

MISSISSIPPI HOME INSPECTION DIVISION

# MISSISSIPPI HOME INSPECTORS

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## ***HOUSE BILL NO. 352 (FINGERPRINT CHECK)***

On March 17, 2021, Governor Reeves signed HB 352 into law. This Bill creates a new section (73-60-47), of the Mississippi Code to require applicants for licensure as a Home Inspector, as well as license renewals, to undergo certain background checks; and also amends sections 73-60-11 and 73-60-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, to conform to this change and for related purposes.

Consequently, as of July 1, 2021, all applicants for a Mississippi home inspector license, and all applicants for renewal of any home inspector license, shall undergo a fingerprint-based criminal history records check of the Mississippi central

criminal database and the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history database. The MS Home Inspection Division (MHID) will supply each licensee a fingerprint card and a Background Authorization Form, to be included with the license renewal packet. There will be a fee of \$50.00. This process will start with current home inspectors renewing in July of 2021 and going forward.

This process, and its fee, will occur with every license renewal. However, once a fingerprint card has been submitted and accepted by MHID, a new fingerprint card will not be needed.

You may take your fingerprint card, provided by the MHID, to your local law enforcement agency to be fingerprinted and then return it to the MHID with your authorization form and fee. Fingerprints can also be done electronically at our office by appointment during prescribed times.



To read House Bill No. 352 in full you may refer to the link on our website at [www.mrec.ms.us](http://www.mrec.ms.us) and clicking on MHIB.



### DID YOU KNOW?

- LICENSE RENEWALS ARE MAILED (60) SIXTY DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR EXPIRATION DATE.
- IF YOU HAVE LOST OR MISPLACED YOUR POCKET CARD, YOU MAY REQUEST A NEW ONE AT NO CHARGE.
- HOME INSPECTOR ROSTERS ARE UPDATED ON A REGULAR BASIS ON THE MHID WEBSITE.

### REMINDERS:

- SUBMIT YOUR HOME INSPECTOR'S UPDATED CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE UPON THE RENEWAL OF THE POLICY TO HOLLY HOOD AT [HHOOD@MREC.STATE.MS.US](mailto:HHOOD@MREC.STATE.MS.US)
- IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED, PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE MHID! YOU MAY EMAIL HOLLY WITH YOUR UPDATE!
- CE CERTIFICATES CAN BE EMAILED AS EARNED TO HOLLY AT [HHOOD@MREC.STATE.MS.US](mailto:HHOOD@MREC.STATE.MS.US)

## FROM THE DESK OF STEVEN J. MILLER, SENIOR ATTORNEY

### Inspectors are reminded of Ethics rules 1 & 3

Inspectors shall avoid conflicts of interest or activities that compromise, or appear to compromise, professional independence, objectivity, or inspection integrity. This would include doing inspections of homes where the inspector's spouse is a

real estate agent involved in the transaction. This would extend to situations where the spouse agent is on a "team" and thereby is receiving a share in the commission compensation.

**3. Inspectors shall avoid activities that may harm the public, discredit themselves, or reduce**

**public confidence in the profession.** A. Advertising, marketing, and promotion of inspectors' services or qualifications shall not be fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading.

The MHID does not recognize the many "certifications" that are being touted on inspector websites. Use caution here.