

By: Senator(s) Thames

To: Fees, Salaries and Administration

SENATE BILL NO. 2350

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-3-93 AND 25-3-95, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO ALLOW EMPLOYEES TO DONATE PERSONAL LEAVE TO OTHER  
3 EMPLOYEES WITH A CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS OR INJURY; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-3-93, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 25-3-93. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b),  
9 all employees and appointed officers of the State of Mississippi,  
10 who are employees as defined in Section 25-3-91, shall be allowed  
11 credit for personal leave computed as follows:

12	Continuous	Accrual Rate	Accrual Rate
13	Service	(Monthly)	(Annually)
14	1 month to 3 years	12 hours per month	18 days per year
15	37 months to 8 years	14 hours per month	21 days per year
16	97 months to 15 years	16 hours per month	24 days per year
17	Over 15 years	18 hours per month	27 days per year

18 However, employees who were hired prior to July 1, 1984, who  
19 have continuous service of more than five (5) years but not more  
20 than eight (8) years shall accrue fifteen (15) hours of personal  
21 leave each month.

22 (b) Temporary employees who work less than a full  
23 workweek and part-time employees shall be allowed credit for  
24 personal leave computed on a pro rata basis. Faculty members  
25 employed by the eight (8) public universities on a nine-month  
26 contract, temporary employees of the public universities who work  
27 less than twenty (20) hours per week for a period of less than  
28 five (5) months during a fiscal year, and recipients of full-time



29 educational leave, while on such leave, shall not be eligible for  
30 personal leave.

31 (2) For the purpose of computing credit for personal leave,  
32 each appointed officer or employee shall be considered to work not  
33 more than five (5) days each week. Leaves of absence granted by  
34 the appointing authority for one (1) year or less shall be  
35 permitted without forfeiting previously accumulated continuous  
36 service. The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
37 military leaves of absence. The time for taking personal leave,  
38 except when such leave is taken due to an illness, shall be  
39 determined by the appointing authority of which such employees are  
40 employed.

41 (3) For the purpose of Sections 25-3-91 through 25-3-99, the  
42 earned personal leave of each employee shall be credited monthly  
43 after the completion of each calendar month of service, and the  
44 appointing authority shall not increase the amount of personal  
45 leave to an employee's credit. It shall be unlawful for an  
46 appointing authority to grant personal leave in an amount greater  
47 than was earned and accumulated by the officer or employee.

48 (4) Employees are encouraged to use earned personal leave.  
49 Personal leave may be used for vacations and personal business as  
50 scheduled by the appointing authority and shall be used for  
51 illnesses of the employee requiring absences of one (1) day less.  
52 Accrued personal or compensatory leave shall be used for the first  
53 day of an employees illness requiring his absence of more than one  
54 (1) day. Accrued personal or compensatory leave may also be used  
55 for an illness in the employee's immediate family as defined in  
56 Section 25-3-95. There shall be no limit to the accumulation of  
57 personal leave. Upon termination of employment each employee  
58 shall be paid for not more than thirty (30) days of accumulated  
59 personal leave. Unused personal leave in excess of thirty (30)  
60 days shall be counted as creditable service for the purposes of



61 the retirement system as provided in Sections 25-11-103 and  
62 25-13-5.

63 (5) Any officer of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol who  
64 is injured by wound or accident in the line of duty shall not be  
65 required to use earned personal leave during the period of  
66 recovery from such injury.

67 (6) Any employee may donate a portion of his or her earned  
68 personal leave to another employee who is suffering from a  
69 catastrophic injury or illness, or to another employee who has a  
70 member of his or her immediate family who is suffering from a  
71 catastrophic injury or illness, in accordance with subsection (8)  
72 of Section 25-3-95.

