



Representative Zakiya Summers, MS-68

Highlights of Legislation from the 2022 Regular Session

Education:

Passage of [House Bill 530](#) created the "Strategically Accelerating the Recruitment and Retention of Teachers (START) Act of 2022." Under [House Bill 530](#), a Class A teacher with a baccalaureate degree would start at \$41,500. Teachers would receive annual step increases of between \$400 and \$600 at most every year, including in the first three years of teaching. [House Bill 530](#) sought to remedy the fact that step increases are not currently provided in the base salary schedule until the third year of teaching even though many teachers leave the profession before Year 5. At pivotal five-year marks in a teacher's career up to year 20, teachers would receive a larger increase between \$1,200 and \$1,350 based on their certification. At year 25, they would receive a \$2,500 increase. By July most teachers' salaries will increase by about \$5,140 and all teachers' assistants will receive \$2,000 raises. (co-sponsor)

[Senate Bill 2422](#) makes the \$730 teacher classroom procurement cards available to teachers on August 1, 2022. Teachers use this money from the state Department of Education to purchase additional classroom supplies.

[Senate Bill 2424](#) allows school districts to pay employees bimonthly instead of once per month, which many employees have wanted to happen for years.

[House Bill 1521](#) appropriated \$6 million in ARPA funds to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to finance the "Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Education Incentive Program," to repay a portion of student loans for students entering those fields and to

recruit medical professionals into the state.

[Senate Bill 2430](#) creates a revolving no-interest loan program for public school buildings. Emergency and critical infrastructure needs will receive priority. Through the program, public schools may receive up to \$1 million in one fiscal year for maintenance on existing buildings, excluding athletics, or construction of new pre- K or career and technical facilities. Loans will have a 10-year maximum payback period.

[House Bill 1313](#) creates the "Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program Act," to provide post secondary financial assistance to foster children. (co-sponsor)

[Senate Bill 3064](#) appropriated \$10 million in ARPA funds for the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities for infrastructure repairs and upgrades under the (MAICU) Grant Program Act of 2022.

[Senate Bill 2113](#) bans the teaching of Critical Race Theory in Mississippi schools.

[Senate Bill 2885](#) extends the agreement between Vicksburg-Warren School District and the Claiborne County Board of Education, Mississippi Development Authority and Entergy Mississippi for operation of Energy High School Academy, where qualified students grades 8th through 12th will study with an emphasis for careers in the energy industry. They will have the potential to earn internships with Entergy through the program.

[House Bill 1416](#) permits students in public schools with the ability to engage in political activities or political or philosophical expression before, during and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that students may engage in nonpolitical activities or expression. Students would be allowed to organize partisan or nonpartisan political groups, political clubs, political rallies, or other politically themed gatherings before, during and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other non curricular student activities and groups. Also, it will prohibits schools with limited open forums from denying equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminating against students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum on the basis of the political, philosophical, ideological or other content of the speech.

[Senate Bill 2422](#) authorizes the Office of Purchasing, Travel and Fleet Management of the Department of Finance and Administration to issue procurement cards or credentials for a digital solution to all public school district classroom teachers, full- or part-time gifted or special education teachers and other necessary direct support personnel at the beginning of the school year, but no later than August 1 of each year, for the purchase of instructional supplies using Educational Enhancement Funds.

Courts and Law enforcement related:

[Senate Bill 2246](#) allows a judge to use an affiant's oral testimony across the telephone to secure a search warrant in matters of sex offenses against children.

[House Bill 1408](#) gives an across the board \$5,000 salary increase to sheriffs and an additional \$5,000 to sheriffs whose responsibilities include operating a juvenile detention facility if the board of supervisors approves it. It increases pay for several other county positions.

[House Bill 779](#) amends the Law Enforcement Death Benefits Trust Fund to extend the \$100,000 line of duty death benefit to rural volunteer firefighters and covers COVID-19 related deaths. It also transfers \$5 million from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Death Benefits Trust Fund.

[Senate Bill 2120](#) increases pay scales for law enforcement officers employed by the Department of Public Safety. Under the plan, a trooper with less than four-years' experience would rise from a base of almost \$40,000 to a base salary of \$46,950.

