

2007 Mississippi Legislative Session - Department of Insurance - New Laws

HB 528- Medicaid Program; Health Discount Plan	Approved 4/20/2007 Effective 7/1/2007	States that Health Discount Plans which purport to offer discounts or access to discounts on health care services or supplies is not insurance; however, this bill sets forth certain requirements the health discount plan must comply with, and gives the Commissioner the ability to adopt regulations to set forth requirements to prohibit unfair or deceptive practices.
HB 753 - Building Codes; revise requirements for certain coastal counties; Hurricane Mitigation	Approved 4/17/2007 Effective 4/17/2007	Creates within the Department a Comprehensive Hurricane Mitigation Damage Program, subject to said program being funded by the Legislature. This Bill did not fund the program. Upon receiving funding, the Department will have to conduct a cost-benefit study on wind hazard mitigation construction measures; conduct wind certification and hurricane mitigation; establish and conduct financial grants to retrofit properties; and establish multimedia education and consumer awareness programs.
HB 1108- Modular Homes; revise definitions.	Approved 3/15/2007 Effective 7/1/2007	Revises the definition of a modular home to clarify the differences between modular homes and factory-built homes. Also provides a definition of a modular home contractor and allows State Fire Marshal to license modular home contractors.
HB 1311 Insurance producers; provide time limit to appeal licensing decisions of Commissioner of Insurance	Approved 3/15/2007 Effective 7/1/2007	Limits a producer's time to appeal a licensing decision of the Commissioner to 30 days from receipt of Commissioner's order.
HB 1312- Insurance Rebate monies; county must designate fire investigator and require training	Approved 3/27/2007 Effective 7/1/2007	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> § 83-1-39 to change definition of arson investigator to fire investigator; to require arson training of fire investigator at fire academy; and allows county to receive funds for up to one year after fire investigator position vacancy.
HB 1313 -Insurance companies; Revise financial reporting requirements with Commissioner of Insurance	Approved 3/15/2007 Effective 7/1/2006	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> § 83-5-55; 83-5-102; 83-5-103; 83-5-107 to comply with NAIC requirements. Include changes to the CPA requirements.

HB 1485- Bail bondsmen; revise requirements.	Approved 3/27/2007 Effective 7/1/2007	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> § 83-39-8 that allows a professional bail agent the ability to transfer their qualification bond; Amends § 83-39-25 to allow a bail agent to take collateral in addition to credit for bond; amends § 83-39-3 to exclude persons who work at prisons or jails from being licensed, and also allows for licenses to be renewed biannually; amends §83-39-5 to only require at initial licensure an applicant to submit fingerprints; amends § 83-39-7 to allow CD as a qualification bond; amends § 83-39-11 to have license fee reflect biannual license.
HB 1500 - Mississippi Economic Growth and Redevelopment Act of 2007 (Windpool Bill)	Approved 3/22/2007 Effective 3/22/2007	Makes changes to the Windpool statutes. Changes include making the Windpool a non-profit tax exempt organization; allow the Windpool to build up reserves; fund money to the Windpool for four years to allow for the offset of reinsurance prices; establish an assessment and surcharge mechanism in the event of a catastrophic event; create incentives for companies to write wind coverage in Coastal areas.
HB 1524 - Public Adjusters; provide for licensure and regulation by Commissioner of Insurance	Approved 3/27/2007 Effective 7/1/2007	Bill establishes licensure requirements for public adjusters to operate in this state. Also sets forth certain ethical requirements for compliance by public adjusters.
SB 2337- State income tax credit for purchase of private insurance to cover long-term care insurance.	Approved 3/9/2007 Effective 1/1/2007	Taxpayers can receive a credit of up to a 25% credit of premium costs for premiums paid for a qualified long-term care insurance policy. Credit shall not exceed \$500.
SB 2621 - Workers' Comp; certain benefits shall be paid using actuarial tables selected by the commission.	Approved 3/15/2007 Effective 3/1/2006	Amends § 71-3-37 to allow the Workers Compensation Commission to determine which valid actuarial tables may be used.
SB 2756 - Bail; revise	Approved 3/15/2007 Effective 7/1/2007	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> §§ 99-5-1 to require the name of the bail agent, license number, address, and other pertinent information on the form; failure to do so may result in Department suspending license and issuing fine.

SB 2809- Auto liability insurance; place lienholder's name or repairing business on insurance check as payee.	Approved 4/21/2007 Effective 7/1/2007	If an insurer pays a claim under automobile physical damage coverage or automobile collision coverage, the check shall include the name of the entity repairing the automobile or the name of lienholder in addition to the insured. The section shall not apply to repair or replacement of glass.