

# Lawmakers approve funding for hospitals, landlords, farmers

**Associated Press**  
Hospitals, veterans’ centers, farmers and landlords in Mississippi would receive money to respond to the coronavirus pandemic under bills passed by state lawmakers Thursday night.

Members of the Mississippi House and Senate returned to the Capitol on Thursday to reallocate some of the COVID-19 relief money the state

received from the federal government.

Like many other states, Mississippi received \$1.25 billion from Congress to respond to the pandemic.

Mississippi lawmakers initially put \$300 million into a program to aid small businesses. Officials have said the state received fewer requests than expected for the business aid.

Some business owners have said the state has been slow in responding to their applications.

One of the bills passed Thursday would set aside \$13 million for agriculture operations, including poultry farms that have lost at least one flock during the pandemic.

Separate bills would make \$10 million available to hospitals for improvements to

## Hyde-Smith cosponsors Senate-passed resolution defending constitutionality of Pledge of Allegiance

**Press Release**  
The U.S. Senate on September 25 approved a resolution cosponsored by U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) that defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance and the principles of religious freedom on which it is based.

Introduced by Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.), S.Res.715 notes that Congress added the words “Under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 and withstood Supreme Court challenges to allow recitation of the pledge in schools and other public settings.

“The Pledge of Allegiance was founded on ideals of religious freedom, and has been a valuable part of our national life for generations,” Hyde-Smith said. “I’m pleased the Senate has unanimously reaffirmed our dedication to defending the Pledge.”

Senators Tom Tillis (R-N.C.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-La.), Todd Young (R-Ind.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Kelly Loeffler (R-Ga.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), James Risch (R-Ind.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), David Perdue (R-Ga.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), and Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) also cosponsored the resolution.

The following is the text of the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.**  
*Whereas the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom by the Founders, many of whom were deeply religious;*  
*Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion both through the free exercise thereof and by prohib-*

*iting the Government from establishing a religion;*  
*Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist Minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of the Youth’s Companion;*  
*Whereas, in 1954, Congress added the words “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance;*  
*Whereas, for over 60 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States flag, to the country having been established as a union “under God”, and to the country being dedicated to securing “liberty and justice for all”;*  
*Whereas, in 1954, Congress believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;*  
*Whereas the Senate of the 116th Congress believes that the Pledge of Allegiance is a constitutional expression of patriotism;*  
*Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on United States legal tender, and engravings on Federal buildings also contain general references to “God”;*  
*Whereas the Supreme Court overturned Newdow v. United States Congress, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003), a case in which the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by a student’s public school teacher violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and*  
*Whereas the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit later concluded that its previous opinion in Newdow was no longer binding precedent, that case law from the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had subsequently changed, and that Congress, when passing the new version of the Pledge of Alle-*

*giance, established a secular purpose for the use of the terms “under God” and, thus, the United States Court*

*of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by public school teachers:*  
*Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That—*  
*(1) the Pledge of Allegiance has been a valuable part of life for the people of the United States for generations; and*  
*(2) the Senate strongly defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance.*

intensive care units and \$10 million to the state Veterans Affairs Board. Republican Sen. Dennis DeBar of Leakeville said nurses from veterans’ homes have left for better pay at other places.

Legislators also passed \$20 million to help residential or commercial landlords with lost rental income. The program would only be available to those who have not evicted people who were unable to pay rent between March 1 and Dec. 30.

“You can’t be participating in the program and evict somebody,” said House Speaker Pro Tempore Jason White, a Republican from West.

Landlords would be able to seek a maximum grant of \$30,000, which would be exempt from income tax. Only 25% of the total \$20 million package can go to commercial landlords, while the rest must go to residential, according to lawmakers.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves banned evictions in Mississippi early in the pandemic, but that prohibition expired at the start of June. The Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention issued an order Sept. 1 banning evictions of people who lost work because of the pandemic, but advocacy groups have expressed concern that evictions are still happening.

During the debate of the legislation, Democratic Rep. John Hines of Greenville asked if the program could help renters. He asked: “Can that particular individual who has been evicted, if they have proof, can they apply for some of that rental assistance?”

White said the bill does not address evicted tenants.

“That’s a different legal issue,” White said.

Mississippi legislators usually finish their annual session by March or April, but the pandemic upended those plans this year. Legislators took an extended break starting mid-March, soon after the virus was first detected in the state. They rearranged their work deadlines and returned for several days in May and June and one day in August. Going into Thursday, they had two work days remaining before the session expires.

# Monies allocated to school district, rail line

**Staff Report**  
United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) has announced the recent allocation of monies to recipients for fiscal year 2020:

- U.S. Department of Education Revised Final Fiscal Year 2020 Title 1 Allocations to the following: Holmes County Consolidated School District, \$2,910,275.
- U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded \$6,221,020 under FY 20 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Program to Grenada Railroad, LLC (which runs through eastern Holmes County).

The project includes upgrades and repairs from Grenada to Canton, Mississippi.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

- 1) Laughing matter?  
4) Moving quickly  
9) Fence alternative  
14) Kimono waist-cincher  
15) Western flick  
16) Symptoms of 46-Down  
17) Losing line in tic-tac-toe  
18) Features of many apartments  
20) Piccolo alternatives  
22) Whole bunch  
23) \_\_\_ out (gives substance to)  
26) Responsibilities or burdens  
30) They last a long time  
32) Ancient Rome's \_\_\_ Way  
34) When the Supreme Court reconvenes (Abbr.)  
36) Waiters carry them  
38) Tourist city of India  
39) They were cast for Jesus' clothes  
41) Relating to the forearm bone
- 43) Fancy pillowcase  
44) Asian nurse  
45) Native American symbol  
47) Beat-heat link  
48) Malign  
51) Energetic one  
53) Dry, red wine  
55) Survivors  
58) Regatta implements  
60) Assign  
61) Off-road vehicle  
67) Bucket conveyor's load  
68) "Jurassic Park" bug trapper  
69) It follows "Rice" in the supermarket  
70) Clandestine government org.  
71) Black-and-white cookies  
72) Unit of magnetic flux  
73) Youngster

## DOWN

- 1) Throw a fit  
2) Bubbling and steaming  
3) Reaching an above-average height  
4) Person of impressive skill  
5) Rocket's deviation  
6) "How was \_\_\_ know?"  
7) Bird beaks  
8) Painter El \_\_\_  
9) Strapped (for cash)  
10) Megalomaniacal feature  
11) Half a quartet  
12) Its setting is a setting  
13) Scrollwork shape, sometimes  
19) Author of "Two Years Behind the Mast"  
21) Psychic's skill  
24) Beige hue  
25) "Thou \_\_\_ not ..."  
27) Places to tone bodies  
28) Prime-time's start, on the coasts  
29) Legendary jazz vocalist Vaughan  
31) Religious group  
33) Newborn's acquisition  
34) King Harald's father  
35) Word with "strip" or "book"  
37) Lascivious man  
40) Actor LaBeouf  
42) Descartes or Magritte  
46) Tropical trouble  
49) Turns a smile upside-down  
50) Informal assent  
52) Wire measure, for short  
54) Care for a wound  
56) Shinto shrine gateway  
57) Stand in good \_\_\_  
59) Moistureless, as a desert  
61) To and \_\_\_  
62) Bard's "above"  
63) Not leave on the shelf  
64) Brazilian port, for short  
65) California's \_\_\_ Altos  
66) Blow-up, briefly

## WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?

By Armee Duquo

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