

2024 SESSION STATISTICS

ROD HICKMAN

- Bills Passed Both Houses 486
- Bills That Became Law 408
- Senate Bills Introduced 1231
- S.B. Passed by Senate 321
- S.B. Passed by House 212
- House Bills Introduced 2130
- H.B. Passed by House 445
- H.B. Passed by Senate 274

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SB 2022 JUVENILE OFFENDERS SENTENCING PROCEDURE
EFFECTIVE 7/1/2024

ROD HICKMAN

- SB 2022 amends section 97-3-21 to create a sentencing procedure for juvenile offenders who are convicted of either first-degree murder or capital murder in compliance with the United States Supreme Court holding in the case of *Miller v. Alabama*. After July 1, 2024:
- For first degree murder: A juvenile offender may be sentenced to life imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections. If the jury fails to fix the penalty at life imprisonment, then the court shall give not less than 20 and no more than 40 years in the custody of the department of corrections.
- For first-degree murder or capital murder prior to July 1, 2024, the judge who presided over the trial, or a judge appointed by a circuit court judge, if the presiding judge is unavailable, shall fix the penalty if the offender is entitled to a hearing under this subsection.
- The bill also amends section 99-19-101 to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for a defendant who was under the age of 18 in compliance with the United States Supreme Court holding in the case of *Roper v. Evans*.

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SB 2174, MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
- EFFECTIVE 7/1/24.

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- SB 2174 amends section 97-17-42 to provide that the crime of Motor Vehicle Theft shall be a felony. The crime is punishable by a fine of not more than \$20,000 or imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for a term of not less than ten years but not to exceed 30 years or both.

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**SB 2262. MODIFICATION OF CHILD SUPPORT
EFFECTIVE ON PASSAGE.**

ROD HICKMAN

- SB 2262 provides for stipulated agreements for modification of child support, to mirror current agency policy and federal law. The bill provides that a modification to an order of support for minor children shall not be retroactive except from the date that notice of such petition to modify has been given, either directly or through the appropriate agent, to the obligee or to the obligor where the obligee is the petitioner.

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**SB 2792. FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION
EFFECTIVE 7/1/24.**

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- SB 2792 amends Section 25-7-9 to waive the adoption filing fee in chancery court for cases involving the department of Child Protection Services.
- Secondly, the bill requires summons to be issued and served on any child who is 12 years of age or older in an involuntary termination of parental rights proceeding and proves that he minor child shall be represented by counsel throughout the proceedings.
- Third, 2792 amends section 95-15-111 to require a chancery court to accept a parent's written voluntary release terminating parental rights if certain requirements are met.
- Fourth, the bill requires a youth court judge to appoint counsel for an indigent custodial parent or guardian who is a party in an abuse, neglect, or termination of parental rights proceeding, or a non-custodial parent who has shown to have a custodial relationship with the child.
- Fifth, 2792 establishes a "Juvenile Court Representation Fund" which may be used by the court to cover the costs of counsel in indigent cases.

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**SB 2792. FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION
EFFECTIVE 7/1/24.**

- Sixth, 2792 provides a comprehensive list of reasons that would constitute compelling or extraordinary reasons why termination of parental rights would not be in the child's best interest.
- Seventh, the bill amends section 43-21-651 to provide that appeals may be taken from final orders or decrees of the youth court to the Supreme Court of Mississippi pursuant to the Rules of Appellate procedure.
- Eighth, the bill amends sections 43-21-351 and 43-21-801 to require youth court intake officers to receive training on MYCIDS and youth court judges to receive at least one hour of annual continuing education concerning oversight of youth court intake officers and MYCIDS.
- Lastly, the bill amends sections 98-2-3 and 89-2-25 to add cycling to the activities exempt from liability for recreational landowners.

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**SB 2519. FOREIGN LANDS OWNERSHIP ACT-
EFFECTIVE 7/1/24.** **ROD HICKMAN**


- SB 2519 enacts the Mississippi Foreign Land Ownership Act to limit the ability of nonresident aliens to maintain ownership of Mississippi agricultural and forestry land if they are from a country considered a foreign adversary by the United States Secretary of Commerce.



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**HB 1024. INVESTIGATIVE COSTS.
EFFECTIVE 7/1/2024** **ROD HICKMAN**


- HB 1024 authorizes the Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General and the Fraud Investigative unit to recover investigative costs from a defendant.



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**HB 1196. SEXUAL EXTORTION AND AGGRAVATED
SEXUAL EXTORTION - EFFECTIVE 7/1/24.** **ROD HICKMAN**


- HB 1196 enacts Walker's Law to create the offense of sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion. It categorizes penalties based on whether the victim is a minor or vulnerable person, and the person convicted of sexual extortion is an adult. The youth court may order behavioral health counseling as a condition of sentencing for any juvenile adjudicated under this act.



