

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the counties of Amite, Carroll, Clarke, Greene, Hinds, Humphreys, Itawamba, Jasper, Jones, Lauderdale, Leake, Lincoln, Newton, Pike, Smith, Wayne and other parts of the State of Mississippi have been and continue to be affected by structurally deficient bridge conditions that create extreme peril to the safety of persons and property and thus state assistance will be necessary to support local government response efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Mississippi Office of State Aid Road Construction developed an Action Plan in March of 2017 to ensure that unsafe bridges were closed in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards; and

WHEREAS, during the week of March 19, 2018, the Federal Highway Administration verified that many unsafe bridges previously identified for closure were not closed by the local authorities; and

WHEREAS, in an April 5, 2018 letter the United States Department of Transportation informed the Governor's Office of the Federal Highway Administration's findings and the potential consequences for the State of Mississippi if these bridges remain open; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the health and safety of the traveling public within the affected areas, and in the public interest, the bridges that are out of compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and are recommended for closure by the Mississippi Office of State Aid Road Construction's regularly updated closing list (herein after referred to as the "closing list") shall be closed immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Mississippi Constitution, Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), all other applicable laws of the state and in the public interest and for the general welfare, do hereby proclaim a State of Emergency exists for the limited purpose of closing the bridges identified on the closing list. The provisions of this proclamation shall exist and remain in effect until such time as this threat to public health and safety shall cease to exist as prescribed in Section 33-15-11(b)(17).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Mississippi Department of Transportation, with assistance from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, shall take all necessary measures to close the bridges on the closing list and provide closing verification to the Federal Highway Administration. These bridges shall remain closed until they are in compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations and standards.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 10th day of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

**PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR**

BY THE GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr.".

**C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE**