

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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Home Builders Association of Mississippi

IMPACT FEE BILL STOPPED ON HOUSE FLOOR - HB 1420, which would have allowed school districts to impose impact fees on development, died on the House calendar thanks to legislative action by members of the Home Builders Association of Mississippi and Mississippi Association of Realtors. With the gallery full of school superintendents, the House had previously voted not to bring the bill up for a vote. Chairman Percy Watson did try to bring the bill up for another vote and let it die on the Thursday deadline.

Representative John Reeves, of Jackson, was previously successful in getting HB 1420 out of the Ways and Means Committee. HB 1420 would allow cities and counties to require developer agreements with the money being used to fund educational facilities and services provided within the subdivision and school district. There was no limit of the amount of the fees. Defeating the legislation was a critical win for the Home Builders Association of Mississippi in our long-standing fight against additional taxes on the residential housing industry.

WASTEWATER LEGISLATION PASSES IN THE HOUSE - The House of Representatives passed a wastewater bill, HB 1226, with the support of HBAM. The legislation will improve the process and procedures for individual wastewater systems, and enhance the public safety for individual wastewater systems. HBAM Government Affairs Chairman, Frank Pucylowski, has worked hard with the Wastewater Advisory Committee on these changes.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BILLS MOVE TO THE HOUSE - Two bills that are supported by HBAM are headed to the House of Representatives for committee review. The only two workers' compensation bills alive would allow the Commission to update its actuarial tables SB2621, which Passed Senate 52 to 0. Revising the workers' compensation cancellation notices SB2675 52 to 2.

IMMIGRATION LAW BEING WATCHED CLOSELY- HBAM does not support employers knowingly hiring illegal immigrants, but is concerned about unreasonable mandates on association members when hiring workers. HB 1379 has been a concern for HBAM and now amendments have been made removing a number of business representatives' objections to the bill. If the bill goes to the Senate, HBAM will be working closely with the Senate in crafting new language if needed. HB 1379 would create a state mandate to follow federal law, which all employers are already required to follow and establishes state penalties for employers who do not follow the law.

UNION DUES 'CHECK-OFF' FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES DIES ON CALENDAR-

HB 975 that would have allowed school districts to deduct teacher union dues died on a procedural vote on the House floor Thursday. The 62-52 vote in favor of discussing the bill was short of the 76 votes required to bring the bill up for discussion. House Education Committee Chairman Cecil Brown introduced the bill, which would have authorized "the school district to deduct from the salary of the superintendent, principal, teachers or other employees certain dues for membership in professional organizations."

The business community has been concerned about the passage of HB 975 that would have paved the way for unions to have the school system collect their dues for them. Without this collection of dues by payroll deduction, unions must collect the dues from these school employees individually. In a show of strength, House conservatives rallied to oppose considering the pro-union bill, which died on the House Calendar on deadline day.

"BUILDING A BETTER MISSISSIPPI"

Senate Bills of Interest to the Home Builders Association of Mississippi

Business and Financial Institutions

SB 2577 Kirby
Factory-Built Homes Law; define "modular home contractor" and provide license fee; Passed Senate.

SB 2683 Mettetal
Residential Builders/Remodeling Law; make various amendments to; Passed Senate.

County Affairs

SB 2385 Horhn
Blighted property; authorize local governmental units to donate for private development; Passed Senate.

SB 2990 Imchel
Public improvement districts; allow contiguous counties to form a district; Passed Senate.

Environment Prot., Cons and Water Res.

SB 2528 Moffat
Water Resources Council; extend repealer; Recommended; Died in committee.

SB 2962 Browning
Water districts; clarify incorporation by rural water associations; House Conservation and Water Resources.

Finance

SB 2053 Carmichael
Ad valorem tax; grant a partial exemption for the principal residence of certain veterans.

SB 2104 Davis
Ad valorem taxes; remove the provision that prescribes the manner in which affordable rental housing must be appraised.

SB 2129 Dearing
Ad valorem taxation; revise the definition of "home" or "homestead" under the homestead exemption law.

SB 2189 Carmichael
Ad valorem tax; authorize partial exemption for agricultural land that is converted to a residential use.

SB 2258 Browning
Ad valorem taxes; remove the provision that prescribes the manner in which affordable rental housing must be appraised.

SB 2351 Chaney
Tax increment financing; governing bodies may levy special assessments on redeveloped projects to pay debt service on TIF bonds.

SB 2387 Robertson
Sales tax; apartment buildings and condos are subject to the contractors tax.

SB 2399 Ross
Income tax; require employers to withhold compensation reported on Form 1099 under certain circumstances; Passed as amended.

SB 2737 Clarke
Tax Increment Financing Act; a developer may be reimbursed for private portion of a project if municipality makes certain findings; Passed Senate.

SB 2990 Imchel
Public improvement districts; allow contiguous counties to form a district; Passed Senate.

SB 3019 Robertson
Mississippi Major Economic Impact Act; extend period for issuance of bonds for certain projects under; Passed Senate.

SB 3050 Hewes
Mississippi Economic Growth and Redevelopment Act of 2007; create; Passed Senate as amended.

Insurance

SB 2577 Kirby
Factory-Built Homes Law; define "modular home contractor" and provide license fee; Passed Senate.

SB 2621 Kirby
Workers' Comp. certain benefits shall be paid using actuarial tables selected by the commission; Passed Senate.

SB 2675 Kirby
Workers' compensation policies; revise notice of cancellation requirements; Passed Senate.

SB 2851 Chaney
State building code law; make various amendments to; Passed Senate as amended.

SN 24 Governor
John R. (Johnny Junkin, II, Natchez, Mississippi, Workers' Compensation Commission as an attorney at law of recognized ability, unexpired term ending January 1, 2007, vice Lydia Quarles.

SN 25 Governor
John R. (Johnny Junkin, II, Natchez, Mississippi, Workers' Compensation Commission as an attorney at law of recognized ability, six-year term beginning January 1, 2007, and ending December 31, 2012.

Judiciary A

SB 2021 Ross
Products liability; provide exclusive remedy; Passed Senate.

SB 2141 Ross
Real estate; authorize affidavit as evidence of marketable title; Passed Senate.

SB 2152 Ross
Eminent Domain; restrict to direct public use; Passed Senate as amended.

SB 2184 White
Tort reform; person injured while committing a crime may not recover damages; Passed Senate.

SB 2331 Chaney
State Auditor; clarify authority to audit public funds flowing into a non-profit corporation; House County Affairs; Judiciary A.

SB 2509 Ross
Real estate recordings; establish document formatting standards; Passed as amended.

SB 3011 Gollot
Private roads; require most direct and unobtrusive route; Passed Senate.

Municipalities

SB 2385 Horhn
Blighted property; authorize local governmental units to donate for private development; Passed Senate.

Public Health and Welfare

SB 2123 Flowers
Public assistance benefits; require applicants to verify United States citizenship or lawful presence to qualify; Passed Senate.

SB 2562 Michel
Community public water systems; exempt from management training board members of certain municipally operated systems; Passed Senate.

House Bills of Interest to the Home Builders Association of Mississippi Continued

Apportionments and Elections

HB 0400 Reynolds
Campaign Finance Reform; require ultimate disclosure and limits; Senate Elections.

Appropriations

HB 0243 Compretta
Appropriations; Department of Insurance to provide funds to Wind Pool to reduce rates on commercial property; Senate Appropriations.

HB 0618 Rogers (61st)
Appropriations; Provide to Veterans' Home Purchase Board for home loans requests.

HB 1537 Weathersby
Dual phase design-build construction; provide procedure for procurement and establish procedure for construction managers at risk; TSDPCS.

Conservation and Water Resources

HB 0638 Frierson
Mississippi Gulf Region Utility Act; bring forward for purpose of amendment; Passed as amended.

HB 0767 Warren
Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council; extend repealer on provision that provides for membership and duties (RP); Senate-Environment Prot., Cons., and Water Resources.

HB 1226 Franks
Individual On-Site Wastewater Disposal System Law; delete repealer and revise various provision; Passed House.

Constitution

HC 0018 Evans
Amend Constitution; restrict use of eminent domain; Adopted as Amended; Senate Constitution.

County Affairs

HB 0753 Frierson
Building codes; prescribe requirements for exempting hunting and fishing camps from regulation; Passed House.

Insurance

HB 1500 Formby
Mississippi Economic Growth and Redevelopment Act of 2007; create; Senate Insurance; Finance.

Judiciary A

HB 0300 Blackmon
Eminent domain; restrict use of; Senate Judiciary A.

HB 0775 Franks
State contract bids; require list of subcontractors for those in excess of \$100,000 and authorize project management for certain; TSDP.

HB 1327 Moak
Lobbyist; revise definition of; Passed House.

Judiciary B

HB 0101 Broomfield
Contractors, remodelers and rebuilders; revise certain provisions and licensing requirements; Senate Business and Financial Institutions.

HB 0363 Guice
State Board of Contractors; authorize to employ personnel to monitor out-of-state contractors; MTRE.

HB 0364 Guice
State Board of Contractors; create registry for complaints; MTRE.

HB 0947 Snowden
Real estate; authorize affidavit as evidence of marketable title; Senate Judiciary A.

Labor

HB 0237 Cummings
Mississippi Working Person's Act; create; Passed House; Senate Labor.

HB 0296 Moss
Unemployment compensation; increase benefits; Senate Labor.

HB 1379 Lott
Mississippi Employment Protection Act; create; Failed House MTRE.

HB 1478 Moss
Working Person's Act; create with statewide referendum.

Municipalities

HB 0753 Frierson
Building codes; prescribe requirements for exempting hunting and fishing camps from regulation; Passed House.

HB 0952 Gunn
Ad valorem taxation; revise method of taxing property annexed by a municipality.

Public Health and Human Services

HB 0581 Bondurant
Public swimming pool act; create; Tabled Subject to Call.

HB 1226 Franks
Individual On-Site Wastewater Disposal System Law; delete repealer and revise various provisions; Passed House.

Public Property

HB 1537 Weathersby
Dual phase design-build construction; provide procedure for procurement and establish procedure for construction managers at risk; TSDPCS.

Public Utilities

HB 1547 Moak
Eminent domain; certain entities have right of do not need to obtain certificate of public convenience and necessity; Senate Judiciary A.

Rules

HR 4 Hines
Fair Housing Month; designate month of April to be observed annually as; Enrolled bill signed.

Ways and Means

HB 0297 Compretta
Disaster relief; establish loan program for persons sustaining flood damage to homes, issue bonds to provide funds.

HB 0322 Cummings
Low income housing; remove certain provision relating to the manner of appraisal.

HB 0440 Mayo
Mississippi Optional Sales Tax; enact.

HB 0503 Clark
Housing repair grant programs; establish to provide grants to low income individuals for home repairs.

HB 0596 Hines
Mississippi Small Business Program; create and authorize issuance of bonds to fund.

HB 0772 Cummings
Affordable rental housing; delete language prescribing manner of appraising for true value.

HB 0879 Franks
Mississippi Energy Act of 2007; create.

HB 1029 Watson
Sales tax; apartment buildings and condos are subject to the contractors tax.

HB 1031 Watson
Task force; create study state tax system.

HB 1108 Moak
Modular homes; revise definitions; Senate Insurance; Business and Financial Institutions.

HB 1320 Zuber
Ad valorem tax; remove provisions that prescribe the manner for determining true value of affordable rental housing.

HB 1420 Reeves
Subdivision regulation; authorize local governments to require developer agreement to impose fee for school district; Read third time.

HB 1425 Compretta
Public improvement districts; allow contiguous counties to form a district; Senate County Affairs; Finance.

HB 1459 Smith (39th)
Tax increment financing; revise certain provisions; Senate Finance.

HB 1489 McCoy
Delta Revitalization Zone; create and establish economic incentives.

HB 1556 Upshaw
Income tax; provide a credit for portion of premium paid through Mississippi Windstorm Underwriting Association.