[House Bill 607](#) "Parker's Law" creates the crime of "fentanyl delivery resulting in death." It sets a penalty of 20 years to life in prison for persons convicted of knowingly delivering or providing for money or something of value, fentanyl to someone who dies from overdose. The bill does not seek conviction of persons present when a fatality occurs during shared drug usage. A companion measure, [House Bill 679](#) creates "The Victoria Huggins Mississippi Pill Press Act of 2022," that bans possession, creation of or transfer of any device used to manufacture a controlled substance unless authorized by "the State Board of Pharmacy or other lawful authority." It seeks to stop street level manufacturing of fentanyl tablets. It establishes a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine upon conviction.

[Senate Bill 2245](#) revises sentencing for the crime of voyeurism and creates "Buddy's Law," that requires the youth court to order psychiatric evaluation of a child charged with "the intentional torturing, mutilating, maiming, burning, starving to death, crushing, disfiguring, drowning, suffocating, or impaling of a domesticated dog or cat."

Tax Cut:

[House Bill 531](#) created the "Mississippi Tax Freedom Act of 2022," a \$524.1 million tax cut, the largest in the state's history. The bill eliminates the state's four percent tax bracket in the upcoming fiscal year at a cost of about \$185 million. Between Fiscal Year 2024 and 2026, the current top rate of five percent would be reduced to a four percent flat rate. This will cost \$339.1 million, for a total elimination of \$524.1 million in recurring dollars from the state budget. When fully phased in, Mississippi's income tax rate will be one of the lowest in the nation among the 43 states which have an income tax. In 2016, the Legislature passed a \$415 million tax cut bill phasing out the 3 percent tax bracket by 2022. The same legislation phased out the franchise tax on businesses over a ten-year period ending in 2028.

Eminent Domain:

[House Bill 1769](#) protects Mississippians private property rights. Under the legislation, Article 3, Section 17A of the Mississippi Constitution will be codified in state statute. The constitutional provision prohibits the state or local governments from taking private property through eminent domain and conveying to private entities for a period of 10 years. Exemptions are provided for levee facilities, road, bridge, ports, airports, common carriers, drainage facilities and utilities.

Corrections:

[Senate Bill 2273](#) allows the employer of a parolee to submit to Mississippi Department of Corrections officials time sheets, drug test results and other required information so the parolee does not have to miss work to meet with parole officers.

[Senate Bill 2600](#) creates a study committee to review means through which to reduce parolee recidivism rates.

[House Bill 514](#) extends the drug and alcohol rehabilitation program at Bolivar County Regional Facility.

[House Bill 515](#) extends repealer and allows the Prison Overcrowding Emergency Powers Act to continue. It allows the Governor to advance the parole eligibility date for certain inmates.

[Senate Bill 2437](#) creates a pilot work initiative at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility under the prison industries corporation within the Department of Corrections.

County Government:

[Senate Bill 2719](#) gives county boards of supervisors a salary increase in January 2024.

[House Bill 256](#) requires owners of manufactured or mobile homes, to within 21 days of moving it to another county, alert the tax assessor's office of that county about the relocation.

[House Bill 1097](#) allows county boards of supervisors to lease facilities for use as fire stations.

Elections:

[House Bill 1365](#) prohibits state and local officials from soliciting and/or accepting private funds for elections. "No agency or state or local official responsible for conducting elections may solicit, accept, use or dispose of any donation in the form of money, grants, property or personal services from an individual or a nongovernmental entity for the purpose of funding election-related expenses or voter education, voter outreach or voter registration programs," the bill reads in part.

[House Bill 1331](#) requires a four-year skills assessment test for election commissioners rather than annually.

[House Bill 1341](#) provides that council members in a mayor-council form of government who are elected to represent wards must be residents of their wards for two years at the time of qualification for election. If the ward has changed after the council has redistricted the municipality, any person may qualify as a candidate for council member by changing the person's residence, not less than 15 days before the first party primary or special party primary, as the case may be, notwithstanding any other residency or qualification requirements to the contrary.

[House Bill 1510](#) requires the registrar, upon receiving a completed voter registration application, to enter an applicant into the Statewide Elections Management System. The registration application shall be compared with the Department of Public Safety driver's license and identification information, and if the comparison indicates that the applicant is not a citizen of the United States, the Statewide Elections Management System shall notify the registrar of that information.

