



# Legislative Accomplishments

*Mississippi House of Representatives*

**2012-2023**

# Pro-Life

- **HB 1390** (2012) – Requires all physicians performing abortions to have admitting privileges at local hospitals.
- **HB 1400** (2014) – Bans abortion over 20 weeks.
- **HB 1510** (2018) – Gestation Age Act
  - Prohibits abortions at or later than 15 weeks gestation.
  - The bill that was challenged in the Dobbs case that eventually overturned Roe v Wade.
- **SB 2116** (2019) – Heartbeat Bill – prohibits abortion of unborn fetus with a detectable heartbeat.
- **HB 1295** (2020) – Life Equality Act, prohibits performance of abortions based on race, sex or genetic abnormality, except in the case of medical emergency.
- **HB 1685** (2022) – Provides \$3.5 million tax credit for our Pregnancy Resource Centers to help them support & encourage women to choose life for their unborn children.

# Pro-Life

- **HB 1671** (2023) – package of tax incentives for private businesses and individuals to donate their resources to faith-based groups and charities to meet these needs without growing government
  - Increased Pregnancy Resource Center tax credits from \$3.5M to \$10M, enough to sustain the operating budget of all PRCs statewide
  - \$10M tax credit for transitional homes that will serve young mothers and young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood
  - \$4M tax credit for charitable clinics that will provide free or nearly free health care to serve low-income Mississippians (under \$50K income)
- **SB 2696** (2023) – doubled the tax credit for eligible adoption expenses for Mississippi kids from \$5,000 to \$10,000
- **HB 1318** (2023) – Reform our laws regulative Safe Haven Baby Drop Boxes to make them more accessible and reliable so struggling new moms have another option to choose life for their baby.
- **HB 1149** (2023) – Reformed our Child Protection Services, making it a separate agency and providing a clear path to permanency so we can do a better, faster job at getting foster kids permanently placed with a loving family.
- **HB 510** (2023) – Established a Foster Parents Bill of Rights to encourage families to foster and provide love and care to foster kids.

# Tax Relief

- **HB 531 (2022)** – MS Tax Freedom Act.
  - Largest Tax Cut in Mississippi History - tax relief of \$575 Million per year by 2026
  - By 2026, Mississippi will have the 5th-lowest marginal tax rate of any state with a personal income tax.
  - 4% flat tax across the board
  - #1 in the nation in allowing individuals to keep more of their hard-earned money before they have to pay a tax.
  - By 2023, Mississippi will allow an individual to earn \$18,300 before they start paying a penny of income tax -- the highest tax floor of any state with an income tax. Compare that to our neighbors with an income tax: Alabama starts taxing individuals at \$4,000. Arkansas at \$2,200. Louisiana at \$4,500.

