

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated Section 25-61-19, the following legislation from the 2025 Regular Legislative Session affects the powers and duties of the Office of the Attorney General:

1. H.B. 17 Protecting Patient Access to Physician-Administered Drugs Act; create.

H.B. 17 creates the “Protecting Patient Access to Physician-Administered Drugs Act.” The purpose of the bill is to ensure that health insurance issuers do not interfere with patients’ freedom of choice with respect to providers furnishing physician-administered drugs and ensure that patients receive safe and effective drug therapies. The bill prohibits a health insurance issuer, pharmacy benefit manager, or the agent of either from: a) refusing to authorize, approve, or pay a participating provider for providing covered physician-administered drugs and related covered services to covered persons; or b) requiring a covered person to pay any penalty or additional fee not otherwise applicable to cost-sharing amounts payable by the covered person as designated within the benefit plan to obtain the physician-administered drug when provided by a participating provider. The bill provides that all provider agreements are construed to include a provision that requires that when all criteria for medical necessity are met, that the drug and its administration will be payable irrespective of whether the participating provider obtains physician-administered drugs from a pharmacy that is not a participating provider in the health insurance issuer’s network. The bill requires that the drug supplied shall meet the supply chain security controls and chain of distribution set by the federal Drug Supply Chain Security Act. The bill also requires the payment to a participating provider to be at the rate set forth in the health insurance issuer’s agreement with the participating provider applicable to such drugs, or if no such rate is included in the agreement, then at the wholesale acquisition cost. The bill provides that any provision of a contract that is contrary to any provision of this law shall be null, void, and unenforceable in the state of Mississippi. The bill provides that a violation of this law is considered a violation of the Consumer Protection Act, which is enforceable by the Attorney General.

2. H.B. 602 Crawfish and seafood; provide country of origin labeling requirements for.

H.B. 602 revises the current statute, Section 69-1-55, related to misrepresenting the origin of shrimp and crawfish by restaurants. Among other things, H.B. 602 provides civil penalties for any person, firm, or corporation within this state who is a wholesaler, processor, retailer, or food service establishment that sells imported crawfish or seafood and misrepresents that the imported crawfish or seafood is of domestic origin. The bill provides that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources shall regulate wholesalers, processors, retailers, and food service establishments pursuant to this law. This removes the provision in Section 69-1-55(3)(a) providing that the Attorney General shall regulate restaurants under this section.

3. **H.B. 913 Meat labeling; require accurate labeling of meat and nonmeat products by processors, retail and food establishment prior to final sale.**

H.B. 913 is related to the misbranding of meat products. Among other things, the bill imposes a civil penalty on any food processing plant, retail, or food establishment that misbrands a food product as a meat product. The bill specifically provides that if the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (“the Department”) has reasonable cause to believe that a food processing plant, retail or food establishment is offering for sale or selling a food product that is misbranded as a meat product, the Department shall issue a stop order. The bill also provides that if the Department determines that the food product being offered for sale or sold by a food processing, retail or food establishment is misbranded as a meat product, the appropriate regulatory authority may issue an embargo order requiring the food processing plant, retail or food establishment to dispose of the misbranded meat product other than by sale to purchasers in this state. The bill provides that either the Department or the Attorney General shall enforce the stop order or embargo order by petitioning the chancery court of that county.

4. **H.B. 916 Cigarettes and vape products; require Commissioner of Revenue to establish separate directories to regulate sale of.**

Among other things, H.B. 916 requires cigarette manufacturers and electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) manufacturers to register and file a certification form with the Commissioner of Revenue, who shall then approve such forms and maintain a publicly available database of each class of manufacturer on the Department of Revenue’s website. The bill authorizes the Attorney General to conduct random, unannounced inspections at locations where ENDS products are sold to ensure compliance with the section. The Attorney General, Department of Revenue, and other law enforcement agencies are authorized to seize, forfeit, and destroy any ENDS products not listed in the directory 60 days after publication of the directory, with the cost of such seizure, forfeiture, and destruction to be paid by the person from whom the ENDS products are confiscated. Further, the bill provides that the Attorney General or a district attorney may impose a criminal penalty on any manufacturer, retailer, distributor, wholesaler, or importer who sells or offers for sale an ENDS product that is not listed in the directory for retail sale or for sale to a consumer in Mississippi.

