

# Overview of Legislation Impacting School Districts

Presented by:  
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- The 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session began on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> with large topics such as redistricting, medical marijuana, income tax elimination, and teacher pay on the schedule.
- One of the most important bills to pass this year was the teacher pay raise bill which, at its final phase, became the largest teacher pay raise for teachers and assistant teachers in Mississippi's history.
- All meetings were in person once again with the ability to view all proceedings virtually. The Capitol has done a great job at making their proceedings accessible to everyone.

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## House Bills

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### House Bill 530

- Teacher Pay Raise.
- \$246 million commitment (Began at \$210 million). Average teacher raise \$5,140. Assistant teachers get \$2,000 raise.
- Phases in over one year as opposed to two.
- Larger increases at the 5 year marks up to 25 years where another large increase would occur.
- Smaller annual increases most years.
- Will make Mississippi more competitive with other states.

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### House Bill 530

- Gives assistant teachers a \$2,000 pay raise.
- Deletes the cap on the number of National Board Certified Nurses and Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists employed by school districts who are allowed to receive the salary supplement for National Board Certification.
- Requires payment of an annual salary supplement to State Licensed Athletic Trainers employed by a school district who have acquired National Board Certification.

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### House Bill 881

- University-based programs of education for children with developmental disabilities.
- Authorizes students with significant developmental disabilities, complex communication needs, significant language or learning deficits, who are unable to sufficiently have their educational needs met within their public school's regular or special education program, to receive educational instruction, training and special education services from a state-supported university or college authorized by the State Department of Education to provide such instruction and training.

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### House Bill 881

- Provides that the justification for the placement of exceptional students ages 3 to 21 is determined in conjunction with the local school district through the student's IEP.
- Authorizes qualified instructors who hold the appropriate licensure endorsements to serve as the lead teacher for children enrolled within the University Based Program (UBP) through the Idea-Part C and Idea-Part B eligibility and placement process.
- Brings the UBP in line with federal guidelines.

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### House Bill 1313

- Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program Act
- Provides postsecondary financial assistance to children in foster care.
- Applies to college, junior college, and trade schools.
- FAITH would cover the full tuition of those children who entered foster care on or after 13 and have not reached 25.
- Must have applied for all federal financial assistance.
- Applicants selected by board with priority for renewals.

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### House Bill 1388

- Comprehensive Career and Technical Reform Act
- Aims to improve career pathways in the K-12 area.
- The bill strives to improve and align career pathways by expanding a successful career coach model, aligns career and technical education (CTE) courses across different levels of education, and requires Accelerate Mississippi, the state's newly created office for workforce strategy and deployment, to lead an analysis of all CTE programs.
- Aims to prepare students for real-world jobs in MS.

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**House Bill 1388**

- Requires the Office of Workforce Development to pilot a career coaching program to support middle and high schools as students are exposed, prepared and connected to career avenues within and beyond the classroom setting.
- Through strong partnerships with business leaders, and school districts, the career coaches will target the alignment of students’ strengths with intentional academic and work-based learning in pursuit of meaningful professional employment.

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**House Bill 1416**

- Student Protected Equal Access Rights Act
- Allows students in public schools to organize political groups or clubs to the same extent that students are allowed to organize other activities and groups.
- Partisan and nonpartisan groups must be given the same access to school facilities as other groups.
- Public schools cannot deny equal access or discriminate against any student or political club on the basis of the political content of the club.

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**House Bill 1600**

- Provides appropriation for the purpose of K-12 funding and other related educational activities for 2023.
- The General Education Budget is \$2,355,322,277
- Major increases in the budget this year were to account for the teacher pay raise and Educational Facilities Revolving Loan Fund.
- Other increases provided for Early Learning Collaboratives, ACT Workkeys, and teacher supply cards.

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# Senate Bills

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## Senate Bill 2113

- Critical Race Theory
- The bill states that no school district or public school shall direct or otherwise compel students to affirm that any sex, race, ethnicity, religion or national origin is inherently superior or inferior or that individuals should be adversely treated on the basis of their sex, race, ethnicity, religion or national origin.
- The bill also states that no funds shall be expended by MDE to a district who violates this law.

