MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)
2026 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Senate Bill 2653 — Mississippi IT Optimization Act (Regular Session 2026)
Approved by Governor on March 13, 2026, Effective July 1, 2026

- An act to enact the Mississippi IT Optimization Act; to establish the Statewide Information Technology Optimization Program for coordinated planning, development, implementation and oversight of enterprise information technology architecture for state agencies; to authorize ITS to define statewide enterprise architecture, including business, data, application, technology, infrastructure, cloud and security architecture; to require ITS to develop and maintain statewide architecture standards and an enterprise application portfolio; to require enterprise architecture review of proposed agency IT acquisitions, projects, systems and services before procurement or implementation; to promote shared services, system consolidation, cloud modernization, interoperability, cybersecurity alignment and reduction of duplicative or obsolete systems; to require agency heads to align agency technology plans and procurements with statewide standards; to provide CIO Council support and ITS Board oversight; to protect sensitive security, infrastructure and architecture records; to authorize phased implementation; to allow shared-use acquisitions by state agencies, institutions of higher learning, governing authorities and community and junior colleges; to authorize ITS to receive donations, grants and other funding into the Technology Innovation Fund; to authorize internship, fellowship or related programs; and for related purposes.

Senate Bill 2654 — State Security Operations Center (Regular Session 2026)
Approved by Governor on April 1, 2026, Effective July 1, 2026

- An act to create a State Security Operations Center, or SSOC, within ITS; to provide centralized statewide cybersecurity operations, including continuous monitoring, alerting, threat detection and analysis, incident response, mitigation, security orchestration and automation, and technical support to the Enterprise Security Program; to support enforcement of statewide cybersecurity requirements under Section 25-53-201; to require state agencies subject to Section 25-53-201 to comply with statewide cybersecurity policies, standards and controls, report suspected cybersecurity incidents within ITS-established timeframes, cooperate with SSOC monitoring and incident response, and implement corrective actions; to authorize the ITS Executive Director to impose additional oversight, monitoring or cybersecurity audit requirements, temporarily limit access to ITS-managed systems or services, or assess additional fees when agencies fail to comply; to authorize collaboration with the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, federal cybersecurity centers, threat-intelligence partners, public universities and community colleges; to establish a Cybersecurity Talent Pipeline Program; to require an annual SSOC report; and for related purposes.

Senate Bill 2096 — Cybersecurity Standards for Statewide Elections Management System (Regular Session 2026)
Approved by Governor on March 19, 2026, Effective July 1, 2026

- An act to amend Section 23-15-165, Mississippi Code of 1972, to require the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to establish mandatory minimum cybersecurity standards and policies for county registrars and election commissioners when accessing or exporting information from the Statewide Elections Management System; to require such standards and policies to be established no later than January 1, 2027; to require assessments of adherence to the standards; to make assessment results confidential and exempt from public inspection, while allowing access by the Office of the State Auditor, ITS and the Secretary of State for authorized purposes; to provide a compliance period through January 1, 2028, for counties found noncompliant; to limit Election Support Fund monies for counties that remain noncompliant or are found noncompliant after January 1, 2028, until compliance is achieved; and for related purposes.

Senate Bill 3095 — ITS Appropriation Bill for Fiscal Year 2027 (Regular Session 2026)
Approved by Governor on April 8, 2026, Effective July 1, 2026

- An act making an appropriation to defray the expenses of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services for Fiscal Year 2027; to appropriate $30,870,501.00 from the State General Fund and $27,887,878.00 from special funds for ITS operations, including telecommunications services, data center services and other information technology services to state agencies; to authorize 136 permanent ITS headcount; to authorize transfer authority of up to $1,500,000.00 to the ITS Revolving Fund for operating cash-flow purposes, subject to repayment before the end of the lapse period; to appropriate funds for the Wireless Communication Commission; to provide $1,000,000.00 for Procurement Modernization; to provide $747,607.00 for implementation of the Mississippi Statewide Data Exchange Act and the Cloud Center of Excellence Act; to provide $6,200,000.00 from the Capital Expense Fund for Voice over Internet Protocol implementation, uninterruptible power supplies, battery backups, cloud migrations and implementation of the Cloud Center of Excellence Act; and for related purposes.

House Bill 1723 — Artificial Intelligence Definition (Regular Session 2026)
Approved by Governor on March 9, 2026, Effective July 1, 2026

- An act to define the term “artificial intelligence” in Chapter 3, Title 1, Mississippi Code of 1972, as a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments; to provide that artificial intelligence systems use machine- and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments, abstract such perceptions into models through automated analysis, and use model inference to formulate options for information or action; and for related purposes.

Senate Nomination 41 (Regular Session 2026), appointment confirmed March 20, 2026

- Thomas Allen “Tom” Wicker, Tupelo, Mississippi, Information Technology Services Authority, five-year term effective July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030. The Senate confirmed the appointment on March 20, 2026, by a vote of 45-0, with notice of approval on March 23, 2026.