



Chris Caughman

Mississippi

Senator, SD-035 (R)

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2024 MS Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of 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.

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote

Vote

1. **HB539 Medicaid Expansion (Passed 48 to 4 on 2/29/2024).** Expands presumptive Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women with a net family income at or below 194% of the federal poverty level.

NONE

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2. **SB2776 Eminent Domain (Passed 46 to 6 on 3/14/2024).** Grants certain public agencies the authority to take immediate possession of property easements or rights-of-way when needed for public road construction and utility projects related to specific economic-development initiatives.

NONE

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3. **SB2425 Ballot Harvesting Restrictions (Passed 36 to 14 on 4/15/2024).** Specifies that only election officials, postal workers, individuals authorized by federal law, or a voter's family member, household member, or caregiver may collect and transmit a voter's mail-in ballot.

NONE

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4. **HB903 Anti-2nd Amendment Bill (Passed 50 to 2 on 4/24/2024).** Criminalizes the manufacture, possession, and use of machine-gun-conversion devices, such as "Glock switches" or "auto-sears," which transform semiautomatic firearms into fully automatic weapons.

NONE

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5. **SB2577 First Amendment Violation (Passed 35 to 13 on 4/26/2024).** Introduces criminal penalties for the wrongful dissemination of "digitizations," such as deepfakes.

NONE

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6. **HB1406 Absentee Ballot Expansion (Passed 33 to 17 on 5/3/2024).** Enacts several changes to expand the state's absentee voting procedures.

NONE

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Scorecard Votes: %



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\$293,188

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 16, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Medicaid Expansion

HB539 expands presumptive Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women with a net family income at or below 194% of the federal poverty level. This allows them to receive immediate prenatal care for up to 60 days while their formal Medicaid application is processed.

The Mississippi State Senate passed HB539 on February 29, 2024 by a vote of 48 to 4. We have assigned pluses to the nays because neither health care nor social welfare is the legitimate object of government. Medicaid, as with many other "entitlement programs," discriminatorily and unjustly provides "eligible" low-income persons, who have little or no tax liability, with government funds at the expense of other hard-working citizens. Mississippi must reject the use of taxpayer dollars for this ever-expanding and unsustainable federal-state program that is not authorized under the U.S. Constitution.

2. Eminent Domain

SB2776 grants certain public agencies the authority to take immediate possession of property easements or rights-of-way when needed for public road construction and utility projects related to specific economic-development initiatives.

The Mississippi State Senate passed SB2776 on March 14, 2024 by a vote of 46 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the nays because eminent domain for private corporations violates the U.S. Constitution, specifically the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Furthermore, the Fourteenth Amendment declares, "nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

3. Ballot Harvesting Restrictions

SB2425 specifies that only election officials, postal workers, individuals authorized by federal law, or a voter's family member, household member, or caregiver may collect and transmit a voter's mail-in ballot.

The Mississippi State Senate passed SB2425 on April 15, 2024 by a vote of 36 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because ballot harvesting—as with mass voting by mail in general—enables electoral fraud, disenfranchising eligible voters. States should exercise their authority, under Article 1, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, to implement free, fair, and secure elections, providing equal protection of the right of American citizens to vote.

4. Anti-2nd Amendment Bill

HB903 known as the "Jeremy Todd Malone Law," criminalizes the manufacture, possession, and use of machine-gun-conversion devices, such as "Glock switches" or "auto-sears," which transform semiautomatic firearms into fully automatic weapons. A first offense is classified as a felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$3,000. Subsequent offenses carry increased penalties, with a second conviction resulting in up to 15 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$20,000.

The Mississippi State Senate passed HB903 on April 24, 2024 by a vote of 50 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill undermines the Second Amendment, which protects the God-given right of individuals to keep and bear arms—a right that "shall not be infringed." Criminalizing the mere possession of conversion devices, regardless of intent or use, expands state power in a way that violates this fundamental liberty.

5. First Amendment Violation

SB2577 introduces criminal penalties for the wrongful dissemination of "digitizations," such as deepfakes. The law defines "digitization" as altering images or audio using AI or other technological means to depict individuals engaging in speech or conduct they did not actually perform. Disseminating such content with intent to cause harm, incite violence, or deter voting can lead to imprisonment for up to five years and fines up to \$50,000.

The Mississippi State Senate passed SB2577 on April 26, 2024 by a vote of 35 to 13. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation undermines the fundamental right to free speech protected by the First Amendment. This opens the door to potentially criminalizes forms of expression based on subjective interpretations of the law.

6. Absentee Ballot Expansion

HB1406 enacts several changes to the state's absentee voting procedures. For in-person absentee ballots cast at the registrar's office, the bill mandates that the absentee ballot application and elector certificates be printed directly on the ballot envelope. It also specifies that signature mismatches cannot be used as grounds to reject these in-person absentee ballots. Additionally, the bill allows individuals who work on-call and those incarcerated for non-disqualifying crimes to vote absentee.

The Mississippi State Senate passed HB1406 on May 3, 2024 by a vote of 33 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this just opens the door for more voter fraud. This legislation compromises the integrity of our elections, opening the door to fraudulent behavior, which drives people to lose faith in our elections. Measures such as absentee voting must be opposed.