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## Senate Bill 2371

- Increases the threshold for bid requirement under the public purchasing law from \$50,000 to \$75,000
- Reverse auctions shall only be required for individual public schools and school districts when purchasing copyrighted educational supplemental materials and software as a service product but may be used discretionarily otherwise.
- Allows local school boards to authorize a purchasing entity in its jurisdiction to use a request for qualifications which promotes open competition and meets state requirements.

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**Senate Bill 2422**

- Teacher Procurement Cards
- All teachers shall receive procurement cards before August 1 of each year in order to be able to purchase supplies.
- The cards shall not expire before April 1 of each year.
- Bill allows for the use of electronic cards.
- This will allow teachers to get the cards earlier while being able to use them longer.

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**Senate Bill 2424**

- School districts will be allowed to process either a monthly or bimonthly payroll.
- At the discretion of the local school board.

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**Senate Bill 2430**

- Creates the Educational Facilities Revolving Loan Fund.
- \$20 million from old EEF fund will be moved to this fund along with an additional \$20 million.
- Districts can access \$1 million per year for repair or refurbishment for existing buildings or for new construction of buildings. Cannot be used for athletic facilities.
- It is a 0% interest loan that must be paid within 10 years.

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**Senate Bill 2430**

- If not paid within 10 years, MDE can take appropriate measures including the claw back of MAEP money.
- Emergency or critical needs will take first priority of those who are given loans.

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**Senate Bill 2431**

- Procedure for the purchase of textbooks.
- The current law requires textbook companies to have a depository in the state.
- Some state depositories no longer exist in the state.
- The bill removes the requirement that textbook vendors must have a depository in the state and allows for regional depository.

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**Senate Bill 2885**

- Partnership between Energy High School and Vicksburg Warren and Claiborne School District.
- The partnership helps students participate in a curriculum that will prepare them for a career in the energy industry in Mississippi.
- The program also provides internships in the industry.
- The bill simply extends the date of repeal to 2025.

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### Senate Bill 2887

- School boards may purchase, own, and operate electric buses in addition to gasoline powered buses.
- DOES NOT provide appropriation for those buses.
- The bill simply gives school districts the option to purchase electric buses.

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## Reapportionment of the Mississippi Congressional Districts

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### House Bill 384

- The first bill signed into law this year by the Governor.
- Mississippi's statewide population decreased by about 6,000 people since 2010.
- Most of the state's population loss was from Congressional District 2.
- District 1 had an increase of 2.2%. District 2 had a decrease of 9.08%. District 3 had an increase of 1.24%. District 4 had an increase of 4.82%.

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### House Bill 384

- Under the Magnolia 1 plan of HB 384, each congressional district would be approximately 740,320 people.
- Adams, Wilkinson, Franklin, and Amite counties would be moved from District 3 to District 2.
- Marion County will be in District 3
- Jones County would be split between District 3 and District 4
- Clarke County would be entirely in District 3
- Winston County moved from District 1 to District 3

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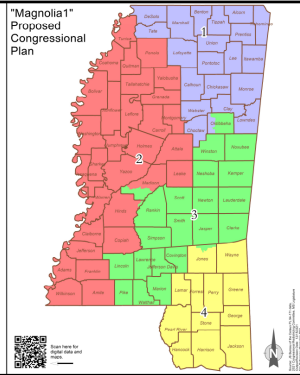
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<https://www.maris.state.ms.us/HTML/Redistricting/Proposed/Maps/magnolia1.pdf>

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## Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act

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**Senate Bill 2095**

- Legalizes medical cannabis in Mississippi for a variety of debilitating diseases.
- Must be a cardholder to use and should be available by end of 2022.
- Cannabis establishments cannot be located within 1000 feet of a school.
- Does not protect employment for medical cannabis users.
- Employers can still have drug test policies prohibiting testing positive for marijuana.

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**Senate Bill 2095**

- Can fire an individual for a positive test.
- The language in the bill does not prohibit an employer from refusing to hire or fire an individual who uses medical cannabis.
- Employers are not required to modify any job or working conditions of any employee who engages in the use of medical cannabis.
- Schools do not have to make special allowances for individuals to use medical cannabis.

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**Mississippi Tax  
Freedom Act of  
2022**

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### House Bill 531

- Mississippi Tax Cut Bill
- The legislature attempted a tax cut bill last year, but could never come to an agreement.
- This bill changed multiple times over the course of the session.
- The 4% tax bracket will be eliminated starting in 2023.
- The 5% tax bracket will be cut by fractions of a percent until it reaches 4% by 2026

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### House Bill 531

- Mississippi will have the fifth-lowest marginal tax rate for states that have income tax.
- The plan will remove \$525 million from the General Fund by 2026.
- Though proposed, adjustments such as cutting car tags in half, the temporary suspension of the gasoline tax, and the reduction of the grocery tax did not make it into the final version.