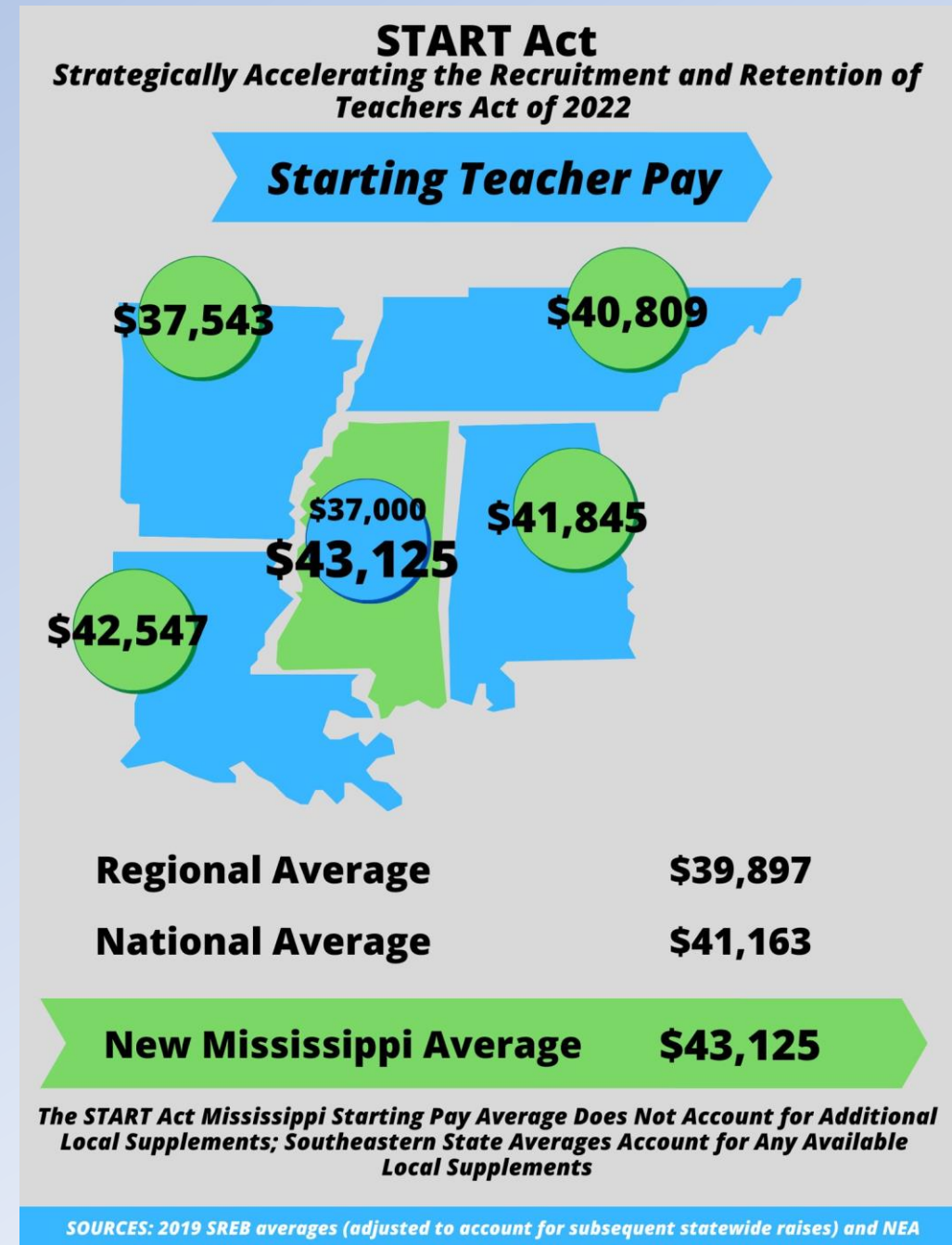


# Education Improvements

## Teacher Pay Raises

- **HB 530 (2022) START Act**

- Average teacher pay increase of \$4,850
- Starting pay to exceed both the Southeastern & the National averages
- Provide annual step increases of at least \$400, milestone increases of at least \$1,000 every 5<sup>th</sup> year, and a \$2,500 milestone increase the 25<sup>th</sup> year.
- Removes the cap on national board certification supplements and makes retroactive to 2021-22 school year
- Full implemented for the 2022-23 school year



# Education Improvements

## Teacher Pay Raises

- **HB 852** (2021) – Salary Increase for teachers and teacher's assistants in the amount of \$1,000.
- **HB 1643 & SB 2770** (2019) – Teacher Pay Raise of \$1,500 per teacher/teacher assistant
- **HB 504** (2014) – Provided a \$2,500 teacher pay raise

# Education Improvements

- **SB 2113** (2022) – Schools cannot classify our students on the basis of race and cannot force students to affirm that one race is superior or inferior to another.
- **SB 2347** (2013) – Third Grade Reading Gate. As a result, reading proficiency improved from 69% to 93%.
- **2023**
  - \$100 million in new money directly into our schools. These funds are flexible and can be spent on classroom needs, textbooks, computers/devices, etc. but cannot be spent on administrative salaries or expenses.
  - \$20 million additional dollars to the school building loan fund
  - Increased CTE funding and per pupil funding in our nationally recognized early learning collaboratives

