

By: Senator(s) Michel, McLendon, Tate, Boyd, Suber, Simmons (13th), Carter, Seymour, Caughman, Butler (36th), Butler (38th), Jackson (11th), McCaughn, Barnett, Simmons (12th), Jordan, Thomas, Parks, Younger, DeLano, Moran, Branning, Chism, England, Hill, Parker, Whaley To: Insurance

SENATE BILL NO. 2357

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO PAY THE REASONABLE HOSPITAL AND
2 MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR PAID OR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS
3 SUFFERING INJURY OR ILLNESS INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY; TO ALLOW
4 COUNTIES TO PROVIDE ACCIDENT, DEATH OR DISABILITY POLICIES TO PAID
5 OR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS; TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO
6 PURCHASE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE MEDICAL COSTS AND EXPENSES
7 INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY OF PAID OR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
8 MEMBERS; TO AMEND SECTION 21-25-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
9 ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO PAY THE PREMIUMS FOR ACCIDENT, DEATH AND
10 DISABILITY POLICIES AND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE MEDICAL COSTS
11 AND EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOR PAID OR VOLUNTEER
12 FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** In all counties of this state maintaining a paid
15 or volunteer fire department, the personnel of which department is
16 actively and exclusively engaged in fire duty or emergency medical
17 services, the board of supervisors of such county may pay out of
18 the general fund of such county reasonable hospital and medical
19 expenses for any member of said fire department on account of any
20 occupational disease contracted or for any accident or injury
21 sustained by said member by reason of his service or discharge of
22 his duty in said department. Where hospital and medical expenses
23 are to be paid directly from the county's general fund, the board



24 of supervisors of such county shall be the sole judge as to
25 whether such illness or such injury was contracted or sustained in
26 the line of duty of any such employee, and the reasonableness of
27 said expenses.

28 Further, the board of supervisors of such county may pay out
29 of the general fund insurance premiums for the purchase of
30 insurance covering hospital and medical expenses for any member of
31 said fire department on account of any occupational disease
32 contracted or for any accident or injury sustained by said member
33 by reason of his service or discharge of his duty in said
34 department.

35 In addition, the board of supervisors of such county may pay
36 out of the general fund insurance premiums for the purchase of
37 accident, death or disability insurance covering any member of
38 said fire department for expenses associated with any occupational
39 disease contracted or for any accident or injury sustained by said
40 member by reason of his service or discharge of his duty in said
41 department.

42 **SECTION 2.** Section 21-25-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
43 amended as follows:

44 21-25-9. In all municipalities of this state maintaining a
45 paid or volunteer fire department, the personnel of which
46 department is actively and exclusively engaged in fire duty or
47 emergency medical services, the governing authorities of such
48 municipality may pay out of the general fund of such municipality



49 reasonable hospital and medical expenses for any member of said
50 fire department on account of any occupational disease contracted
51 or for any accident or injury sustained by said member by reason
52 of his service or discharge of his duty in said department. Where
53 hospital and medical expenses are to be paid directly from the
54 municipality's general fund, the governing authorities of such
55 city shall be the sole judge as to whether such illness or such
56 injury was contracted or sustained in the line of duty of any such
57 employee, and the reasonableness of said expenses.

58 Further, the governing authorities of such municipality may
59 pay out of the general fund insurance premiums for the purchase of
60 insurance covering hospital and medical expenses for any member of
61 said fire department on account of any occupational disease
62 contracted or for any accident or injury sustained by said member
63 by reason of his service or discharge of his duty in said
64 department.

65 In addition, the governing authorities of such municipality
66 may pay out of the general fund insurance premiums for the
67 purchase of accident, death or disability insurance covering any
68 member of said fire department for expenses associated with any
69 occupational disease contracted or for any accident or injury
70 sustained by said member by reason of his service or discharge of
71 his duty in said department.

72 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
73 and after July 1, 2022.

