

House Bill 1197 – Regulates Solicitation

- Requires any person wishing to solicit money, goods, or services on a public roadway to obtain a permit from local law enforcement
- Allows Capital Police to issue permits and enforce within CCID boundaries
- Does NOT apply to private property (no need for church to obtain permit to hold car wash in church parking lot, etc)
- Governing authority may charge up to \$25 for a permit; they may choose to charge less, but not more
- Person may not impede traffic or otherwise disobey existing traffic laws – even with a permit
- Only 1 permit issued per intersection per day; first come first serve basis
- Permit only valid during daylight hours (no solicitation at night)
- Counties/Municipalities may OPT OUT within 6 months from July 1, 2025 (Section 6)

Bill Status: Signed by Governor; Effective July 1

House Bill 1200 - Prohibits Squatting

Makes clear that squatters have no property rights under MS law; provides clear and streamlined process for removal of squatters; creates crimes for falsification of lease and renting/leasing property without owner's consent (impersonating landlord/real estate agent)

Process for removal requires owner or agent to sign affidavit at local law enforcement agency. Law enforcement has 24 hours to serve squatter with citation; squatter has 3 days to challenge citation if he/she believes that she is not a squatter. If challenged, municipal/justice court sets hearing within 7 days. If squatter does not challenge citation, they are subject to removal at that point. Currently, property owners are having to use the eviction process to remove a squatter; the eviction process can take several months and be expensive.

Creates felonies for falsification of a lease and impersonation of realtor/landlord

Bill Status: Signed by the Governor; Effective July 1

House Bill 1203 – Regulates Encampments

- Prohibits camping (homeless encampments) on public property except areas specifically designated by city, county or state for camping.
- Allows law enforcement/municipality to remove encampment after providing 24 hour notice;
- requires law enforcement to provide information concerning shelters, drug rehab, mental health services when possible.

Bill Status: Signed by Governor; Effective July 1