# 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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- ★ HB 1 Build Up Mississippi Act
  - ★ Intended to be the marquee legislation of 2025 with sweeping changes to the tax systems in Mississippi
  - ★ Reduces income tax; raises specialty taxes, including fuel taxes
  - ★ Creates dedicated funding source for Strategic Multi-Modal Investments Fund
  - ★ Makes significant changes to PERS for employees first becoming members after March 1, 2026
    - ★ Part defined contribution plan; part defined benefit plan
    - ★ Benefits available if 8 years creditable service at age 62 or 35 years of creditable service, regardless of age

- ★ Extends the repealer on Miss. Code §31-7-14 authorizing "energy efficiency contracts" to July 1, 2028
  - ★ Authorizes public bodies to enter into contracts for energy efficiency services that reduce operating costs
  - ★ May be used for alternative fuel vehicles as well as improvements to real property
  - ★ Authorizes public bodies to use "any source" of funds for contracts
  - ★ Contracts must be competitively procured

- ★ Governmental entities that employ law enforcement officers must report any termination or resignation to the Board of Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training
  - ★ Must notify BLEOST within 72 hours of resignation or termination
  - ★ If the resignation or termination results from disciplinary action against the officer, the notice must include an explanation of the circumstances
- ★ Failure to comply may result in loss of state grants and continuing education reimbursements

**★** HB 638

★ Mississippi Transportation Commission may delegate authority to approve of certain Supplemental Agreements where the additional expenditure does not exceed \$250,000

- ★ Exempts certain records maintained by a public body from disclosure under the Mississippi Public Records Act
  - ★ Records containing "client information" relating to a development project are exempt from disclosure for a period of four years from receipt
  - ♦ Only applies to development projects in which the Mississippi Development Authority is involved.

- ★ Extends repealer on Miss. Code §22-7-22.25 providing tax credit for certain costs of importing/exporting cargo through an airport in the state.
  - ★ Must be headquartered in the state, make \$2,000,000 investment in the state after 2005 and hire at least 5 new employees
  - ★ Credit is 50% of the costs of:
    - ★ Receiving goods into the airport;
    - ★ Aircraft marshalling or handling fees; and
    - ★ Aircraft landing fees.

- ★ HB 1203
  - ↑ Prohibits "camping" on public property other than in designated camping areas
  - ↑ Protected areas include: sidewalks, streets, sports fields, sports complexes, highways, alleys, road or other passageways for pedestrian or motor vehicle traffic and includes, rights of way, parking lots, easements or other similar land owned, leased, controlled, or managed by a municipality, county, state, state agency or political subdivision of the state.
  - ♣ Provides process for removal of illegal campsites

★ SB 2208

- ★ Amends Mississippi Terroristic Threats Law to provide enhanced penalty for making a terroristic threat against an airport
  - ★ Normal penalty of 10 years is increased to 15 years for threats against an airport
  - ★ Terroristic threat is any "threat to commit a crime of violence or a threat to cause bodily injury to another person if the threat does in fact cause a reasonable expectation or reasonable fear of the imminent commission of an offense" with the intent to influence the actions or policies of a governmental unit or to intimidate or coerce the public.

#### ★ SB 2298

- ★ Amends authorization for "prequalification" of bidders for certain public construction projects
- ★ Governing authority must determine it is in the best interests of the state
- ♣ Project must include \$10 million in construction costs
- ♣ Prequalification process must generally follow public bid process and must be complete 15 working days prior to invitation to qualified bidders to bid on project
- ♣ Qualification criteria limited to knowledge and experience on projects of similar size and scope, past performance, project management team and financial stability

★ SB 2300

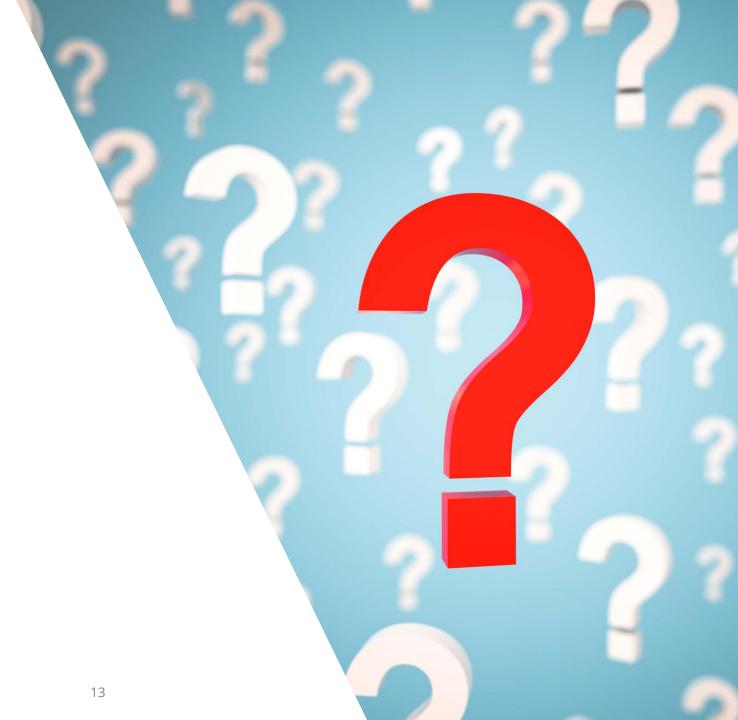
- ★ Amends authorization for design-build method of procurement for public construction projects
  - ★ Requires contract to be competitively solicited
  - ★ Contract must allocate costs to design phase and construction phase
  - ★ Contract must be for a firm fixed price or guaranteed maximum price

★ SB 2434

★ Local government units may enter into intergovernmental support agreements with a branch of the armed forces of the United States under the National Defense Authorization Act, 10 USC § 2679, to provide installation-support services to a military installation located in this state.

### **Q&A DISCUSSION**

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