# Protecting Conservative Values

- **HB 1509** (2022) – Ensured public entities could not mandate COVID-19 vaccines and provided a religious exemption for private employees
- **SB 2536** (2021) – Prohibits allowing biological males from participating in sports designated for females.
- **HB 1523** (2016) - Prevents government from discriminating against citizens because of traditional religious beliefs on marriage and gender.
- **SB 2681** (2014) - Religious Freedom Restoration Act – Curb's state/local governments' power to burden your exercise of religion.
- **HB 1769** (2022) – Generally prevents property acquired by eminent domain from being transferred to private entities.



# Human Trafficking

- **HB1559 (2020)** – Provides protection & services for victims
  - Brings our state's human trafficking laws full circle by addressing specific needs of child victims of human trafficking and providing much needed funding for shelters and services.
  - Currently, there is no specialized shelter meeting the immediate or long-term needs of child victims of trafficking the state.
  - Mississippi's childcare agencies were willing to take these children, but the placements are not ideal. Because they were not receiving specialized services, these children cycled through the system, utilizing multiple placements and hundreds of thousands of state dollars. Ultimately, the children would often run away without receiving any specialized care to prevent future victimization.
  - Human trafficking victims need specialized, long-term care.
  - HB 1559 will provide a revenue stream from fees on those committing crimes against children, affording a means to develop shelters to address the specific needs of these victims.

# Human Trafficking

- **HB 571 (2019)** – Strengthens human trafficking laws.
  - Minors can no longer be charged with prostitution; instead, minors engaged in commercial sexual activity are to be considered victims of human trafficking. We no longer arrest children for these crimes perpetrated against them.
  - Requires training for law enforcement, 911 operators, social workers and foster parents
  - Also increased penalties for those who exploit children.
- **HB 1550 (2022)** – Provided deficit appropriation of \$9.8 million & \$2 million for Victims of Crime for FY23 and a \$2.5 million grant program for victims of human trafficking
- **2023**
  - \$2.5 million for the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund - provide funding for direct serve providers who serve victims of sex & labor trafficking
  - \$10 million to the Office of Interpersonal Violence for Mississippi child welfare and victims service providers.

# Broadband & Digital Learning

- **HB 1029** (2022) – The Broadband Accessibility Act expanded Broadband access
- **HB 1788 & HB1797** (2020) – \$50,000,000 in FCAF to fund MS Pandemic Response Broadband Availability Grant Program to be administered by MDE for making grants to eligible school districts
- **HB 1792** (2020) – \$150 million in FCAF for administering the “Equity in Digital Learning Act”
- **HB 1800 / SB 3046** (2020) – \$75 million in FCAF to expand broadband access in unserved and underserved areas
- **SB3798** (2021) – Provides for certain participation of rate regulated electric utilities in the expansion of broadband services in MS.

# Workforce Development

- **HB 1388 (2022)** – Workforce development bill that puts private sector career coaches in K-12 schools to prepare students for the careers of today, streamline our WFD efforts and align them with employers' needs.
- **HB 1795 (2020)** – \$55 million to the 8 Workforce Investment Areas to train furloughed, unemployed, or underemployed individuals displaced from work by COVID-19
- **SB 2564 (2020)** – Creates the MS Office of Workforce Development