73 This subsection shall stand repealed from and after July 1,  
74 2004.

75 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-3-95, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
76 amended as follows:

77 25-3-95. (1) All employees and appointed officers of the  
78 State of Mississippi, except temporary employees of the public  
79 universities who work less than twenty (20) hours per week for a  
80 period of less than five (5) months during a fiscal year and  
81 recipients of full-time educational leave, while on such leave,  
82 shall accrue credits for major medical leave as follows:

83 Continuous	Accrual Rate	Accrual Rate
84 Service	(Monthly)	(Annually)
85 1 month to 3 years	8 hours per month	12 days per year
86 37 months to 8 years	7 hours per month	10.5 days per year
87 97 months to 15 years	6 hours per month	9 days per year
88 Over 15 years	5 hours per month	7.5 days per year

89 Faculty members employed by the eight (8) public universities  
90 on a nine-month contract shall accrue credit for major medical  
91 leave as follows:

92 Continuous	Accrual Rate	Accrual Rate
93 Service	(Per Month)	(Per Academic Year)



94	1 month to 3 years	13-1/3 hours per month	15 days per
95			academic year
96	37 months to 8 years	14-1/5 hours per month	16 days per
97			academic year
98	97 months to 15 years	15-2/5 hours per month	17 days per
99			academic year
100	Over 15 years	16 hours per month	18 days per
101			academic year

102 Part-time employees shall accrue major medical leave on a pro  
103 rata basis. There shall be no maximum limit to major medical  
104 leave accumulation. All unused major medical leave shall be  
105 counted as creditable service for the purposes of the retirement  
106 system as provided in Sections 25-11-103 and 25-13-5.

107 (2) Major medical leave may be used for the illness or  
108 injury of an employee or member of the employee's immediate family  
109 as defined in subsection (3) of this section, only after the  
110 employee has used one (1) day of accrued personal or compensatory  
111 leave for each absence due to illness, or leave without pay if the  
112 employee has no accrued personal or compensatory leave. Provided  
113 that faculty members employed by the eight (8) public universities  
114 on a nine-month basis may use major medical leave for the first  
115 day of absence due to illness. However, major medical leave may  
116 be used, without prior use of personal leave, to cover regularly  
117 scheduled visits to a doctor's office or a hospital for the  
118 continuing treatment of a chronic disease, as certified in advance  
119 by a physician. For the purposes of this section, "physician"  
120 means a doctor of medicine, osteopathy, dental medicine, podiatry  
121 or chiropractic. For each absence due to illness of thirty-two  
122 (32) consecutive working hours (combined personal leave and major  
123 medical leave) major medical leave shall be authorized only when  
124 certified by their attending physician.

125 (3) An employee may use up to three (3) days of earned major  
126 medical leave for each occurrence of death in the immediate family



127 requiring the employee's absence from work. No qualifying time or  
128 use of personal leave will be required prior to use of major  
129 medical leave for this purpose. For the purpose of this  
130 subsection (3), the immediate family is defined as spouse, parent,  
131 stepparent, sibling, child, stepchild, grandchild, grandparent,  
132 son- or daughter-in-law, mother- or father-in-law or brother- or  
133 sister-in-law. Child means a biological, adopted or foster child,  
134 or a child for whom the individual stands or stood in loco  
135 parentis.

136 (4) Employees and appointed officers of the State of  
137 Mississippi having unused, accumulated sick leave or annual leave  
138 earned prior to July 1, 1984, shall be credited with major medical  
139 leave and personal leave as follows: All unused annual leave  
140 shall be credited as personal leave.

141 Unused sick leave shall be divided between major medical  
142 leave and personal leave at rates determined by the employee's  
143 sick leave balance on June 30, 1984. The rates of conversion  
144 shall be as follows:

145 Sick Leave	Percentage	Percentage
146 Balance as of	Converted to	Converted to
147 June 30, 1984	Personal Leave	Major Medical Leave
148 1 - 200 hours	20%	80%
149 201 - 400 hours	25%	75%
150 401 - 600 hours	30%	70%
151 601 or more hours	35%	65%

152 (5) Upon retirement from active employment each faculty  
153 member of the state-supported public universities who is employed  
154 on a nine-month basis shall receive credit and be paid for not  
155 more than thirty (30) days of unused major medical leave for  
156 service as a state employee. Unused major medical leave in excess  
157 of thirty (30) days shall be counted as creditable service for the  
158 purposes of the retirement system as provided in Sections  
159 25-11-103 and 25-13-5.



