STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1475

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Mississippi and as of April 19, 2020 there are 4,274 presumptive and confirmed cases in Mississippi of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for responding to COVID-19 recommends avoiding crowds as much as possible, especially for older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions and Mississippi State Department of Health has recommended avoiding social gatherings where 10 people or more may come into close contact; and

WHEREAS, limiting social interaction between members of the public who may be in a position to transmit COVID-19 to other individuals, including vulnerable populations of older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions is necessary to slow the transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, in order to minimize the risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19 and related measures, I issued Executive Order No. 1458 directing various governmental entities to review and identify which employees perform essential duties to carry out the entity's core functions during the State of Emergency and those employees whose duties may not be essential during the State of Emergency, and, where feasible, for the entity to determine if core functions and duties could be performed by essential employees from home in order to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between employees; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, in order to further minimize the risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19 and related measures, I issued Executive Order No. 1466 instituting a statewide Shelter in Place effective at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020, and remaining in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, unless rescinded, modified or extended; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1473 extending the statewide Shelter in Place, with certain additional exceptions, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020, unless rescinded, modified or extended; and

WHEREAS, various government entities, including the Mississippi Public Service Commission, in compliance with my Executive Orders, have temporarily reduced their operations and will be unable to meet certain statutory obligations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. In order to cope with and respond to the COVID-19 emergency, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c)(1), the provision of Miss. Code Ann. § 77-2-7(1) requiring the Mississippi Public Service Commission to submit to the Governor the name of not less than three (3) and not more than six (6) qualified candidates for the position of executive director of the public utility staff is hereby suspended, and such submissions shall be provided by the Mississippi Public Service Commission to the Governor on or before June 1, 2020.

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 20 day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE