

By: Representatives Zuber, Felsher

To: State Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 20

1 AN ACT TO MODERNIZE PROCUREMENT AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN
2 THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO CREATE THE PROCUREMENT MODERNIZATION
3 ADVISORY COUNCIL; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATEWIDE
4 CLOUD STORAGE CENTER FOR STATE AGENCIES; TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC
5 INITIATIVES FOR DATA INTEGRATION, CYBERSECURITY AND TECHNOLOGICAL
6 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI
7 DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT
8 STATEWIDE DIGITAL SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and cited as the
11 "Statewide Digital Services and Procurement Modernization Act."

12 **SECTION 2.** The purpose of this act is to:

13 (a) Facilitate the modernization of procurement
14 processes across state government to ensure efficiency,
15 transparency and cost effectiveness;

16 (b) Establish a centralized cloud storage center to
17 standardize and secure state data management systems;

18 (c) Strengthen statewide cybersecurity measures;

19 (d) Promote integration of data systems across state,
20 county and municipal government to enhance interoperability; and



(e) Improve technological infrastructure and digital services to advance the efficiency of government operations.

SECTION 3. (1) There is hereby created the Procurement Modernization Advisory Council to assist and advise on the modernization of procurement processes across state government and oversee the implementation of statewide digital services and infrastructure improvements. The plan's progress shall be annually measured to ensure consistent alignment with the council's established goals and continuous improvement in efficiency, transparency and vendor accessibility.

(2) The council shall consist of the following nine (9) members:

(a) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, who shall serve as the council's chairperson;

(b) The Director of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN), or his or her designee;

(c) The Commissioner of Revenue, or his or her designee;

(d) The Director of the Cybercrimes Division of the Attorney General's Office, or his or her designee;

(e) The Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration, or his or her designee;



44 (f) A representative from the Mississippi Association
45 of Supervisors with expertise in technology and data systems
46 appointed by the Governor;

47 (g) A representative from the Mississippi Municipal
48 League with expertise in procurement processes appointed by the
49 Governor;

50 (h) A private-sector technology expert with experience
51 in cybersecurity or cloud systems appointed by the Governor; and

52 (i) A representative from an accredited Mississippi
53 research university with expertise in system programming or data
54 management appointed by the Governor.

55 (3) The attendance of five (5) members shall constitute a
56 quorum for the purpose of conducting official business of the
57 council. Members shall serve without compensation, but are
58 entitled to per diem and reimbursement for mileage and actual
59 expenses for attending official council meetings. The Chairperson
60 shall call the first meeting within thirty (30) days of the
61 effective date of this act.

62 (4) The council shall:

63 (a) Oversee the transition of state agencies to the
64 centralized cloud storage center;

65 (b) Provide recommendations for procurement
66 modernization, including electronic procurement systems;

67 (c) Develop a three-year strategic plan for
68 cybersecurity improvements across state systems; and



(d) Ensure the integration of interoperable data systems for state, county and municipal governments.

SECTION 4. (1) The Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (MDITS) shall establish a centralized cloud storage center to serve as a unified platform for all state agencies. The system must adhere to best practices for scalability, security and reliability.

(2) (a) All state agencies shall transition to the centralized cloud storage system by July 1, 2026.

(b) MDITS shall work with county and municipal governments to support their integration into the system within three (3) years of initial implementation, subject to readiness and available resources to support so doing.

(3) MDITS shall establish a competitive process to select cloud service providers based on cost, security, reliability, scale and capacity. Nothing in this act shall mandate the selection of a specific service provider for cloud storage services.

SECTION 5. (1) The Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services shall:

(a) Establish and enforce cybersecurity standards for state agencies, ensuring compliance with federal regulations and best practices;

(b) Implement 24/7 monitoring of critical state systems; and



94 (c) Conduct regular audits of agency compliance with
95 cybersecurity protocols.

96 (2) MDITS shall:

97 (a) Lead efforts to integrate data systems across
98 state, county and municipal levels of government;

99 (b) Establish standardized data formats to ensure
100 interoperability; and

101 (c) Develop secure data-sharing platforms to facilitate
102 efficient communication between agencies.

103 (3) MDITS is authorized and directed to take all necessary
104 steps to establish a dedicated division for statewide digital
105 services to all state agencies, with support systems for the
106 integration of county and municipal political subdivisions. The
107 division shall:

108 (a) Provide technical assistance to agencies during the
109 transition to cloud services;

110 (b) Offer training programs for agency personnel to
111 effectively use new systems; and

112 (c) Develop and maintain systems for electronic
113 procurement and other modernized processes.

114 (4) MDITS is authorized to employ personnel with expertise
115 in cloud systems, cybersecurity and data integration.

116 (5) MDITS shall provide annual progress reports to the
117 Legislature on the implementation of the cloud storage center and
118 modernization efforts, detailing:



119 (a) Progress on cloud storage implementation;
120 (b) Cybersecurity enhancements; and
121 (c) Cost savings achieved through procurement
122 modernization.

123 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
124 and after July 1, 2025.

