



A guide to finding information in the Roberts-LaForge Library

Guide to the Mississippi Legislature's Web Site

The Mississippi Legislature's Web site, at <http://www.ls.state.ms.us> offers information on legislators and legislation for the State of Mississippi. The main page, you may choose from the following links (contents described below).

- House of Representatives**
- State Senate**
- Bill Status**
- FTP Site**
- Legislative Calendar**
- Mississippi Legislative Process**

House of Representatives [<http://www.ls.state.ms.us/house.htm>] and **State Senate** [<http://www.ls.state.ms.us/senate.htm>]

- Under **Members** is an alphabetical list of all legislators in the House or Senate. Click on their names to find a brief biographical sketch and contact information.
- Under **Committees** is a listing of the standing committees and which legislators are on each committee.
- Under **House Rules, Senate Rules, Joint Rules** and **Constitutional Provisions** are the rules and regulations for the House, explaining protocol and procedures.

Bill Status [<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/default.htm>]

This site offers the full-text of all the bills submitted by the House or Senate, as well as their current status, back to the 1997 legislative session. The current session information is updated nightly or the next morning. You may view the bills either in HTML or PDF format for the current session, or in their in-house CITRIX format.

Once you have chosen a format, HTML, PDF or CITRIX, you will see the following choices:

House of Representatives	Senate
List of Measures by Committee	List of Measures by Committee
List of Measures by Author	List of Measures by Author
Legislative Calendar	Legislative Calendar
Committee Schedule	Committee Schedule

Additional Reports

All Measures	All Measures (Not Dead)	Daily Action Reports	Measures By Subject
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You may find a bill in a variety of ways. If you know the number of the bill, click on the **Select a Measure** link. Otherwise, you can search through listings of measures by **Committee**; **Author** or sponsor or co-sponsor; **All Measures**, dead and alive; **All Measures (Not Dead)**; **Daily Action Reports**, or those measures dealt with on that particular day; and by **Subject**. The site also provides a **Calendar** for what bills were discussed the day before, and a **Schedule** of where and when each committee will meet that day and the day before.

Once you have found a bill, click on the number of the bill to bring up the full-text of the measure. Click on the name of the author to find other bills written by him or her. Under the name of the bill is a hyperlinked brief description of where the bill is currently, e.g. **Referred to name of committee**. Click on that link to see a full history of the bill.

History of Bills

The bill goes through different versions: "As Introduced", "Committee Substitute", "As Passed/Adopted", and "As Sent To Governor". There will not necessarily be a new version of the bill at each step along the way to the bill being made into a law. Also, some legislation will not pass the committee stage, some will not have a "Committee Substitute," and many bills will never be sent on to the Governor.

Whenever there is a new version of the bill, it will be available no later than the next weekday during the legislative term. (Legislation that has passed the House or Senate must lay over one day before it can be sent to the other body for consideration.) If a "Motion to Reconsider" is made, then the bill is held until it is reconsidered. Only then is the "As Passed" version created, and forwarded to the other body. The same is true for the "As Sent to Governor" version.

For further information about the Bill Status system, click on the button **Instructions** on the top right hand corner of the screen.

Voting Records

Records of how individual legislators voted on particular bills are not provided on-line. To obtain voting records, call or go to the Docket Room for the House (601-359-3358) or Senate (601-359-3229) for Roll-Call Records, located on the first floor of the New Capitol Building. You will need the bill number (House is H.B.### and Senate is S.B.####), which can be obtained at the **Bill Status** Web site.

FTP Site [<ftp://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/>]

This site allows you to download bills to your computer. Follow the directory trees until you find the bill number you would like. If you do not know the bill number, then use the Bill Status link instead, as there is no listing by subject, author or committee in the FTP Site.

Legislative Calendar [<http://www.ls.state.ms.us/htms/timetabl.htm>]

This page outlines the timetable for passing legislation for the current session.

Mississippi Legislative Process [<http://www.ls.state.ms.us/htms/billlaw.htm>]

This page shows a chart of how bills become laws in Mississippi.

Related Sites

- ❑ **Mississippi Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER)**
[<http://www.peer.state.ms.us/>]

PEER is a Joint House and Senate committee that offers performance evaluations, investigations, and expenditure reviews for the Legislature about state agencies and issues affecting state government. They produce reports on a wide variety of topics, from Ad Valorem Tax to Youth Services. Reports are listed by date or by subject. Reports issued since 1996 (#334-) are available full-text, while those prior to 1996 are summarized. (The library carries Reports 176, 258-260, 262-266, 268-290, 292-309, 311-340, 342-345, 347-352, 354, 357-371, 373-374, and 384-392 in the State Documents Collection, call number 021.)

The site also contains summaries of the major accomplishments of each legislative session, back to 1989, as well as links to other state government resources.

- ❑ **Education Legislation Daily Report** [<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/extrel/legup.htm>]

The Mississippi Department of Education provides information on the status of legislation affecting education. Click on the date you are interested in, or you can call their toll-free number, 1-877-LegisEd (534-4733.)

- ❑ **State of Mississippi Government Information – Alphabetical List**
[http://www.olemiss.edu/govinfo/ulgbis/miss_st/alphaweb.html]

This site provides a comprehensive list of Web sites for state agencies and some important state publications available on-line. Compiled by the University of Mississippi's Libraries Government and Business Information Services.