

The CAPITOL VOICE



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BUTLER | SNOW

2012 has been an exciting year for Butler Snow. In January, we welcomed former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and his chief of staff, Paul Hurst, to the firm. Governor Barbour and Paul are tremendous assets to Butler Snow and in particular our Government Relations Group. You can find more information on Governor Barbour and Paul later in this newsletter. Additionally, Rebekah Staples has joined the firm as a Government Relations Advisor. Prior to joining Butler Snow, Rebekah served as Policy Director for Lt. Governor Tate Reeves during the 2012 Legislative Session and as Policy Advisor for Governor Barbour prior to that. We are very excited about the opportunities these additions bring for our clients.

After four months of legislative work, the Mississippi Legislature adjourned sine die on May 3rd. With nearly 50 new legislators sworn in for the first time in January, in addition to a new Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House, the first few weeks of the session were spent getting settled and adjusting to new leadership and new roles and responsibilities for members. However, it didn't take long for action to pick up and both the House and Senate were quick to implement plans to pass legislation that had failed in past years. On the following page, we have highlighted some of the legislation coming out of this session.

Our Government Relations Group had many successes this session for our clients working on issues ranging from education and economic development to insurance and regulatory matters. This summer and fall legislators will already be planning for the next year's session, and the Government Relations Group stands ready to assist your business with legislative or regulatory needs. We hope that as you think about your strategic plans and goals for the future you will include the Butler Snow Government Relations Group as a resource for both you and your clients.



Sincerely,

Tommie Cardin

Tommie S. Cardin
Government Relations Practice Group Leader

Meet the Group

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*Sidney P. Allen, Jr., Caroline W. Sims, Rebekah K. Staples, and Charles V. Williams are non-attorney government affairs advisors.



2012 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inventory Tax Credit (SB 2934)** – This legislation has been a topic of discussion in the legislature for years, and although the inventory tax was not completely eliminated, legislation dealing with an inventory tax credit finally came to fruition this year. The legislation increases the amount of tax credit a company can receive for the local tax it pays on inventory.
- **Mississippi Small Business Investment Company Act (SB 2659)** – Legislation was passed to ensure the Mississippi Small Business Investment Company Act could be properly utilized in the years to come. The changes that were passed this session will allow \$50 million in insurance premium tax credits to be sold in order to invest that \$50 million, plus \$50 million in matching funds, in qualified small businesses in the state. The total impact over a five-year period could be \$100 million in new investment in our state's small businesses.
- **Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Act (HB 1537)** – This legislation will provide incentives for qualified businesses to locate within a five-mile radius of designated medical zones. In order to qualify, these businesses must make an investment of \$10 million and/or create a minimum of 25 new full-time jobs.
- **Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act (SB 2398)** – The act is designed to identify and address government policies and regulations that hinder job creators. The legislation creates a committee of former and current small business owners and officers who will review proposed and existing regulations in the state to determine if those regulations are harmful to Mississippi small businesses.
- **Workers Compensation (SB 2576)** – Legislation was approved making updates to the state's Workers' Compensation system. The new provisions will require that employees meet a higher burden of proof that their injuries were work-related and will also allow employers to order drug and alcohol testing for injured workers when there is reasonable suspicion of substance abuse at the time of their accident.
- **Sunshine Act (HB 211)** – The Sunshine Act gives elected officials and state agency heads an option to hire outside counsel when they disagree with the Attorney General on legal issues. The legislation also requires the disclosure of attorney retention contracts and includes protections that ensure attorneys' fees paid for representing the state in major litigation are both transparent and appropriate.
- **Redistricting (JR 1 and JR 201)** – New Senate and House district maps were drawn and approved by both chambers. The 122 House districts and 52 Senate districts have to be updated after each Census to account for population changes. The redistricting plans are now pending U.S. Department of Justice review and approval.
- **Voter ID Law (HB 921)** – In the 2011 general election, a constitutional amendment requiring photo voter identification at the polls was approved by voters. In response to the approval of the constitutional amendment, legislators presented the Voter ID Law which requires that persons appearing to vote must present valid ID.
- **Dual Enrollment Bill (SB 2792)** – This bill provides avenues for students to receive workforce training skills at community and junior colleges while still in high school. The goal of this legislation is to reduce high school dropouts.

