



Legislator “Business & Jobs” Report Card

2015 Legislative Session & 4-Year Average Grades

**How Mississippi Legislators
Vote on Business, Jobs and
Economic Growth Issues**

www.bipec.org

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT — DETAILS ABOUT THE EVALUATION PROCESS

How to use the BIPEC Legislative Jobs Report Card?

In 1980, the Business and Industry Political Education Committee (BIPEC) was founded by Mississippi's business and professional leaders to supply needed political research information. Founders wanted credible information to identify legislative candidates who understood needs and concerns of employers...these employers are the people who take risks to create jobs, stimulate our economy and give back to communities! Use this guide to determine and assess your legislator's support of the employers who provide the jobs our state needs to thrive. Our objective is to assist with the constituent/voters quest for legislative accountability and transparency. Please visit www.bipec.org for additional information and for links to various other resources that will help you to seek accountability from your elected officials.

What are the five performance levels?

Lawmakers are given one of five performance grades. Each grade indicates to business leaders how, in general, legislators support economic growth, jobs and other broad job-related issues.

Business Champion	A
Strong Business Support	B
Average Business Support	C
Below Average Business Support	D
Failing Business Support	F

What does a performance evaluation mean?

BIPEC's performance evaluation is a measuring stick used to determine each legislator's business philosophy, attitude and effectiveness in supporting the growth/enhancement of jobs in Mississippi. The BIPEC "Business & Jobs" grade is composed of two parts, the objective portion, which is reflective of the selected votes legislators cast and detailed with the enclosed "vote key", and the subjective portion, which is used to measure the non-voting actions of the legislator.

Over 35 business and professional leaders participate in the rating process. Key factors of the assessment are:

- Legislator's votes on clearly identified economic principles and employer issues
- Leadership in committee and floor debates on job-related issues
- Encouragement of other legislators to support economic growth and build coalitions to promote job development

What types of votes are used in the ratings?

It is important to note that no single issue dominated BIPEC's ratings. A great deal of effort is made to ensure that the votes chosen represent a broad cross-section of employer-related issues. Votes impacting operating costs and restriction of management choices are viewed as very important. Key subject areas include:

- Government growth
- Government regulation
- Privatization of government services
- Lawsuit reduction
- Environmental protection
- Labor/management issues
- Incentives for job growth
- Workers Compensation
- Business taxation
- Government spending controls

The 2015 Bills and Action Card and Bills Vote Key

The "Bills and Action Card" gives brief descriptions of the legislation, the vote totals, and the "business" vote position (yes or no). The Bills Vote Key provides the voting tally sheet for each of the legislators and their votes used for the scoring process.

For additional information including direct links to the MS Legislature website, Bills and Action Cards and Voting Keys, please visit www.bipec.org.

BIPEC 2015 LEGISLATOR “BUSINESS & JOBS” REPORT CARD BILLS AND ACTION CARD

Bill	Issue	Vote Key	House Votes	Business/Jobs Vote	Senate Votes
HB 589	Bad Faith Assertions of Patent Infringement; strongly supported by MS employers, will protect companies from frivolous patent infringement claims made by entities known as “patent trolls”; also provides legal protections for intellectual property rights	A	78-39-5	yea	47-5
HB 153	MS Uniform Statutory Rule Against Perpetuities; provides for the increase in time (from life plus 21 yrs currently) to 110 yrs (for real property) and 360 yrs (for personal property) for trusts in perpetuity; makes MS banks and trust/estate planners competitive with surrounding states	B	115-0-7	yea	24-21-7
HB 1629	Income tax; phase out for individuals, related purposes; included provisions for elimination of the personal income tax, deductions for self-employment taxes, and a phase-out of the business “franchise tax” (taxing a business on its capital/investment, which discourages business expansion and new-business recruitment); strongly supported by MS employers; died in the House needing a 3/5ths majority vote for passage	C	67-52-2	yea	40-11-1
HB 346	MS Motor Vehicle Safety-Responsibility Law, allow certain exclusions; allows for exclusions/limitations for the required motor vehicle liability insurance in MS; provides for op-out choices for policy-holders resulting in a reduced assumption of risk	D	70-50-1-1	yea	47-5
SB 2207	Alcoholic beverage license tax; results in reduction by 50% of the “additional privilege fee” levied against on premise retailers by the MS ABC; revenue from the fees have been split between state and city/county where the permit is domiciled; this eliminates the state tax portion	E	97-20-4	yea	34-8-4-6
SB 2457	Employment Security Law; create the Mississippi Works Fund; called for the creation of the “MS Works Fund” for workforce training utilizing surplus unemployment trust funds; supported by both chambers but died in conference committee	F	118-0-2-1	yea	50-1-1
SB 2389	Compact for a Balanced Budget; this bill has MS becoming the 3rd state to support an amendment to the US Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget; is composed of limits to federal borrowing, state approval for Congress to increase debt limits, and would require a 2/3rds vote of Congress for most tax increases	G	69-50-2	yea	30-19-3
SC 637	Urge EPA to withdraw proposed Clean Power Plan; legislative resolution strongly opposing the U.S. EPA’s proposed “Clean Power Plan” which could raise energy costs by an est. 40-100%; would usurp MS law regarding regulation of electricity production and distribution	H	87-29-2-3	yea	37-10-1-4
HB 710	Suits against the state, MS Supreme Court to have original jurisdiction; for legal complaints filed against the state of MS, this would have provided for MS Supreme Court (Chief Justice) to designate a state circuit judge and court location from anywhere within MS to preside over the case and required that the Governor, Attorney General, and MS House and Senate leaders be notified	I	70-48-4	yea	
SB 2839	Taxpayer Pay Raise Act of 2015; vote by the Senate to phase out the franchise tax imposed on corporations, to enact deductions for the self-employed, and to reduce personal income taxes; strongly supported by the business community	I		yea	38-9-5



