

By: Senator(s) Michel

To: Insurance

SENATE BILL NO. 2024

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 83-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE SHALL BE APPOINTED BY
3 THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVISE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE AND TO
4 PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR SAID APPOINTMENT; TO AMEND SECTION
5 83-1-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT
6 THE GOVERNOR APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF
7 INSURANCE OF A CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER; AND FOR OTHER RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 83-1-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 83-1-3. (1) The chief officer of the department shall
13 be * * * the Commissioner of Insurance, who shall be * * *
14 appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the
15 Senate. * * *

16 (2) Beginning July 1, 2025, the Office of Commissioner of
17 Insurance shall be an appointed position; however, no person shall
18 be appointed to the position until the term of the present elected
19 Commissioner of Insurance ends or the office is vacated, whichever
20 comes first. Each term of appointment shall be for six (6) years,

21 except that in case of a vacancy the appointment shall be made to
22 fill the unexpired term.

23 (3) The Commissioner of Insurance shall be a resident of
24 this state, at least thirty (30) years of age, shall have at least
25 a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, and
26 shall be selected with special reference to his training,
27 experience, technical knowledge of the insurance industry and risk
28 management, and demonstrated administrative and management
29 ability.

30 (4) No person shall be Commissioner of Insurance who is in
31 any way connected with the management or control of any company,
32 corporation, association, or order affected by this title, and his
33 term of office shall immediately cease if at any time he shall
34 become so interested. Furthermore, the Commissioner of Insurance
35 shall not be a candidate for, nor hold, any other public office of
36 trust. If he becomes a candidate for public office, his office as
37 commissioner shall be immediately vacated.

38 (5) The Commissioner of Insurance shall, before entering
39 upon the discharge of the duties of his office, take and subscribe
40 to the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, shall file
41 the oath in the Office of the Secretary of State, and shall
42 execute a bond in some surety company authorized to do business in
43 the state, to be approved by the Governor, and filed in the Office
44 of the Secretary of State in the penal sum of Twenty-five Thousand
45 Dollars (\$25,000.00), conditioned for the faithful and impartial

46 discharge of the duties of his office. The premium on the bond
47 shall be paid, as provided by law, out of funds appropriated to
48 the Department of Insurance.

49 (6) The Commissioner of Insurance is not subject to removal
50 from office other than by impeachment or by removal from office as
51 provided for under Section 25-5-1.

52 **SECTION 2.** Section 83-1-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
53 amended as follows:

54 83-1-7. The commissioner shall have authority to
55 appoint * * * a Chief Deputy Commissioner, who shall have power,
56 during his absence or inability to act from any cause, to perform
57 any and all of the duties of the commissioner. Said deputy shall
58 be * * * subject to the same requirements, restrictions, and
59 qualifications as the commissioner, excepting that the bond of the
60 deputy shall be in the penal sum of Ten Thousand Dollars
61 (\$10,000.00), conditioned and approved in the same manner as the
62 bond of the commissioner.

63 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
64 and after July 1, 2025.