# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## *Office of the Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1501**

**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 impacts the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, due to the State of Emergency as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19, I issued Executive Order 1458 providing to state agencies, boards, commissions and other state entities authority to grant certain employees administrative leave with pay to prevent the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 within the workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, following the passage of Mississippi House Bill 1647, I issued Executive Order 1460 providing to the board of supervisors of any county, the governing authority of any municipality and the local school board of any public school district authority to grant certain employees administrative leave with pay to prevent the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 within the workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, in order to 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; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the guidance provided by the White House for beginning the process of reopening the economy while minimizing the risk of a resurgence of COVID-19, as of April 24, 2020, the incidences of infection in Mississippi had stabilized; there was decreased utilization of hospital resources; a robust testing system was in place capable of promptly detecting any increase in the rate of infection; the healthcare system was capable of treating persons with the COVID-19 and had the capacity to promptly react to any increase in incidences; and the State had in place a plan to rapidly scale up healthcare capacity in the event of an increase in the rate of infection, accordingly, I issued Executive Order 1477 establishing the statewide Safer at Home order allowing certain businesses to open and operate under certain conditions, until 8:00 a.m. on May 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 14, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1484 directing all state agencies, boards, commissions, counties, municipalities, public school districts and other state and local entities to begin the process of returning all employees back to work; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 28, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1492 establishing the statewide Safe Return order to restart the economy, open all businesses and non-profits operating within the State of Mississippi, and permit the resumption of community activities subject to limitations to minimize person to person interactions and associated risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 10, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1495 requiring state agencies to resume normal business operation by no later than July 1, 2020, and that the board of supervisors of any county, the governing authority of any municipality and the local school board of any public school district also resume normal business operation by no later than July 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 31-7-101 and 31-7-107, county purchase clerks, county receiving clerks and county inventory clerks shall within one year of their date of appointment receive certification from the Office of the State Auditor ("OSA") of successful completion of the professional education program offered pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 19-3-77; and

**WHEREAS,** the most recent class of county clerks was appointed in January 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic, the operations of the OSA, including the schedule for instructional training, have been limited resulting in the postponement of the required training classes for county clerks; and

**WHEREAS,** the OSA has advised the Office of the Governor that it will be unable to provide the required instructional training to county clerks within the one-year statutory period; and

**WHEREAS**, the services rendered by county clerks are essential to the function and operation of government.

**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, and in consultation with the Office of the State Auditor, do hereby order and direct as follows:

In order to cope with and respond to the COVID-19 emergency and pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c)(1), the statutory requirement of Miss. Code Ann. §§ 31-7-101 and 31-7-107 for county purchase clerks, county receiving clerks and county inventory clerks to receive certification from the Office of the State Auditor of attending the professional education program offered pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 19-3-77 within one year of their date of appointment is hereby suspended. County purchasing clerks, county receiving clerks and county inventory clerks appointed in January 2020 shall receive the statutorily-required certification from the Office of the State Auditor of attending the professional education program offered pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 19-3-77 on or before April 2, 2021.

IN TESTIMONY 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 26th day of June, 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