

# FREEDOMINDEX.US

## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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## Michael W. McLendon

Mississippi  
Senator, SD-001 (R)

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40

Lifetime  
Freedom  
Score

## 2025 MS Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

| ★ Constitutional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ✗ Unconstitutional | ? Did not Vote | Vote     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1. <b>SB2691 "Tobacco 21" Ban</b> (passed 49 to 2 on 2/5/2025). Prohibits the sale of tobacco products to anyone under 21 years of age.                                                                                                                                                                                   |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 2. <b>SB3168 Tax Exemptions for AI Data Centers</b> (passed 51 to 0 on 2/26/2025). Would make certain new or expanded data centers eligible for up to two 10-year sales and use tax exemptions.                                                                                                                           |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 3. <b>HB662 Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility</b> (passed 49 to 2 on 3/12/2025). Removes the requirement that pregnant women provide proof of pregnancy and monthly family income prior to receiving Medicaid.                                                                                                             |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 4. <b>HB1 Eliminating Income Taxes</b> (passed 32 to 16 on 3/18/2025). Cuts the state's personal income-tax rate from 4% to 3% between 2027 and 2030, as part of a process for reducing the income-tax rate to zero when specified revenue triggers are met.<br>Estimated benefit per household: <b>+\$2,295.00/year.</b> |                    |                | NO<br>✗  |
| 5. <b>SB3257 Government-funded Food Pantries</b> (passed 46 to 1 on 3/28/2025). Authorizes the Marshall County Board of Supervisors to provide annual financial contributions to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations that operate food pantries.<br>Estimated cost per household: <b>-\$0.80/year.</b>                     |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 6. <b>HB1193 Prohibiting DEI in Public Education</b> (passed 32 to 13 on 4/2/2025). Prohibits "diversity, equity and inclusion" policies or activities at public K-12 and postsecondary educational institutions.                                                                                                         |                    |                | YES<br>★ |

Scorecard Votes: 17%

# Why do these votes matter?

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## 1. "Tobacco 21" Ban

SB2691 prohibits the sale of tobacco products to anyone under 21 years of age.

Anti-tobacco "public health" initiatives are outside the limited purpose and scope of government. This bill is not only economically harmful, but sheepishly complies with the unconstitutional 2019 federal "Tobacco 21" law, which further entrenches Mississippi in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's war on tobacco. It denies basic personal freedoms (e.g., the right to purchase or sell tobacco) and surrenders state sovereignty, while seeking to eradicate an entire industry. Adult citizens younger than 21 years of age are both eligible to vote and enlist in the military. Their non-injurious decisions over what they choose to eat, drink, or consume should not be criminalized. The Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment protect against such arbitrary and discriminatory acts.

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## 2. Tax Exemptions for AI Data Centers

SB3168 would make certain new or expanded data centers eligible for up to two 10-year sales and use tax exemptions.

Big Tech and Big Government are colluding to erect a centralized, artificial intelligence (AI) surveillance infrastructure over the American population. The rapid construction of massive data centers in Mississippi and throughout the United States is a growing danger to Americans' personal privacy and property. It grants federal, state, and local authorities an unprecedented and unconstitutional amount of power to collect our phone calls, text messages, and internet communications. This dark, techno-oligarchic attempt to hear everything, see everything, and be everywhere at all times serves no lawful purpose but to conduct warrantless "unreasonable searches." Further, the abuse of eminent domain, as well as taxation, for these data centers encroaches upon constitutionally protected property rights. State lawmakers are duty-bound by oath to uphold the Fourth, Fifth, and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

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## 3. Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility

HB662 removes the requirement that pregnant women provide proof of pregnancy and monthly family income prior to receiving Medicaid.

This bill grants Medicaid services to those who may not even qualify. Moreover, healthcare is not the legitimate object of government. Medicaid is a joint federal and state "entitlement" scheme that is not authorized according to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. It relies on discriminatory and unjust forms of taxation (e.g., personal or corporate income taxes) that provide "Medical Assistance benefits" to "eligible persons," who have little or no tax liability, at the expense of others—resulting in more debt, dependency, and poverty. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment were written to prevent "nanny state" policies.

## 4. Eliminating Income Taxes

HB1 cuts the state's personal income-tax rate from 4% to 3% between 2027 and 2030, as part of a process for reducing the income-tax rate to zero when specified revenue triggers are met.

The income tax is an immoral, anti-constitutional act of government-imposed theft that takes from people the wages they have rightfully earned. It turns citizens into slaves. A person's property, including their income, belongs solely to them—not the state. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment expressly affirm that "No State" shall unjustly "deprive any person" of "liberty, or property." Mississippi must reject tyrannical, big government by protecting the "pursuit of Happiness," particularly the right to enjoy the fruit of one's own labor.

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## 5. Government-funded Food Pantries

SB3257 authorizes the Marshall County Board of Supervisors to provide annual financial contributions to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations that operate food pantries.

Funding food pantries is not the role of government. There exists no "right to food" apart from a person working to provide it themselves or having received it privately and voluntarily from someone else. Taxation in the name of "social welfare" is neither just nor charitable. States must firmly reject the notion of "food security," which the United Nations' Agenda 2030 "Zero Hunger" initiative describes as a "precondition for the full enjoyment of the right to food," based on Article 25 of the socialist Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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## 6. Prohibiting DEI in Public Education

HB1193 prohibits "diversity, equity and inclusion" policies or activities at public K-12 and postsecondary educational institutions.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) movement promotes divisive myths and false historical narratives propagated by critical race theorists, feminists, and LGBTQIA+ activists. It is nothing but a modern and subtle outgrowth of efforts by earlier Marxist radicals to alter or destroy the American way of life through a "long march through the institutions." The goal is a complete disruption of our moral, social, political order so as to impose conformity on citizens and end opposition to the welfare state—the modus operandi of totalitarian regimes for centuries. Justice in the hands of "social justice" warriors seeking parity in every aspect of life will only lead to tyranny. DEI must die, along with any other vain attempts to compel "equal outcomes." The U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment promote the "general Welfare" of all Americans by means of securing each person's "unalienable Rights" to life, liberty, and property.