LEGISLATOR “BUSINESS & JOBS” REPORT CARD

2012-2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SENATE

FIRST	LAST	PARTY	CITY	DIST	'12	'13	'14	'15	4yr AVG
David	Blount	D	Jackson	29	C	B	C	D	C
Nickey	Browning	R	Pontotoc	3	A	A	A	A	A
Hob	Bryan	D	Amory	7	D	C	D	F	D
Terry	Burton	R	Newton	31	A	A	A	A	A
Albert	Butler, Sr.	D	Port Gibson	36	D	C	D	F	D
Kelvin	Butler	D	McComb	38	C	C	C	F	C
Videt	Carmichael	R	Meridian	33	A	A	A	A	A
Lydia	Chassaniol	R	Winona	14	A	A	A	A	A
Eugene (Buck)	Clarke	R	Hollandale	22	A	A	A	A	A
Nancy Adams	Collins	R	Tupelo	6	A	A	A	A	A
Debbie	Dawkins	D	Pass Christian	48	F	D	D	F	F
Sally	Doty	R	Brookhaven	39	A	A	A	A	A
Joey	Fillingane	R	Sumrall	41	A	A	A	A	A
Hillman	Frazier	D	Jackson	27	C	C	C	F	C
Phillip	Gandy	R	Waynesboro	43	A	A	A	A	A
Tommy	Gollott	R	Biloxi	50	A	A	A	A	A
Steve	Hale	D	Senatobia	10	B	B	B	A	B
Josh	Harkins	R	Flowood	20	A	A	A	A	A
Angela Burks	Hill	R	Picayune	40	A	A	A	A	A
Briggs	Hopson, III	R	Vicksburg	23	B	A	A	A	A
John	Horhn	D	Jackson	26	C	C	C	F	C
Billy	Hudson	R	Hattiesburg	45	A	A	A	A	A
Gary	Jackson	R	French Camp	15	A	A	A	A	A
Robert L.	Jackson	D	Marks	11	D	D	C	B	C
Sampson	Jackson, II	D	DeKalb	32	C	C	C	B	C
Russell	Jolly	D	Houston	8	C	B	B	C	B

FIRST	LAST	PARTY	CITY	DIST	'12	'13	'14	'15	4yr AVG
Kenneth Wayne	Jones	D	Canton	21	C	C	C	B	C
David	Jordan	D	Greenwood	24	D	D	D	B	D
Dean	Kirby	R	Pearl	30	A	A	A	A	A
Perry	Lee	R	Mendenhall	35	A	A	A	A	A
Will	Longwitz	R	Madison	25	A	A	A	A	A
Chris	Massey	R	Nesbit	1	A	A	A	A	A
Chris	McDaniel	R	Ellisville	42	B	A	A	A	A
Haskins	Montgomery	D	Bay Springs	34	B	B	A	B	B
Philip	Moran	R	Kiln	46	A	A	A	A	A
Sollie B.	Norwood	D	Jackson	28			C	F	N/A
David	Parker	R	Olive Branch	19			A	A	N/A
Rita Potts	Parks	R	Corinth	4	A	A	A	A	A
John	Polk	R	Hattiesburg	44	A	A	A	A	A
Derrick	Simmons	D	Greenville	12	D	C	D	F	D
Willie	Simmons	D	Cleveland	13	C	C	C	B	C
Tony	Smith	R	Picayune	47	A	A	A	A	A
Melanie	Sojourner	R	Natchez	37	A	A	A	A	A
Bill	Stone	D	Ashland	2	D	B	D	D	D
Sean	Tindell	R	Gulfport	49	A	A	A	A	A
Gray	Tollison	R	Oxford	9	A	A	A	A	A
Angela	Turner	D	West Point	16			D	F	N/A
Giles	Ward	R	Louisville	18	A	A	A	A	A
Michael	Watson	R	Pascagoula	51	A	A	A	A	A
Brice	Wiggins	R	Pascagoula	52	A	A	A	A	A
J. P.	Wilemon, Jr.	D	Belmont	5	B	B	A	B	B
Chuck	Younger	R	Columbus	17				A	N/A

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