

2009 Mississippi Legislative Session - Department of Insurance - New Laws

HB 722 - Burn injuries; require hospitals and licensed facilities to notify State Fire Marshal when treating individuals for.	Approved 4/13/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	Requires hospitals and licensed medical facilities to contact the State Fire Marshal when they treat a burn injury victim. The information received by the State Fire Marshal shall be considered confidential.
HB 777 - Insurance producer licensing laws; revise for national uniformity.	Approved 3/26/2009 Effective 11/1/2009	Adopts the NAIC Uniform Standards for Producer Licensing. Beginning 11/1/2009, producer licenses will be for a biennial license period. HB 777 also establishes a single insurance producer license, limited lines producer license, and limited lines credit producer license. Bulletin 2009-2 has been adopted to discuss the implementation of HB 777 in greater detail.
HB 880 - Bail agents; revise certain licensing and premium provisions.	Approved 4/13/ 2009 Effective 7/1/2009	Revises the premium a bail agent may receive to 10% of the bond or \$100.00, whichever is greater. Requires a \$50.00 processing charge on each bond written by the agent.
HB 989- Bail bonds; impose additional assessment and distribute to Victims of Domestic Violence Fund.	Approved 3/30/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	\$10.00 fee to be imposed on surety bail bonds, cash bail bonds, property bail bonds or guaranteed arrest bond. Said fee shall be deposited into the Victims of Domestic Violence Fund.
HB 1307- Auto liability insurance; place lienholder's name shown on the registered vehicle title on insurance check as payee.	Approved 3/30/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	In an auto claim where there is not a total loss, the claim check must include the name of the insured, any lienholder confirmed in writing by the insured before the loss, and the business repairing the automobile. In total loss cases, the claim check must include the name of the insured, and the name(s) of the lienholder(s).
SB 2249 - "Mississippi Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Act"; enact.	Approved 3/30/2009 Effective : Section 7(1) and Section 12- upon passage; Remainder - 7/1/2009	Cigarettes shall be required to certify with the State Fire Marshal that the cigarette paper used meets the adopted lowered permeability bands requirements. The State Fire Marshal's Office shall conduct certification testing to ensure compliance, and the certification fee received will be placed in the Cigarette Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Fund.

SB 2419- Insurance companies; revise laws relating to the filing of audited financial reports of insurers.	Approved 3/16/2009 Effective 1/1/2010	This Act would revise §§ 83-5-101 through 83-5-113 to address the qualifications of independent auditors, audit committees, and internal controls over financial reporting. The purpose of this act is to improve the Department's surveillance of the financial conditions of insurers. There are three areas which provide enhance provisions with this Act: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management report of internal control over financial reporting (ICFR); 2. Auditor independence and scope of services; 3. Enhancements to the requirements for independence of audit committee members.
SB 2421- Property and Casualty Actuarial Opinion Act; enact.	Approved 3/26/2009 Effective 1/1/2010	This Act requires property and casualty companies to file a summary report with the actuarial opinion. The actuarial opinion will be considered a public document; however there is a confidentiality provision for the work papers, documents and other materials related to the actuarial opinion would be held as confidential as this information would contain proprietary information.
SB 2481 - Lightweight truss construction identification; require for firefighter safety.	Approved 4/13/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	This Act requires the owner of a commercial building located in the State of Mississippi which has a floor or ceiling constructed with truss construction to attach to the building an emblem that identifies the building as having truss construction.
SB 2620 - Insurance premium tax; change the date companies must file an annual reconciliation statement of taxes.	Approved 3/16/2009 Effective 3/16/2009	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> § 25-15-107 to change the date insurance companies must file their annual reconciliation statement of taxes paid during the previous year to March 1 following the close of each calendar year.
SB 2707- Local government self-insurance plans; remove certain restrictions on employee group insurance.	Approved 3/26/2009 Effective 3/26/2009	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> § 25-15-101 to remove certain restrictions for governing boards of political subdivisions to qualify as a self insurer; specifically, it is now required that to act as a self-insurer a group, whether or not made up of one or more employers, shall consist of not less than 125 employees.

SB 2737- Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program; authorize ninth round for counties and municipalities.	Approved 3/23/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	Authorized ninth round of RFTAAP for counties and municipalities.
SB 2841- Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact; enact.	Approved 3/17/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	Adopts the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact which develops uniform national standards for individual and group annuity, life insurance, disability insurance and long term care insurance products, and establishes a central clearinghouse to review said product filings.
SB 2842- Comprehensive Health Insurance Risk Pool Association; revise provisions of law regarding.	Approved 3/18/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> §§ 83-9-203; 83-9-209; 83-9-211; 83-9-215; 83-9-217; and 83-9-221 to be in conformity with existing federal laws.
SB 2843 - Hurricane Damage Mitigation Program; extend repealer on and require Wind Pool to give premium discount on fortified homes.	Approved 4/15/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> § 83-1-191 as follows: establishes additional requirements for an entity to be selected as a provider of wind certification and hurricane inspection review services; lowers the number of advisory council members from 12 to 8; and extends the repealer on this program to 7/1/2012. this bill also requires MWUA to provide a premium discount for any home that is built or retrofitted to Fortified Home Standards.
SB 2858- Surplus Lines Insurance Association; extend repealer on liability protections of.	Approved 3/26/2009 Effective 7/1/2009	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> §83-21-21 to allow the liability protection for the good faith performance of the duties and functions of the Mississippi Surplus Lines Association, its board members and employees to be extend until 7/1/2012. Also amends Section 8, Chapter 507, Laws of 2008 to establish a procedure for the transfer of funds should the association between the Department and the Surplus Lines Association cease.
SB 3085 - Prepaid legal services plans; exempt from regulation limited services supplied by professional education organizations.	Approved 3/16/2009 Effective 3/16/2009	Amends <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u> § 83-49-5 to exempt from the definition of "prepaid legal services plans" the limited legal services provided by professional education associations to their members.