



CAPITOL

comments

The Voice of Agriculture®

January 20, 2012

Week 3

This Week at the Capitol

The Senate has been busy assigning bills to the committees this week. Everyone was waiting for the House to announce committees, which happened on Friday. The Senate and House will have organizational committee meetings to establish the rules and procedures for the committees to follow. The meetings will begin next week and the committees will start taking up bills.

House Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

Agriculture Committee: Chair, Rep. Preston Sullivan (Chickasaw Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Bill Pigott (Walthall Co.)

Forestry Committee: Chair, Rep. Becky Currie (Lincoln Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Bo Eaton (Smith Co.)

Appropriations Committee: Chair, Rep. Herb Frierson (Pearl River Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Mac Huddleston (Pontotoc Co.)

Ways and Means Committee: Chair, Rep. Jeff Smith (Lowndes Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Ray Rogers (Rankin Co.)

Energy Committee: Chair, Rep. Angela Cockerham (Amite Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Gary Staples (Jones Co.)

Highways and Transportation Committee: Chair, Rep. Robert Johnson (Adams Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Jerry Turner (Lee Co.)

Education Committee: Chair, Rep. John Moore (Rankin Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Alyce Clarke (Hinds Co.)

Apportionment and Elections Committee: Chair, Rep. Bill Denny (Madison Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Steven Horne (Lauderdale Co.)

Public Utilities Committee: Chair, Rep. Jim Beckett (Calhoun Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Kevin McGee (Rankin Co.)

Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks: Chair, Rep. Scott Bounds (Neshoba Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Ken Morgan (Marion Co.)

Judiciary A Committee: Chair, Rep. Mark Baker (Rankin Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Tommy Reynolds (Tallahatchie Co.)

2012 MFBF *Legislative Priorities*

Production Agriculture—Much of Mississippi's economy is derived from farming or farm-related activities. Agriculture is Mississippi's largest industry worth \$7 billion dollars a year. In addition, agriculture makes up 29% of the workforce in Mississippi.

Taxation—The taxes farmers pay should be used to aid the citizens of Mississippi, but taxation must not be allowed to increase to a point that economic development is hindered.

Environment—In order to further conservation efforts in agriculture, attention should be focused toward economic approaches to land management.

Energy—The depletion of fossil fuels and the increasing energy prices have caused an emphasis to be placed on renewable fuels. Farmers have the resources through general farm practices to generate energy.

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Judiciary B Committee: Chair, Rep. Andy Gipson (Simpson Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Kimberly Buck (Hinds Co.)

Environmental Protection, Conservation & Water Resources Committee: Chair, Rep. Jessica Upshaw (Hancock Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Bryant Clark (Holmes Co.)

County Affairs Committee: Chair, Rep. Bobby Shows (Jones Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Larry Byrd (Forrest Co.)

Insurance Committee: Chair, Rep. Gary Chism (Lowndes Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Kelvin Buck (Marshall Co.)

Constitution Committee: Chair, Rep. Scott DeLano (Harrison Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Jason White (Holmes Co.)

University and Colleges Committee: Chair, Rep. Nolan Mettetal (Panola Co.); Vice Chair, Rep. Greg Holloway (Copiah Co.)

*Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Cordially Invites you to the
Legislative Reception
January 23, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.
Mississippi Farmer's Market
929 High Street
Jackson, MS*

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES BY EMAIL

To receive policy updates and newsletters by email, please log on to www.msfb.org and click on the "ag news" by email link to enter your email information. Be sure to select Public Policy as well as other subjects of interest to you from the menu, or call Tammy Meyer at 601.977.4226 and request to be added to the email list.

2012 Legislative Calendar

January 23-24 — Winter Commodity Conference

January 23 — Legislative Reception

March 1 — Ag Day at the Capitol

March 6 — Women's Day at Capitol

Mississippi Farm Bureau® Federation

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