

**Adopted  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill No. 2267**

**BY: Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

22        **SECTION 1.**    (1)    This act shall be known and may be cited as  
23    the "Mississippi Statewide Data Exchange Act."

24        (2)    The Mississippi Department of Information Technology  
25    Services (ITS) is tasked with conducting a comprehensive study to  
26    assess the feasibility, operational requirements and policy  
27    considerations for the implementation of a statewide data exchange  
28    initiative.    This initiative shall support secure, efficient and  
29    standardized data sharing among Mississippi state agencies and  
30    other authorized entities to support enhanced digital government  
31    services.



32           (3) Based on the findings of the study, ITS shall develop  
33 and oversee the phased implementation of a cloud-based statewide  
34 data exchange platform that enables agencies to share relevant  
35 data in a structured and compliant manner. The platform shall be  
36 designed to:

37           (a) Facilitate secure and efficient data sharing among  
38 state agencies and other authorized entities, while ensuring  
39 appropriate access controls and data privacy safeguards;

40           (b) Enable a centralized data repository and  
41 interoperability framework, allowing agencies to cross-reference  
42 and validate existing state-provided programs to improve service  
43 delivery, reduce redundancy and enhance decision-making processes;  
44 and

45           (c) Implement data governance and security best  
46 practices in alignment with state and federal laws and regulations  
47 to safeguard sensitive and confidential information.

48           (4) To ensure ongoing oversight, coordination and strategic  
49 guidance for the data exchange initiative, ITS shall establish a  
50 Chief Information Officer (CIO) Council, composed of information  
51 and technology leadership from state agencies. The CIO Council  
52 shall:

53           (a) Provide recommendations on technical standards,  
54 interoperability frameworks and cybersecurity protocols;

55           (b) Facilitate interagency collaboration to maximize  
56 data-sharing efficiencies and promote best practices;



57           (c) Ensure that the statewide data exchange aligns with  
58 agency-specific and statewide strategic goals developed to enhance  
59 digital government services; and

60           (d) Serve as an advisory body to ITS in evaluating the  
61 long-term sustainability and innovation potential of the platform.

62           (5) The Mississippi Department of Information Technology  
63 Services shall have the authority to promulgate rules and  
64 regulations necessary to design, develop, implement, monitor and  
65 update the statewide data exchange platform, associated governance  
66 policies and interagency coordination efforts for enhanced digital  
67 government services.

68           (6) To ensure the effective execution of the Mississippi  
69 Statewide Data Exchange Act, the Mississippi Department of  
70 Information Technology Services (MDITS) shall adhere to the  
71 following timeline for key deliverables:

72           (a) By October 1, 2025, MDITS shall establish the CIO  
73 Council and the governance framework related thereto.

74           (b) Within six (6) months of the first meeting of the  
75 CIO Council, the council shall conduct a feasibility study  
76 regarding the requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Data  
77 Exchange Act, and recommendations from the findings of the study  
78 shall be reported to the legislature.

79           (c) Within six (6) months of reporting the findings  
80 from the feasibility study to the legislature, the CIO Council



81 shall develop a phased implementation plan for the Mississippi  
82 Statewide Data Exchange.

83 (d) Within one (1) year of approving the phased  
84 implementation plan, MDITS and the CIO Council shall launch the  
85 initial pilot program of the Mississippi Statewide Data Exchange.

86 (e) Within one (1) year of successfully launching the  
87 pilot program of the Mississippi Statewide Data Exchange, MDITS  
88 and the CIO Council shall implement a full statewide rollout of  
89 the data exchange program.

90 (f) After full implementation of the data exchange  
91 program, the CIO Council shall submit annual reports to the  
92 legislature regarding the status of the data exchange program,  
93 continuous system enhancements made to the program and any  
94 additional information necessary to develop enhanced digital  
95 government experiences via the Mississippi Statewide Data  
96 Exchange.

97 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-53-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
98 amended as follows:

99 25-53-5. The authority shall have the following powers,  
100 duties, and responsibilities:

101 (a) (i) The authority shall provide for the  
102 development of plans for the efficient acquisition and utilization  
103 of computer equipment and services by all agencies of state  
104 government, and provide for their implementation. In so doing,  
105 the authority may use the MDITS' staff, at the discretion of the



executive director of the authority, or the authority may contract for the services of qualified consulting firms in the field of information technology and utilize the service of such consultants as may be necessary for such purposes. Pursuant to Section 25-53-1, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the Department of Human Services for a period of three (3) years beginning on July 1, 2017. Pursuant to Section 25-53-1, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the Department of Child Protection Services for a period of three (3) years beginning July 1, 2017.

