DURING SUCH EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 25-1-98, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows: [MS1]

8 25-1-98. (1) In addition to any other times required by
9 statute, all state offices shall be open and staffed for the
10 normal conduct of business from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday
11 through Friday, except on legal holidays as set forth in Section
12 3-3-7. The Governor may designate certain state offices and
13 institutions as providers of essential services and require that
14 they be open and staffed on legal holidays. The Board of
15 Directors of the Mississippi Industries for the Blind may, in its
16 discretion, require that its offices and operations be open and
17 staffed on legal holidays. Employees required to work on legal
18 holidays shall earn compensatory leave under the provisions of
19 Section 25-3-92. No employee shall receive additional vacation or
20 sick leave benefits for working on a legal holiday, nor shall this
21 section be construed to authorize any additional compensation as
22 an alternative to the accrual of compensatory leave except as

23 specifically provided for in a legislative appropriation. The
24 provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the
25 hours of operation of any agency or to abrogate any action taken
26 during hours other than those stated, nor shall these provisions
27 apply to any offices that do not customarily stay open five (5)
28 days a week. The provisions of this section shall not apply to
29 the military department of the State of Mississippi or to the
30 armories, field training sites, air bases or other installations
31 of the Mississippi National Guard.

32 (2) A workday for a state employee in a full-time employment
33 position shall be eight (8) hours in duration at a minimum
34 exclusive of time off for meals. The appointing authority shall
35 develop work schedules which ensure that each full-time employee
36 works a full workday and shall provide the State Auditor with a
37 copy of the regular work schedule of the appointing authority.

38 (3) In addition to any other times required by statute, the
39 following state agencies providing services to low-income families
40 shall be open and staffed for the normal conduct of business from
41 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday: (a) the
42 Department of Human Services; (b) the Division of Medicaid; (c)
43 the State Department of Health; and (d) the Mississippi Employment
44 Security Commission. The administrative head of the appropriate
45 divisions and bureaus of such agencies shall assign employees to
46 flexible working hours in order to accommodate the extended office
47 hours prescribed herein, and no employee assigned to such extended
48 office hours shall receive additional compensation, vacation leave
49 or compensatory leave benefits for staffing the office during such
50 period of time.

51 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after its passage.