[Senate Bill 2306](#) transfers the authority of the Mississippi Ethics Commission to assess a civil penalty against any candidate or political committee for failure to file a campaign finance report to the Secretary of State. The bill also deletes the provisions of law that provided for an administrative hearing before the Ethics Commission.

[Senate Bill 2358](#) authorizes the State Executive Committee of each political party to determine the filing fee, within a set range, for certain candidates entering the race for party nominations for office.

[Senate Bill 2879](#) enacts the Mississippi Voting Modernization Act.

Other bills passed included:

Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency:

[Senate Bill 2338](#) created within the State Department of Human Services a separate administrative unit to be known as the "Fraud Investigation Unit," that reports to the Office of the State Auditor any suspected civil or criminal violations relating to program fraud, embezzlement, or related crimes.

Agriculture:

[Senate Bill 2007](#) mandates that only pure honey can be labeled as honey and says altered or adulterated honey must be so labeled. It authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture to "issue an order to stop the sale or distribution of any honey or honey products found to be in violation."

Appropriations:

[House Bill 1630](#) Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) budget bill, appropriated nearly \$1.5 billion dollars to the department. MDOT budget spending authority is \$1.43 billion. Most of this appropriation is set aside for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and other infrastructure throughout the state.

Some specific allocations in the bill are:

- \$40 million to MDOT to match federal funds from the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act;
- \$45 million toward accelerating MDOT's three-year maintenance schedule;
- \$35 million toward accelerating MDOT's "capacity" schedule, which relates to additional lanes for increased traffic capacity.

These funds are in addition to other one-time and recurring funds the Legislature provides for roads and bridges, including \$80 million in recurring dollars from lottery proceeds.

Energy:

[House Bill 1029](#) created the seven-member appointed "Mississippi Broadband Commission," to oversee the spending of \$162 million in federal money for expansion of broadband internet service across the state. It also creates the fund from which commissioners will operate a grants program.

Forestry:

[Senate Bill 2519](#) clarifies illumination of timber loads extending beyond the rear of vehicle and when "a rotating or oscillating amber strobe-type lamp or light-emitting diode light," must be used.

Governmental Economic Development:

[Senate Bill 2159](#) created the Mississippi Flexible Tax Incentive (MFlex), which allows a credit against any state tax liability and combines several current incentives aimed at spurring economic development into one simplified option. The amount of the credit is calculated by considering the business's investment in equipment and infrastructure, the number of full-time jobs created, and wages and benefits paid out to employees.

To participate in MFlex, a business must create at least 10 full-time jobs and make a capital investment of \$2.5 million. Businesses qualifying for MFlex must report publicly the amount of investment, jobs created, average wage of employees, benefits provided, and other information.

Highways and Transportation:

[Senate Bill 2517](#) created "a voluntary program for inspection of any combination of truck, truck tractor, trailer, semi-trailer or pole trailer, including each segment of a combined vehicle, that is used upon the highways or streets as a commercial motor vehicle for compliance with all applicable

federal and state motor carrier safety regulations.”

Insurance:

[Senate Bill 2319](#) authorizes the Department of Human Services to “collaborate with the Office of the State Treasurer in order to identify persons presumed to have unclaimed property and intercept eligible unclaimed property to satisfy, fully or partially, the person's child support arrearage.”

Municipalities:

[SB 2698](#) extends city of Jackson’s water payment plan program for one year.

[SB 2980](#) increases authorized amount to Keep Jackson Beautiful from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Public Health and Welfare:

[Senate Bill 2095](#) Created the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act.

[Senate Bill 2725](#) Requires health care providers to provide medical records within 30 days of patient's or their representative's request.

Public Property:

[House Bill 1131](#) allows the Secretary of State to enter into agreements with online providers to conduct online auctions of state-forfeited tax land.

Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks:

[Senate Bill 2010](#) allows the use of “Air Bows,” in hunting game such as whitetail deer. The device uses compressed air to drive an arrow or crossbow type bolt.

[Senate Bill 2505](#) allows hunting and fishing licenses to include organ donor registration status.

[House Bill 606](#) created the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund, a program that is hoped to bring in millions of federal matching dollars for the state’s conservation efforts.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), funded projects, of which \$1.5 billion of \$1.8 billion appropriated to Mississippi has been allocated.