(ii) [Repealed]

(b) The authority shall immediately institute procedures for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and supervise the efficient execution of the powers and duties of the office of executive director of the authority. In the execution of its functions under this chapter, the authority shall maintain as a paramount consideration the successful internal organization and operation of the several agencies so that efficiency existing therein shall not be adversely affected or impaired. In executing its functions in relation to the institutions of higher learning and junior colleges in the state, the authority shall take into consideration the special needs of such institutions in relation to the fields of teaching and scientific research.

(c) Title of whatever nature of all computer equipment now vested in any agency of the State of Mississippi is hereby



131 vested in the authority, and no such equipment shall be disposed  
132 of in any manner except in accordance with the direction of the  
133 authority or under the provisions of such rules and regulations as  
134 may hereafter be adopted by the authority in relation thereto.

135           (d) The authority shall adopt rules, regulations, and  
136 procedures governing the acquisition of computer and  
137 telecommunications equipment and services which shall, to the  
138 fullest extent practicable, ensure the maximum of competition  
139 between all manufacturers of supplies or equipment or services.  
140 In the writing of specifications, in the making of contracts  
141 relating to the acquisition of such equipment and services, and in  
142 the performance of its other duties the authority shall provide  
143 for the maximum compatibility of all information systems hereafter  
144 installed or utilized by all state agencies and may require the  
145 use of common computer languages where necessary to accomplish the  
146 purposes of this chapter. The authority may establish by  
147 regulation and charge reasonable fees on a nondiscriminatory basis  
148 for the furnishing to bidders of copies of bid specifications and  
149 other documents issued by the authority.

150           (e) The authority shall adopt rules and regulations  
151 governing the sharing with, or the sale or lease of information  
152 technology services to any nonstate agency or person. Such  
153 regulations shall provide that any such sharing, sale or lease  
154 shall be restricted in that same shall be accomplished only where  
155 such services are not readily available otherwise within the



156 state, and then only at a charge to the user not less than the  
157 prevailing rate of charge for similar services by private  
158 enterprise within this state.

159 (f) The authority may, in its discretion, establish a  
160 special technical advisory committee or committees to study and  
161 make recommendations on technology matters within the competence  
162 of the authority as the authority may see fit. Persons serving on  
163 the Information Resource Council, its task forces, or any such  
164 technical advisory committees shall be entitled to receive their  
165 actual and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance  
166 of such duties, together with mileage as provided by law for state  
167 employees, provided the same has been authorized by a resolution  
168 duly adopted by the authority and entered on its minutes prior to  
169 the performance of such duties.

170 (g) The authority may provide for the development and  
171 require the adoption of standardized computer programs and may  
172 provide for the dissemination of information to and the  
173 establishment of training programs for the personnel of the  
174 various information technology centers of state agencies and  
175 personnel of the agencies utilizing the services thereof.

176 (h) The authority shall adopt reasonable rules and  
177 regulations requiring the reporting to the authority through the  
178 office of executive director of such information as may be  
179 required for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and may  
180 also establish such reasonable procedures to be followed in the



181 presentation of bills for payment under the terms of all contracts  
182 for the acquisition of computer equipment and services now or  
183 hereafter in force as may be required by the authority or by the  
184 executive director in the execution of their powers and duties.

185           (i) The authority shall require such adequate  
186 documentation of information technology procedures utilized by the  
187 various state agencies and may require the establishment of such  
188 organizational structures within state agencies relating to  
189 information technology operations as may be necessary to  
190 effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

191           (j) The authority may adopt such further reasonable  
192 rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the  
193 purposes of this chapter. All rules and regulations adopted by  
194 the authority shall be published and disseminated in readily  
195 accessible form to all affected state agencies, and to all current  
196 suppliers of computer equipment and services to the state, and to  
197 all prospective suppliers requesting the same. Such rules and  
198 regulations shall be kept current, be periodically revised, and  
199 copies thereof shall be available at all times for inspection by  
200 the public at reasonable hours in the offices of the authority.  
201 Whenever possible no rule, regulation or any proposed amendment to  
202 such rules and regulations shall be finally adopted or enforced  
203 until copies of the proposed rules and regulations have been  
204 furnished to all interested parties for their comment and  
205 suggestions.





206           (k) The authority shall establish rules and regulations  
207 which shall provide for the submission of all contracts proposed  
208 to be executed by the executive director for computer equipment  
209 and/or telecommunications or services, including cloud computing,  
210 to the authority for approval before final execution, and the  
211 authority may provide that such contracts involving the  
212 expenditure of less than such specified amount as may be  
213 established by the authority may be finally executed by the  
214 executive director without first obtaining such approval by the  
215 authority.

