



Week of March 25, 2019

This was the twelfth and final week of the 2019 Legislative Session. After many hours of working in conference committees to finalize the state budget and other bills, legislators completed the last day of the session on Friday, March 29.

Over the course of the week, representatives introduced conference reports which had to be adopted by both houses before being sent to the governor. Because these bills had been discussed and amended throughout the entire session, most conference reports passed with little debate.

One bill in particular, however, was the source of much debate during the final days of the session. [Senate Bill 3049](#) was the budget for the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration. Portions of this budget were set aside for various other projects and uses, including transfer to the Department of Education for education scholarship accounts. After initially being passed 115-1 on Thursday afternoon, members who did not agree with this part of the bill began asking for their vote to be changed. It was also held on a motion to reconsider and was voted on several times, it eventually passed with a vote of 63-43.

In addition to their many other duties, the House bid farewell to several representatives who announced they would not be seeking re-election. Representatives David Baria (D-Hancock), Margaret Ellis Rogers (R-Union) and Preston Sullivan (D-Chickasaw) were honored by the House with resolutions commending them on their years of public service. The House also said goodbye to longtime legislator Senator Tommy Gollott (R-Harrison), who announced his retirement after serving in the Mississippi Legislature for 52 years.

The House adjourned sine die on Friday, March 29, more than a week before the April 7 deadline. This concluded the 2019 Legislative Session, which was the last session before the next four-year term.