

Smith, Turner & Reeves Legislative Report

Legislative Report 05-2

DATE: February 11, 2005

Note: This report is for filings through February 10, 2005. This report applies to the review of bills referred to the Public Utility Committees of the House and Senate, and to the review of other bills as numerically filed through HB1608 and SB3043.

Actions of the House of Representatives

Bills referred to the Public Utilities Committee

House Bill 516 – HB516 would prohibit certain fax solicitations under the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act.

Status – Died in committee

House Bill 532 – HB532 would require that telephone solicitations made under the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act provide the geographic location from which the call is being made.

Status - Died in committee

House Bill 538 – HB538 would extend the automatic repealer of the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act until July 1, 2007.

Status – Passed in House, transmitted to Senate

House Bill 678 – HB678 would expand the do-not-call list to include cell phones and business numbers.

Status – Died in committee

House Bill 688 – HB688 would require electricity meters to be digital by a certain date.

Status – Died in committee

House Bill 781 – HB781 would require MDOT to pay costs of relocating any municipality owned electrical facilities.

Status - Died in committee

House Bill 946 – HB946 would entitle landowners to receive 10% of the value of any subleases for rental of communications towers.

Status – Died in committee

House Bill 990 – HB990 would authorize counties and municipalities to enter into leases or real and personal property for up to twenty years with providers of personal wireless services.

Status – Passed in House, transmitted to Senate

House Bill 1088 – HB1088 would the Mississippi Public Service Commission to regulate charges for inmate phone service.

Status – Died in committee

House Bill 1239 – HB1239 defines broadband services and exempts them from regulation by the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

Status – Active

House Bill 1310 – HB1310 would require deposits made to public utilities be held in a designated special account.

Status – Died in committee

House Bill 1352 – HB1352 would prohibit reconnection fees for electric service from exceeding one percent of the delinquent amount.

Status – Died in committee

House Bill 1355 – HB1355 would require suppliers of exchange telephone services to furnish to the CMRS emergency services board, information identifying the county of primary use for each CMRS emergency services board customer.

Status – Died in committee

Other Bills

House Bill 51 – HB51 would increase income tax rates so that all income in excess of \$15,000 would be taxed at 6%.

Status - Active, referred to Ways and Means Committee

House Bill 145 – HB145 would require Mississippi employers to provide wages no less than 15% above the Federal minimum wage.

Status - Died in committee

House Bill 148 – HB148 is known as the Anti-Spam Act, and would create criminal penalties for use of a computer network to distribute unsolicited bulk e-mail of specified volumes.

Status - Died in committee

House Bill 269 – HB269 would authorize counties to establish and support a 911 telephone system which would warn users of emergency situations by placing a computerized telephone call.

Status - Died in committee

House Bill 458 – HB458 would create the “Fair Pay Act of 2005” which would define and prohibit discrimination in hiring and pay practices based on sex, race or national origin.

Status - Died in committee

House Bill 939 – HB939 would phase out corporate income taxes over a five year period.

Status - Active, referred to Ways and Means Committee

Actions of the Senate

Bills referred to the Public Utilities Committee

Senate Bill 2371 – SB2371 would require the Mississippi Public Service Commission to regulate cable television systems.

Status - Died in committee

Senate Bill 2445 – SB2445 would extend the automatic repealer of the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act until July 1, 2008 and provide for inclusion of the Mississippi no call database in the national database.

Status – Active

Senate Bill 2514 – SB2514 would create the Mississippi Wireless Communications Commission, establish its membership and establish its duties.

Status – Passed in Senate, transmitted to House

Senate Bill 2635 – SB2635 specifically exempts utility service vehicles from PSC supervision and inspection

Status – Active

Senate Bill 2636 – SB2636 defines broadband services and exempts them from regulation by the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

Status – Active

Other Bills

Senate Bill 2564 – SB2564 would increase corporate franchise taxes to \$7.50 (from \$2.50) per \$1,000 of taxable capital.

Status – Active, referred to Finance Committee

Senate Bill 2752 – SB2752 would allow the Mississippi Transportation Commission to lease antenna space on communications towers which they own.

Status – Active, referred to Highways and Transportation Committee

Senate Bill 3003 – SB3003 would allow counties and municipalities to enter into leases or real and personal property for up to twenty years with providers of personal wireless services.

Status – Active, referred to County Affairs, and Municipalities Committees

Senate Bill 3043 – SB3043 would allow municipalities to impose up to a 1% sales tax.

Status – Active, referred to Finance Committee