In The News



RECEPTION AT BUTLER SNOW HONORING LAWYER LEGISLATORS

(L to R) Rep. Greg Snowden, Sen. Sally Doty,
Sidney Allen, and Sen. Michael Watson

CONGRESSMAN MARSHA BLACKBURN OFFICE VISIT

(L to R) Stephanie Taylor, U.S. Representative
Marsha Blackburn, Sidney Allen, Ryan Beckett,
Rick Dye, and Michael Russ



CONSERVATIVE COALITION ANNUAL BANQUET

(L to R) John Baas, Rep. Mark Formby,
and Charlie Williams



CONGRESSMAN GREGG HARPER OFFICE VISIT

(L to R) Forrest Berry, Devere McLennan,
U.S. Representative Gregg Harper, Caroline Sims,
and Sidney Allen

In The News (continued)



MISSISSIPPI DEFENSE INITIATIVE RECEPTION
(L to R) U.S. Representative Steven Palazzo and
Charlie Williams

MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS
LEAGUE DAY AT THE CAPITOL
(L to R) Tina Lakey, Senator Tony
Smith, Senator John Polk,
Sidney Allen, and Jan Collins



NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
STANDARDS CAPITOL DAY BREAKFAST
(L to R) Rep. Bobby Howell, Charlie Williams, and
Sen. Hillman Frazier

Former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour Joins Butler Snow



Charlie Williams



Haley Barbour



Paul Hurst



Mark Garriga



John Henegan

In January, Butler Snow welcomed Former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour to the firm. Governor Barbour will provide leadership to the firm in the areas of economic development, government relations, strategic planning, and business development.

Barbour became just the second Republican governor elected in Mississippi since Reconstruction, and served as governor from 2004–2012. During his tenure, Barbour and his team realigned economic development and created thousands of higher paying jobs, enacted comprehensive tort reform, reorganized job training efforts, and led the state through the worst natural disaster in American history.

Barbour also previously served as the chairman of both the Republican National Committee and the Republican Governors Association and as the White House political director for President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s.

“I am excited about this next chapter in my career and very pleased that I will be working with Butler Snow, a firm with strong Mississippi roots and one with a progressive regional and national platform. I also look forward to working with the new leadership in the state to continue to focus on issues important to our people and our businesses,” stated Governor Barbour.

In addition to Governor Barbour, Butler Snow is proud to have four former chiefs of staff to Mississippi Governors working at the firm. Paul Hurst, former chief of staff to Governor Barbour, is the most recent addition to the firm and joins Charlie Williams, former chief of staff to Governor Barbour; Mark Garriga, former chief of staff to Governor Kirk Fordice; and John Henegan, former chief of staff to Governor William Winter.



Upcoming Conferences

Look for members of the Butler Snow Government Relations Group at these upcoming conferences:

- National Governors Association Summer Meeting – July 13-15, Williamsburg, VA
- American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting – July 25-28, Salt Lake City, UT
- Southern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting – July 28-August 1, Charleston, WV
- Republican National Convention – August 27-31, Tampa, FL
- Republican Governors Association Annual Meeting – November 12-16, Las Vegas, NV
- ALEC States & Nation Policy Conference – November 28-30, Washington, D.C.
- Council of State Governments National Conference – November 30-December 3, Austin, TX

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NEW ORLEANS, LA | BAY ST. LOUIS, MS | GREATER JACKSON, MS
GULFPORT, MS | OXFORD, MS | BETHLEHEM, PA
FORT WASHINGTON, PA | MEMPHIS, TN | NASHVILLE, TN

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FREE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.