ACEC
American Council of Engineering Companies of Mississippi

# American Council of Engineering Companies - MS

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# *2017 LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN 10*

| HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
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| **For Bill Status go to the MS Legislative Home Page http://www.legislature.ms.gov** | | | | |

**March 30, 2017**

**Senate Bills:**

**SB2402** Energy services providers; revise laws regarding procedure for public contracts 03/29 (S) Conference Report Adopted The House version of this bill redefined engineering. That language is gone, however, what came out in the final report is the phrase "design engineering" in the qualification guidelines. If you do this energy work, you should pull the conference report and read it.

**SB2448** Regional economic development alliance; allow all political subdivisions to participate in. 03/13 Approved by Governor

**SB2572** Inactive state boards, commissions and councils; abolish. 03/28 Due From Governor 04/14/17 Inactive Boards and commissions This bill does away with many boards and commissions that don't meet regularly including the Wastewater Advisory Council of which ACEC has a seat. . After the MDH took minutes of meetings to the legislature to show they were still active, the Wastewater Advisory Council was removed from absolution.

**House Bills:**

**HB883** Natural gas public utilities; authorize those that are rate-regulated to undertake economic development activities. 03/10 Approved by Governor

**HB1106** Public contracts; require purchasing entities to allow contractors to submit bids electronically. 03/29 (H) Motion to Reconsider Tabled Yet another one of the bidding bills that we were successful in protecting our language prohibiting reverse auction in design and construction.

**HB1109** Requests for proposals; provide standards for state agencies to follow regarding. 03/29 Approved by Governor This is the large, all-encompassing bill that we have spent a lot of time on. We were successful in getting our language prohibiting Reverse Auction in design and construction restored; it was amended on the floor to exempt IHL. MDOT was already exempt. Some of the new language in sections 9-12 applies to professional services. Signed by Gov.

**HB1226** Capitol Complex Improvement District; create and fund improvement projects within 03/29 (S) Conference Report Adopted Beginning 8-18, 2% additional sales tax will go into an infrastructure fund for improvements in the Capitol Complex district. 2019 it will go to 4% and 2020 – 6% and will remain that. DFA will handle the money. An advisory Commission will be appointed, but DFA should have the final say.

**HB1425** Occupational Board Compliance Act of 2017; create. 03/29 (H) Motion to Reconsider Tabled This bill would put our Board of Registration under a new commission – The Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General. Any new rules and regulations would have to be approved with them. However, they did remove the Governor's veto power and removed the discipline measure from it. It is supposedly a very weakened version of what is necessary.

**HB1585** Urban Flood Control and Drainage Law; authorize special assessment on property benefited by projects. 03/22 Approved by Governor Urban flood control drainage – this is the Hinds/Rankin County 1000 acre Pearl River Flood Control Project. Supposedly the CORPS has already set aside $150 million for this project.