5. **H.B. 1193 Public K-12 and Postsecondary schools; prohibit DEI statements and practices.**

H.B. 1193 prohibits public schools and public postsecondary educational institutions from taking certain actions and engaging in discriminatory practices related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. If any person, parent, or guardian of a minor making a complaint under the act is aggrieved by the action or inaction of the respective board, he or she may notify the Attorney General of a violation or potential violation by a state institution of higher

learning, community or junior college, public school, or charter school by forwarding the complaint along with the decision of the board and any supporting documentation to the Attorney General. After receiving such notification, the Attorney General may seek injunctive relief in the chancery court of competent jurisdiction compelling the violating entity to comply with the act if such entity has failed to cure the error within a 30-day curative period. If a public school or public postsecondary educational institution is determined to have violated the act, any and all state funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be withheld until such time as the Attorney General or a court of competent jurisdiction affirms that the violating entity has demonstrated full compliance.

6. H.B. 1268 MS Save Our Service Member Task Force; create to study and make recommendations concerning mental health needs of military members.

H.B. 1268 creates the Mississippi First Responder PTSD and Suicide Prevention Task Force, which includes as a member of the task force one employee of the Office of the Attorney General, to be appointed by the Attorney General. The task force is required to review and make recommendations on how to identify PTSD and those contemplating suicide, and on methods to prevent suicide for Mississippi's first responders. Specifically the task force shall perform the following duties: (a) assess the needs of first responders by gathering input from first responders on mental health challenges and reviewing existing resources, and identify gaps in mental health support services; (b) develop a plan to address identified needs by creating a detailed plan for programs and services that will support first responders' mental health, and identify strategies to make mental health services accessible, affordable, and effective; (c) foster collaboration among stakeholders by bringing together first responders, mental health professionals and policymakers to identify solutions and propose legislation; (d) identify ways to reduce mental health stigma by promoting education and awareness; (e) ensure oversight and sustainability of programs by establishing a system and recommending an agency or entity to monitor program effectiveness and make needed improvements, and to secure funding and resources in order to ensure programs can continue long-term; and (f) recommend relevant changes to Mississippi law and other state and local policies which can be implemented by state and local governmental entities. Appointees to the task force must be made within thirty days of the effective date, July 1, 2025. The task force shall make a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any recommended legislation and any funding needs, to the Legislature before December 1, 2025, at which time the task force will be dissolved.

7. H.B. 1316 State Board of Funeral Services; extend repealer on.

H.B. 1316 amends Section 73-11-33 to extend the date of repealer on the sections of law which create the State Board of Funeral Service and prescribe its duties and powers from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2028. The bill also reenacts Sections 73-11-41 through 73-11-73, including Section 73-11-49(5), which provides that, when deemed necessary, the board shall be provided with legal representation by an assistant attorney general duly appointed by the Attorney General.

8. H.B. 1428 Money Transmission Modernization Act; create and repeal MS Money Transmitters Act.

Among other things, H.B. 1428 replaces existing state money transmission laws with new language to a) facilitate interstate coordination in the regulation, licensing and supervision of money transmitters; b) protect the public from financial crime; c) standardize the types of activities that are subject to or exempt from licensing; and d) modernize safety and soundness requirements to ensure customer funds are protected in an environment that supports innovative and competitive business practices. The bill provides that an applicant for a money transmission license must provide and maintain a surety bond with the Department of Banking and Consumer Finance. Any claimants against the licensed money transmitter may themselves bring suit directly on the bond, or the Attorney General may bring suit thereon on behalf of those claimants.