216           (l) The authority is authorized to consider new  
217 technologies, such as cloud computing, to purchase, lease, or rent  
218 computer equipment or services and to operate that equipment and  
219 use those services in providing services to one or more state  
220 agencies when in its opinion such operation will provide maximum  
221 efficiency and economy in the functions of any such agency or  
222 agencies.

223           (m) Upon the request of the governing body of a  
224 political subdivision or instrumentality, the authority shall  
225 assist the political subdivision or instrumentality in its  
226 development of plans for the efficient acquisition and utilization  
227 of computer equipment and services. An appropriate fee shall be  
228 charged the political subdivision by the authority for such  
229 assistance.



(n) The authority shall adopt rules and regulations governing the protest procedures to be followed by any actual or prospective bidder, offerer or contractor who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract for the acquisition of computer equipment or services. Such rules and regulations shall prescribe the manner, time and procedure for making protests and may provide that a protest not timely filed shall be summarily denied. The authority may require the protesting party, at the time of filing the protest, to post a bond, payable to the state, in an amount that the authority determines sufficient to cover any expense or loss incurred by the state, the authority or any state agency as a result of the protest if the protest subsequently is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have been filed without any substantial basis or reasonable expectation to believe that the protest was meritorious; however, in no event may the amount of the bond required exceed a reasonable estimate of the total project cost. The authority, in its discretion, also may prohibit any prospective bidder, offerer or contractor who is a party to any litigation involving any such contract with the state, the authority or any agency of the state to participate in any other such bid, offer or contract, or to be awarded any such contract, during the pendency of the litigation.

(o) The authority shall make a report in writing to the Legislature each year in the month of January. Such report shall



contain a full and detailed account of the work of the authority for the preceding year as specified in Section 25-53-29(3).

All acquisitions of computer equipment and services involving the expenditure of funds in excess of the dollar amount established in Section 31-7-13(c), or rentals or leases in excess of the dollar amount established in Section 31-7-13(c) for the term of the contract, shall be based upon competitive and open specifications, and contracts therefor shall be entered into only after advertisements for bids are published in one or more daily newspapers having a general circulation in the state not less than fourteen (14) days prior to receiving sealed bids therefor. The authority may reserve the right to reject any or all bids, and if all bids are rejected, the authority may negotiate a contract within the limitations of the specifications so long as the terms of any such negotiated contract are equal to or better than the comparable terms submitted by the lowest and best bidder, and so long as the total cost to the State of Mississippi does not exceed the lowest bid. If the authority accepts one (1) of such bids, it shall be that which is the lowest and best. Through June 30, 2024, the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to acquisitions of information technology equipment and services made by the Mississippi Department of Health and the Mississippi Department of Revenue for the purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing the provisions of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act.



280 (p) When applicable, the authority may procure  
281 equipment, systems and related services in accordance with the law  
282 or regulations, or both, which govern the Bureau of Purchasing of  
283 the Office of General Services or which govern the Mississippi  
284 Department of Information Technology Services procurement of  
285 telecommunications equipment, software and services.

286 (q) The authority is authorized to purchase, lease, or  
287 rent information technology and services for the purpose of  
288 establishing pilot projects to investigate emerging technologies.  
289 These acquisitions shall be limited to new technologies and shall  
290 be limited to an amount set by annual appropriation of the  
291 Legislature. These acquisitions shall be exempt from the  
292 advertising and bidding requirement.

293 (r) To promote the maximum use and benefit from  
294 technology and services now in operation or which will in the  
295 future be placed in operation and to identify opportunities,  
296 minimize duplication, reduce costs and improve the efficiency of  
297 providing common technology services the authority is authorized  
298 to:

299 (i) Enter into master agreements for computer or  
300 telecommunications equipment or services, including cloud  
301 computing, available for shared use by state agencies, \* \* \*  
302 institutions of higher learning and governing authorities; and

303 (ii) Enter into contracts for the acquisition of  
304 computer or telecommunications equipment or services, including



cloud computing, that have been acquired by other entities, located within or outside of the State of Mississippi, so long as it is determined by the authority to be in the best interest of the state. The acquisitions provided in this paragraph (r) shall be exempt from the advertising and bidding requirements of Section 25-53-1 et seq.

(s) All fees collected by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services shall be deposited into the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services Revolving Fund unless otherwise specified by the Legislature.

(t) The authority shall work closely with the council to bring about effective coordination of policies, standards and procedures relating to procurement of remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) resources. In addition, the authority is responsible for development, operation and maintenance of a delivery system infrastructure for geographic information systems data. The authority shall provide a warehouse for Mississippi's geographic information systems data.

