



July 1, 2025

New legislation relevant to MDOC takes effect

JACKSON – Among many new laws taking effect today, two will provide opportunities for inmate rehabilitation through work programs created within the Mississippi Department of Corrections and with a sister state agency.

Among bills passed during the 2025 legislative regular and special sessions, Senate Bill 2242 authorizes the MDOC to establish an inmate work program where eligible inmates may perform services for the Mississippi Department of Transportation. Senate Bill 2357 establishes an inmate work release program for women incarcerated at the Delta Correctional Facility.

Another bill requires immediate notification of an escape to fellow law enforcement agencies including the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and local authorities. If an escape occurs at a local jail or regional prison, the sheriff shall make notification. Under Senate Bill 2360, if the escape occurs at a state prison facility, the MDOC shall make notification. Local law enforcement is defined as the sheriff and police chiefs of the county where an escape occurred and the county where the original crime occurred.

Under Senate Bill 2704, the Mississippi Department of Health shall now be required to perform annual inspections of the infirmary at the Mississippi State Penitentiary.

The MDOC's funding is in Senate Bill 2026 and appropriations through House Bill 46 to address deficits.

More details of laws noted here and additional legislation can be found on the MDOC website at <https://www.mdoc.ms.gov/general-public/related-legislation>.