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HB 1323. FELONIOUS ABUSE OF VULNERABLE PERSONS - EFFECTIVE 7/1/24. **ROD HICKMAN**


- HB 1323 amends section 99-1.5 to remove the statute of limitations for prosecuting the crimes of felonious abuse of vulnerable persons as described in Section 43-47-18 and sexual battery as described in Section 97-3-95(1)



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HB 1126 "WALKER MONTGOMERY PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE ACT" - EFFECTIVE 7/1/2024 **ROD HICKMAN**

- HB 1126 establishes the "Walker Montgomery Protecting Children Online Act," which places requirements upon digital service providers that allow users to socially interact with other users on the digital service for the purpose of signing into a digital service. The bill requires digital service providers to take reasonable efforts to develop and implement strategies to prevent or mitigate the known or reasonably foreseeable exposure of minors to harmful material and other content that poses or facilitates harm to minors. Digital Service Providers:
 - Must verify the ages of new users.
 - Must acquire express consent from parents of underage users through a permission slip, video conferencing, information related to government-issued identification known to the parent or guardian, email confirmed consent and other reasonable method of obtaining consent.
 - Must not collect the minor's personal identifying information, collect the minor's precise geolocation, display targeted advertising or harmful material, or share and disclose the minor's personal identifying information for purposes that are not consistent with legal litigation, governmental purpose, law enforcement, investigation, for preventing criminal activity or blocking spam.
- The bill also provides parents with grounds to commence a **cause of action** against any digital service provider who violates this act, seeking a declaratory judgment or an injunction.



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HB 1137. EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION - EFFECTIVE 7/1/24. **ROD HICKMAN**

- HB 1137 revises the Emergency Response and Overdose Prevention Act to allow community organizations and high-risk opioid overdose touchpoints to store, distribute, and administer opioid antagonists to persons at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose.
- More specifically, the bill provides certain criminal and civil liability protection to a community organization or high-risk opioid overdose touchpoint and members and personnel of such organization.

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HB 1343. ATTORNEYS RETIRED FROM PRACTICE - EFFECTIVE 7/1/24. **ROD HICKMAN**

- HB 1343 amends section 89-5-8 to authorize attorneys who have retired from the practice of law to correct a scrivener's error made by the attorney while still practicing law if the retired lawyer was in good standing with The Mississippi Bar when the document was recorded, was licensed to practice law in the State of Mississippi when the document was recorded, and is retired from the practice of law at the time of verification of affirmation.

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HB 325. RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL - EFFECTIVE 7/1/24. **ROD HICKMAN**

- HB 325 extinguishes a right of first refusal in real property granted through a contractual agreement or any other written instrument of conveyance upon the death of the grantee right-holder, unless the contractual agreement or instrument of conveyance or a memorandum of the contractual agreement or instrument of conveyance, is filed for recording in the land records of the county in which the real property lies and unambiguously states that upon the death of the grantee right-holder, the right of first refusal shall be binding upon an inure to the benefit of the heirs and assigns the grantee right-holder.

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HB 1542. INTESTATE SUCCESSION - EFFECTIVE 7/1/24. **ROD HICKMAN**

- HB 1542 enacts the Chris McDill law to create a process for intestate succession for an assisted birth. If the decedent dies before the start of a pregnancy by assisted reproduction resulting in the birth of an individual who lives a least 120 hours after birth, that individual is deemed to be living at the time of the decedent's death under certain conditions.

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HB 1015. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY INSPECTORS **ROD HICKMAN**
 -EFFECTIVE 7/1/24.


- HB 1015 authorizes the Department of Public Safety Inspectors to assist other officers and adds commercial motor carrier inspectors to the list of persons authorized to give DUI breath tests. It also authorizes all inspectors to have the authority to purchase and use speed detection equipment on commercial vehicles that they are authorized to inspect.



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HB 691. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFER STANDARDS & TRAINING - EFFECTIVE 7/1/24 **ROD HICKMAN**


- HB 691 revises the composition of the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training. It also authorizes the board to establish a hearing panel for the purposes of providing a hearing to any law enforcement officer for whom the board believes there is a basis for reprimand, suspension, cancellation of, or recalling the certification of a law enforcement officer. The hearing panel shall provide it's written findings and recommendations to the board.
- HB 691 also requires continuing education for any law enforcement officer of any state agency, county, municipality, public two-year or four-year college or university and any extension thereof in the State of Mississippi and the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District.



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THINGS THAT (STILL) DID NOT HAPPEN **ROD HICKMAN**


- True no fault divorce.*
- Increase in damage caps.*
- Increase in auto liability insurance.*
- Medical expansion.*



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