9. S.B. 2426 Artificial Intelligence Task Force; create and prescribe responsibilities of.

S.B. 2426 establishes the Artificial Intelligence Regulation (AIR) Task Force, which consists of 7 voting members, including the Attorney General or his or her designee. The task force shall be responsible for balancing innovation and public interest while endeavoring to mitigate risks and unintended consequences of AI and its regulation. Specifically, the task force shall: (a) develop tentative drafts of any necessary proposed revisions to the Mississippi Code involving the regulation of AI technologies; (b) review laws, policies, and procedures concerning the use of AI technology established by the United States Congress and other state legislatures, if any, and compile a list of recommendations to include in the report required by this act; (c) consider implementation and use of artificial intelligence in state government agencies and compile a list of recommendations of best practices and potential uses for AI technologies in government to include in the report required by this act; (d) consider ways to allocate funding for development and use of artificial intelligence technologies in the state and draft proposals accordingly to include in the report required by this act; and (e) consider any other issues related to artificial intelligence technologies that the task force finds appropriate to address. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature annually, no later than December 1 each year, and shall dissolve on December 31, 2027.

10. S.B. 2731 Psychologists; extend repealer on licensure law related to.

S.B. 2731 amends Section 73-31-31 to extend the date of the repealer on the sections of law that provide for the licensure of psychologists from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2029. The bill also reenacts Sections 73-31-1 through 73-31-29, including Section 73-31-25, which provides that the Board of Psychology may, through the Attorney General, apply for an injunction in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any person from committing any act declared to be a misdemeanor by this article.

11. S.B. 2767 The Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Council; create.

S.B. 2767 creates the Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Council to ensure that monies received and deposited into the Opioid Settlement Fund are allocated and spent in accordance with the terms of the opioid settlements and to ensure public involvement, accountability, and transparency in such allocation and expenditure. The Council will review applications for grants funded by opioid settlement proceeds and make recommendations to the Legislature, who may accept or reject each of the Council's grant recipient recommendations but shall not otherwise amend or modify the recommended list of grant recipients or the amounts recommended for the recipients. The Council shall consist of 15 voting members, including the Attorney General or her designee, who shall serve as chair of the Council. The Council shall be housed within the Office of the Attorney General, and the Attorney General shall provide the staff and facilities necessary to assist the Council in the performance of its duties. The Council shall submit an annual report to the Legislature and the Governor by December 1 each year, and the report shall be made publicly available on the Attorney General's website. The Council shall terminate when all opioid settlement funds have been received and disbursed, unless the Attorney General certifies that additional funds are anticipated within one year. The bill also amends Section 27-103-305, which creates the Opioid Settlement Fund as a special fund in the State Treasury, to provide that the Attorney General shall deposit all monies received by the Attorney General on behalf of the State of Mississippi from settlements of opioid litigation into the fund after attorney fees and expenses have been paid. Finally, the bill provides that the Attorney General shall oversee the expenditure of nonabatement settlement funds to ensure compliance with the terms of the settlements.

12. S.B. 2787 Bad faith assertions of patent infringement; repeal repealer on.

S.B. 2787 reenacts Sections 75-24-351 through 75-24-357, which prohibit bad faith assertions of patent infringement and establish remedies for prevailing plaintiffs in civil actions related to such assertions. Section 75-24-355 provides that the Attorney General shall have the authority to conduct civil investigations and bring civil actions under Sections 75-24-351 through 75-24-357.

13. S.B. 2835 Mississippi Emergency Communications Act; create.

S.B. 2835 establishes the Mississippi Emergency Communications Authority within the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and prescribes its powers and duties. The Authority shall work in cooperation with state and local governments to create a technical and operational framework for implementing and operating an interoperable and interconnected Next Generation 911 system. The Attorney General shall provide legal services for the authority.

14. S.B. 2886 Mississippi Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Law; enact.

S.B. 2886 creates the Mississippi Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, a statewide domestic violence fatality review team established within the Department of Public Safety to consist of no less than five members, including the Commissioner of Public Safety, who shall designate four other initial members of the statewide team, who may appoint designees. The purpose of the team is to prevent domestic violence through early intervention and improve the quality of response to domestic violence by individuals and institutions. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and the Attorney General may recommend persons to the commissioner to be appointed as initial members of the statewide team. The bill also allows for additional teams to be established within the circuit court districts of this state, by order of the senior circuit court judge of the circuit or a joint order in the case of one or more districts creating a joint team. A circuit team may consider including in its membership or, in effectuating the purposes of the bill, consulting with certain persons or entities, including, but not limited to, the Attorney General.