[Senate Bill 3056](#) appropriated \$450 million in ARPA funds to the grant program established by the Mississippi Water Infrastructure Act of 2022 – ([Senate Bill 2822](#)). This grant program was created to assist cities, counties, and rural water associations in receiving matching grants for infrastructure repairs and improvements. The program will be administered by the Department of Environmental Quality.

[House Bill 1518](#) provided \$40 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), funds to the Department of Finance and Administration to disperse \$30 million to destination marketing organizations to assist in paying costs of certain marketing activities, providing \$5 million in assistance to non-profit museums, and providing \$5 million to Mississippi Main Street Association, as provided in [House Bill 453](#).

[Senate Bill 3064](#) appropriated \$10 million in ARPA funds for the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (MAICU) Grant Program Act of 2022. The Legislature also approved \$222.2 million in Local Improvement Projects in districts throughout the state.

Local Improvements Projects for Hinds County

Briarwood Pool-ADA Requirements and Accessibility Plan	250,000 *
City of Jackson-Parking Lot for Jackson Convention Center	1,000,000 *
City of Jackson-Renovations and Upgrades to Thalia Mara Hall	2,000,000
City of Jackson-Renovations and Upgrades for Jackson Planetarium	2,000,000 *
City of Jackson-Widening/Straightening from Eubanks Creek from State St-Old Canton Rd	500,000
Archives and History-Scott Ford Houses Inc., Develop 136 & 138 E. Cohea St into Museums	200,000
JPSD-JPSD's Career Development Center	300,000
DFA-Development of LeFleur's Bluff Otter Creek Golf Park and Connector Trail Project	13,250,000 *
Hinds Co-Phase I White Oak Creek Streambank Erosion near Old Canton Rd to at or near Briarwood Dr	2,000,000
Alliance School for Workforce Development in paying costs associated with roof and building repairs for its building	100,000
Byram Drainage	500,000
Terry Community Center	<u>30,000</u>
	22,130,000

*Vetoed by Governor

Transfer Bill (HB 1353, Section 20) & DFA (SB 3045)

2022 IHL Capital Improvements Fund

Jackson State University

Construction, furnishing and equipping of a new dining facility and related facilities \$ 12,000,000

Department of Finance and Administration

Continuation of planning, repair, restoration of and improvements to the New Capitol Grounds \$ 5,000,000

Phase II of repair, renovation, furnishing and equipping of the 660 North Street Building 9,500,000

Phase II of repair, renovation, furnishing and equipping of the 350 High Street Building 7,000,000

\$ 21,500,000

IHL General Support (SB 3002)

Jackson State University to defray the expenses related to the repair, renovation, and/or construction of a residence hall \$ 5,000,000

Jackson State University allocation for campus repair and renovation 1,294,884

\$ 6,294,884

Department of Public Safety (SB 3014)

Provide completing of capital project at state-owned building or grounds, crime prevention due to increase in crime, and operational expenditures necessary to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic \$ 15,535,000

Supreme Court and District Attorneys Salaries (HB 1423)

Supreme Court Justices

Through December 31, 2022:

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court = \$174,000

Presiding Justices of the Supreme Court = \$169,500

Associate Justices of the Supreme Court = \$166,500

From and after January 1, 2023:

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court = \$181,491

Presiding Justices of the Supreme Court = \$176,737

Associate Justices of the Supreme Court = \$173,800

Court of Appeals Judges

Through December 31, 2022:

Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals = \$161,500

Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals = \$158,500

From and after January 1, 2023:

Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals = \$169,349

Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals = \$168,467

Chancery and Circuit Judges

Through December 31, 2022:

Chancery Judges = \$149,000

Circuit Judges = \$149,000

From and after January 1, 2023:

Chancery Judges = \$158,000

Circuit Judges = \$158,000

District Attorney

Current through Dec 31, 2022 = \$125,900

From and after January 1, 2023 = \$134,400

Assistant District Attorney

Current through December 31, 2022:

less than 5 years = 100,720

5-15 years = 107,015

15+ years = 113,310

From and after January 1, 2023:

less than 5 years = \$107,520 (80% of DA salary)

5-15 years = \$114,240 (85% of DA salary)

15+ years = \$120,960 (90% of DA salary)

Criminal Investigators (HB 1424)

Current through December 31, 2022 = \$59,500

From and after January 1, 2023 = \$63,000

Jackson Specific:

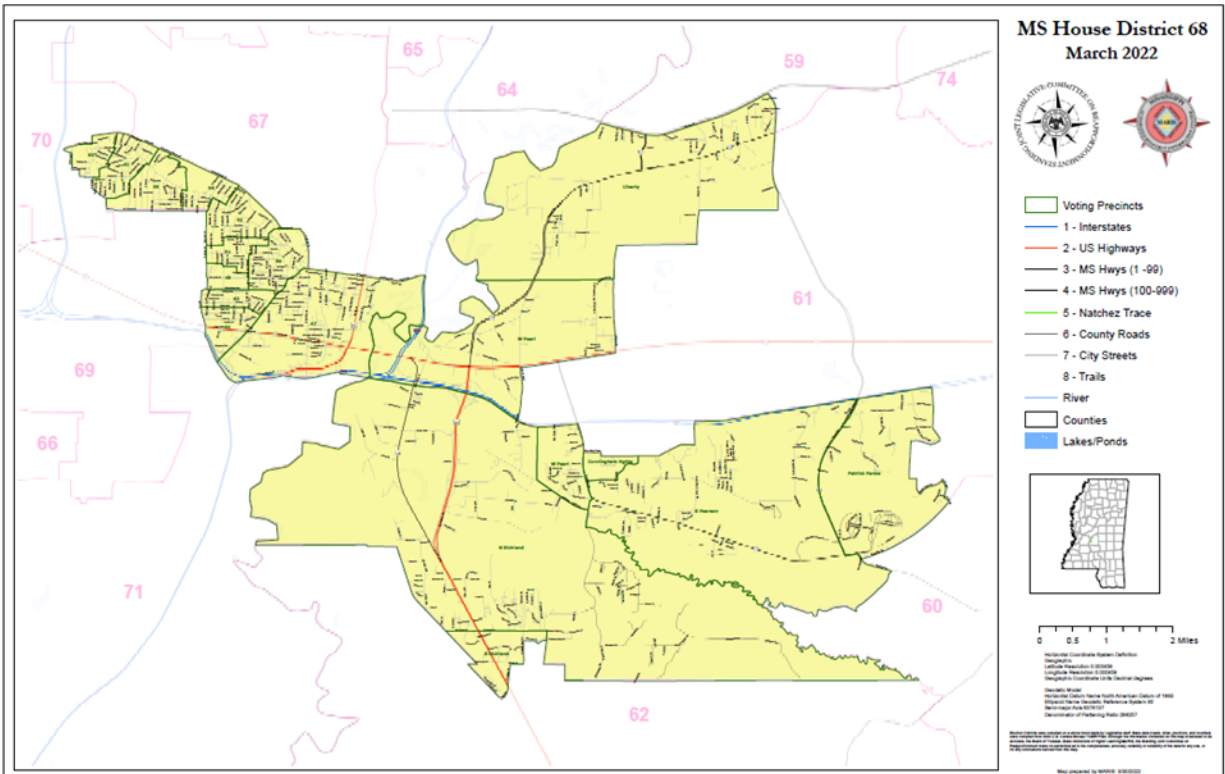
[House Bill 1034](#) creates the Capital City Water/Sewer Projects Fund as a special fund in the state treasury to be administered by the Department of Finance And Administration (DFA) for the purpose of providing funds to assist the City of Jackson in paying costs associated with construction, reconstruction, repairs, upgrades and improvements to the city's water and sewer systems and related facilities. (co-sponsor)

[House Bill 1565](#) provides the provisions of law that create the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau and impose a tax on the gross proceeds of sales of restaurants, hotels and motels for the purpose of providing funds for the bureau. (co-sponsor)

Suffrage:

Representative Summers sponsored two suffrage bills, restoring voting rights for two women in Hinds County.

New Redistricting Map for House District 68:



New Precincts for District 68 (Year 2023)

Hinds County:

- 47 - Blackburn
- 49 - JSU
- 51 - Blackburn
- 55 - JPD Academy
- 56 - Zoo Fire
- 60 - Lake Elementary
- 61 - Jayne Ave Community Center
- 63 - Davis Temple COGIC
- 64 - St. James Baptist

Rankin County:

- Liberty
- West Pearl
- N Richland
- S Richland
- Cunningham Heights
- S Pearson
- Patrick Farms

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