# Free Market / Pro Business

- **HB 1784** (2020) – \$182 million to the Unemployment Compensation Fund
- **HB 1748** (2020) – Provided that CARES Act relief funds such as those received under the Small Business Relief programs in SB 2772 & SB 3053 would not count as taxable income.
- **HB 1** (2018 special session) – Harvest Permits.
  - Among other provisions, effective 7/1/23, the maximum gross vehicle weight tolerance for a vehicle operating under a harvest permit is increased from 84,000 pounds to 88,000 pounds, which is an increase from 5% to 10% of the authorized 80,000 pounds.
  - Establishes the Harvest Permit Transportation Stewardship Council to advise the legislature on best practices.
- **SB 3049** – Provides immunity from suit and liability to businesses, charitable & religious organizations, state and political subdivisions, and various other entities related to actual or alleged exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 who attempted in good faith to follow public health guidance.
- **SB 3051** – Protected MS employers against unemployment compensation rate increases due to unemployment claims during COVID-19 emergency.



# Protecting Gun Rights

- **HB 786** (2016) – MS Church Protection Act – allows trained church members to carry guns
- **SB 2425** (2014) – Sales tax exemption on firearms & ammunition during the Second Amendment Weekend holiday
- **HB 506** (2011) – Created the right to enhanced concealed carry

# Transportation & Infrastructure

- **HB 1** (2018 Special Session) – Created the Mississippi Infrastructure Modernization Act which provides a continuous revenue stream for infrastructure. (total from LBO is \$50 million for cities, \$50 million for counties, \$20 million for bridges). \$300 million in revenue bonds issued.
- **HB 1630** (2015) – Set aside \$162 million to MDOT for road & bridge repair and another \$20 million for State Aid Road Program and to fund the Local System Bridge Program
- **SB 2003** (2017 special session) – Allots \$175 million to State Aid Road Construction

# Child Protection

- **HB 16 (2012)** – MS Child Protection Act of 2012
  - Requires healthcare workers, clergy members, educators, law enforcement agents and child care providers to report alleged or suspected sexual abuse against children.
  - Requires retention of DNA evidence for use in potential criminal prosecution of sexual predators
- **SB 2732 (2013)** – “Lenora’s Law” – upon release from prison, a sex offender must register his or her place of residence. Requires offenders to wear GPS tracking device and prohibits them from living within 3,000 feet of a school.
- **HB 1315 (2023)** – Requires vendors to block obscene and sexually oriented material from online resources in our K-12 schools
- **SB 2346 (2023)** – Requires providers of online resources to implement age verification so adult material can only be accessed by persons over 18. Makes vendors liable for damages if they don’t implement the required measures.

# Public Safety

- **HB 1020** (2023) – Promotes public safety within the capital city by extending and simplifying the CCID boundaries and increasing the number of judges and prosecutors in Hinds County to help eliminate criminal case backlog
- **SB 2343** (2023) – Expands Capital Police jurisdiction boundaries
- **HB 779** (2022) – Provided \$100,000 death benefit for first responders
- **HB1408, HB 1423, HB 1424, SB 2120** (2022) – Increased compensation for sheriffs, appellate and trial judges, Highway Patrol, and MBI.
- **HB 1331** (2020) – Made driver's license process simpler and quicker
- **HB 645** (2017) – “Back the Badge” Act – doubles penalties for any crime committed against law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians.
- **SB 2062** (2021) – Authorizes counties & cities to apply for up to \$90,000 for new rural fire truck.

# Pro-Military

- **SB 2117** (2020) – Requires occupational licensing boards to issue occupational licenses to qualified members of the military and their spouses
- **HB 33** (2015) – Credit for taxpayers who employ unemployed honorably discharged veterans who served on active duty on or after 9/11/01
- **HB 1124** (2015) – Allows MS Military Family Relief Fund to be used for grants to military families facing financial hardship



# Election Integrity

- **HB 1365** (2022) – “Zuckerbucks” bill – removes private money from administration of elections
- **HB 921** (2012) – Voter ID Law
- **HB 1510** (2022) – Ensuring non-citizens cannot vote
- **HB 1310** (2023) – increases funding for election integrity measures and strengthens voter roll maintenance.
- **SB 2358** (2023) – Prevents ballot harvesting.