160           (6) Any officer of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol who  
161 is injured by wound or accident in the line of duty shall not be  
162 required to use earned major medical leave during the period of  
163 recovery from such injury.

164           (7) For the purpose of Sections 25-3-91 through 25-3-99, the  
165 earned major medical leave of each employee shall be credited  
166 monthly after the completion of each calendar month, and the  
167 appointing authority shall not increase the amount of major  
168 medical leave to an employee's credit. It shall be unlawful for  
169 an appointing authority to grant major medical leave in an amount  
170 greater than was earned and accumulated by the officer or  
171 employee.

172           (8) Any employee may donate a portion of his or her earned  
173 personal leave or major medical leave to another employee who is  
174 suffering from a catastrophic injury or illness, as defined in  
175 Section 25-3-91, or to another employee who has a member of his or  
176 her immediate family who is suffering from a catastrophic injury  
177 or illness, in accordance with the following:

178           (a) The employee donating the leave (the "donor  
179 employee") shall designate the employee who is to receive the  
180 leave (the "recipient employee") and the amount of earned personal  
181 leave and major medical leave that is to be donated, and shall  
182 notify the donor employee's appointing authority or supervisor of  
183 his or her designation. The donor employee's appointing authority  
184 or supervisor then shall notify the recipient employee's  
185 appointing authority or supervisor of the amount of leave that has  
186 been donated by the donor employee to the recipient employee.

187           (b) The maximum amount of earned personal leave that an  
188 employee may donate to any other employee may not exceed a number  
189 of days that would leave the donor employee with fewer than seven  
190 (7) days of personal leave left, and the maximum amount of earned  
191 major medical leave that an employee may donate to any other



192 employee may not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the earned major  
193 medical leave of the donor employee.

194 (c) An employee must have exhausted all of his or her  
195 earned personal leave and major medical leave before he or she  
196 will be eligible to receive any leave donated by another employee.

197 (d) Before an employee may receive donated leave, he or  
198 she must provide his or her appointing authority or supervisor  
199 with a physician's statement that states the beginning date of the  
200 catastrophic injury or illness, a description of the injury or  
201 illness, and a prognosis for recovery and the anticipated date  
202 that the recipient employee will be able to return to work.

203 (e) If an employee is aggrieved by the decision of his  
204 or her appointing authority that the employee is not eligible to  
205 receive donated leave because the injury or illness of the  
206 employee or member of the employee's immediate family is not, in  
207 the appointing authority's determination, a catastrophic injury or  
208 illness, the employee may appeal the decision to the employee  
209 appeals board.

210 (f) If the total amount of leave that is donated to any  
211 employee is not used by the recipient employee, the donated leave  
212 shall be returned to the donor employees on a pro rata basis,  
213 based on the ratio of the number of days of leave donated by each  
214 donor employee to the total number of days of leave donated by all  
215 donor employees.

216 (g) The failure of any appointing authority or  
217 supervisor of any employee to properly deduct an employee's  
218 donation of leave to another employee from the donor employee's  
219 earned personal leave or major medical leave shall constitute just  
220 cause for the dismissal of the appointing authority or supervisor.

221 (h) Donated leave shall not be used in lieu of  
222 disability retirement.



223                   (i) For the purposes of this subsection, "immediate  
224 family" means spouse, parent, stepparent, sibling, child or  
225 stepchild.

226                   (j) This subsection shall stand repealed from and after  
227 July 1, 2004.

228                   **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
229 and after July 1, 2002.