(u) The authority shall manage one or more State Data Centers to provide information technology services on a cost-sharing basis. In determining the appropriate services to be provided through the State Data Center, the authority should consider those services that:

(i) Result in savings to the state as a whole;



(ii) Improve and enhance the security and reliability of the state's information and business systems; and

(iii) Optimize the efficient use of the state's information technology assets, including, but not limited to, promoting partnerships with the state institutions of higher learning and community colleges to capitalize on advanced information technology resources.

(v) The authority shall oversee the Mississippi Statewide Data Exchange, ensuring compliance with the requirements of Section 1 of this act. The Department of Information Technology Services shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to develop, implement and oversee the Mississippi Statewide Data Exchange. The department shall engage with state agencies and other stakeholders to identify data-sharing opportunities and address potential barriers. Additionally, the department shall establish a Chief Information Officer (CIO) Council, composed of information technology leadership from state agencies, to provide strategic oversight, promote interoperability and recommend policies to enhance the effectiveness and security of statewide data-sharing initiatives.

( \* \* \*w) The authority shall increase federal participation in the cost of the State Data Center to the extent provided by law and its shared technology infrastructure through providing such shared services to agencies that receive federal funds. With regard to state institutions of higher learning and



community colleges, the authority may provide shared services when mutually agreeable, following a determination by both the authority and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community College Board, as the case may be, that the sharing of services is mutually beneficial.

( \* \* \*x) The authority, in its discretion, may require new or replacement agency business applications to be hosted at the State Data Center. With regard to state institutions of higher learning and community colleges, the authority and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community College Board, as the case may be, may agree that institutions of higher learning or community colleges may utilize business applications that are hosted at the State Data Center, following a determination by both the authority and the applicable board that the hosting of those applications is mutually beneficial. In addition, the authority may establish partnerships to capitalize on the advanced technology resources of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community College Board, following a determination by both the authority and the applicable board that such a partnership is mutually beneficial.

( \* \* \*y) The authority shall provide a periodic update regarding reform-based information technology initiatives to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency Committees.



379           From and after July 1, 2018, the expenses of this agency  
380 shall be defrayed by appropriation from the State General Fund.  
381 In addition, in order to receive the maximum use and benefit from  
382 information technology and services, expenses for the provision of  
383 statewide shared services that facilitate cost-effective  
384 information processing and telecommunication solutions shall be  
385 defrayed by pass-through funding and shall be deposited into the  
386 Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services  
387 Revolving Fund unless otherwise specified by the Legislature.  
388 These funds shall only be utilized to pay the actual costs  
389 incurred by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology  
390 Services for providing these shared services to state agencies.  
391 Furthermore, state agencies shall work in full cooperation with  
392 the Board of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology  
393 Services to identify computer equipment or services to minimize  
394 duplication, reduce costs, and improve the efficiency of providing  
395 common technology services across agency boundaries.

396           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
397 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2025.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1           AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE DATA EXCHANGE ACT;  
2 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)  
3 TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A  
4 STATEWIDE DATA EXCHANGE INITIATIVE; TO DIRECT ITS TO COORDINATE  
5 WITH STATE AGENCIES TO ASSESS DATA-SHARING NEEDS, OPERATIONAL  
6 REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS; TO REQUIRE ITS TO DEVELOP





7 A PHASED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR A SECURE, CLOUD-BASED STATEWIDE  
8 DATA EXCHANGE PLATFORM TO FACILITATE INTERAGENCY DATA SHARING  
9 WHILE ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH PRIVACY AND SECURITY STANDARDS; TO  
10 MANDATE THE CREATION OF A CENTRALIZED DIGITAL HUB FOR BUSINESS  
11 OWNERS TO ACCESS, SUBMIT AND TRACK REQUIRED STATE FILINGS AND  
12 COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS; TO ESTABLISH A CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
13 (CIO) COUNCIL COMPRISED OF IT LEADERSHIP FROM STATE AGENCIES TO  
14 PROVIDE STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT, INTEROPERABILITY GUIDANCE AND POLICY  
15 RECOMMENDATIONS; TO GRANT ITS REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH  
16 RULES, POLICIES AND SECURITY PROTOCOLS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE  
17 STATEWIDE DATA EXCHANGE INITIATIVE; TO AMEND SECTION 25-53-5,  
18 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REFLECT THE UPDATED POWERS AND  
19 RESPONSIBILITIES OF ITS IN DEVELOPING, GOVERNING AND MAINTAINING  
20 THE MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE DATA EXCHANGE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