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## Important Bills That Died

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- **SB 2105** – School Board Member Pay – Would have allowed school board members to receive an increase in pay based on enrollment.
  1. Less than 5,000 students - \$4,000
  2. At least 5,000 but less than 10,000 students – Up to \$5,000
  3. Greater than 10,000 students – Up to \$6,000
- **SB 2087** – All meetings would have to be livestreamed or the meeting was not a valid meeting.
- **SB 2083** – Members of the legislature would have to be invited to executive session meetings.

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## Policy Changes Due to 2022 Legislative Session

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### House Bill 530

- This was the teacher pay raise bill which institutes the new pay raise for teachers and teacher assistants.
- Due to this pay raise, a new teacher salary scale was released.
- We updated the “Teacher Salary Scale” attachment under the Exhibits tab at the bottom of the policy in order to reflect the new amounts.
- Policy impacted:
  1. **GBA-E – Teacher Salary Scale**

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**House Bill 1388**

- Added language stating that all licenses and certifications of teachers and administrators shall be renewed by MDE within 21 days from the date of completed application.
- Policies impacted include:
  1. **CI – Administrative Personnel Intern Program**
  2. **CK – Administrative Personnel Professional Development**

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**House Bill 1388**

- Added language stating that notice will be provided to all incoming middle and high school students of the career and technical pathways offered by the district and what has to be included in that notice.
- Also added language that students in the program will be allowed to participate in dual enrollment, business internships, or work-study programs.
- Policy impacted:
  1. **IN – Vocational/Career Technical Education**

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**Senate Bill 2095**

- Added information from the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act stating that districts do not have to allow the use or possession of medical marijuana on their campuses.
- Also added that the district may take adverse employment actions against an individual who uses medical marijuana.
- Policy impacted:
  1. **GBRL – Drug Free Schools and Workplace**

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**Senate Bill 2095**

- Added information from the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act stating that the district is not precluded from taking adverse employment actions against and individual that tests for any kind of marijuana.
- Also stated that the district is not precluded from having a drug testing policy under this bill and that individuals are not allowed to use or possess medical marijuana on school district property.
- Policy impacted:
  - 1. GBRM-2 – Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy**

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**Senate Bill 2095**

- Added a choice for school districts to make whether to administer medical marijuana or not.
- “The district shall be allowed to administer medical cannabis in the same manner as with other medical prescriptions and in compliance with the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act OR The district does not allow the use of medical cannabis while on district property.
- Policy impacted:
  - 1. JCDAC – Drugs and Alcohol (Possession or Reasonable Suspicion)**
  - 2. JGCD – Student Health Services - Medicines**

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**Senate Bill 2422**

- Added language stating that procurement cards must be issued to teachers no later than August 1 of each year and that those cards will not expire before April 1 of each year.
- Language was also added to allow for digital versions of the cards, revised definition of who can receive the cards, and that funds cannot be used for administrative purposes and must be in compliance with state law.
- Policy impacted:
  - 1. DJEAB – Purchasing Procedures – Education Enhancement Funds**

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**Senate Bill 2424**

- Language was added to a few policies to allow school boards to process a monthly or bimonthly payroll.
- Policies impacted include:
  1. **CEE – Superintendent Compensation and Benefits**
  2. **CGA – Administrative Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts**
  3. **DJC – Payroll Procedure**
  4. **GBA – Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts**

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**Senate Bill 2430**

- Added language to account for the new Educational Facilities Revolving Loan Fund Program which provides interest free loans to school districts for the purpose of repairs and renovations of school facilities.
- Included were available uses of funds, rules and regulations associated with the program, and repayment of the loan. Also removed a repealed law.
- Policy impacted:
  1. **FGDB – Project Administration Contract Awards Procedure**

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**Senate Bill 2887**

- Added the words “electric vehicles” to the policy in order to reflect school board’s ability to purchase electric school buses and other vehicles.
- Policy impacted:
  1. **EDAA – Student Transportation Management School-Owned Buses**

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## Questions?



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