

March 18, 2016

# WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2016 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Mississippi Association of Supervisors

## Week in Review

The eleventh week of the 2016 Session has passed. The deadline for original floor action on appropriations and revenue bills originating in own house has passed. Deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house is Tuesday, March 22.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINE NEXT WEEK FOR EDUCATIONAL/PAY SUPPLEMENT LEGISLATION

Next week's March 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline will be the final opportunity to pass the Supervisor's Educational Pay Supplement (**SB 2170**) out of its respective House committees for an opportunity for a House floor vote. SB2170 passed out of the House County Affairs Committee this week and now must pass out of the **House Revenue, Expenditure, & General Bill Committee**. If SB2170 does not pass out of this committee by March 22, SB2170 will die, leaving no other opportunity for the 2016 Legislative Session to pass this law.



**NOTE:** Please continue to call your House members and ask them to visit with Revenue, Expenditure, & General Bill Committee Chairman Mark Formby, and respectfully request that he take up SB2170 for a committee vote, to give the bill a fair shot at a House floor vote.

## EXCAVATION LEGISLATION MOVING THROUGH LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Currently, two legislative measures (**Senate Bill 2755 & House Bill 1215**) addressing excavation (MS One Call 811) are moving swiftly through the legislative process. MAS's staff has testified in both the Senate and House chamber regarding the counties' concerns about underground utilities in the counties' right-of-way. Currently, both bills provide an exemption up to 12 inches for government entities that excavate. Also, as it relates to damage prevention, both bills provide enforcement regulations for damaging cable lines and fiber optics. This gives us serious concerns, because most of the damages done on the part of a county are due to most cable and fiber optic lines not being buried deep enough, if at all. MAS was informed prior to the session that "pipeline utilities" would be the only underground entity covered, but this law may include more.

Please contact your local legislative delegation and voice your concerns about how not regulating the depth of cable and fiber lines could be costly to your county as it relates to fines from unintentionally damaging that particular underground utility.

## SENATE KEEPS BILL ALIVE FOR POTENTIAL LONG- TERM TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

**Senate Bill 2921** contains code sections for bonds and various fee/tax-generating mechanisms. This measure passed the Senate chamber Wednesday and will now head to the House chamber for consideration. This bill is being touted as the potential legislative vehicle for long-term transportation funding.

## LOCAL SYSTEM BRIDGE PROGRAM: SUPPORT HB 878 AND SB 2469

**The current Local System Bridge Program (LSBP) expires June 2016.** MAS has been informed by the Office of State Aid that one of these two bills (**SB 2469** or **HB 878**) will be used as a vehicle to extend the life of the LSBP.

Please contact your local legislative delegation and request that they extend the life of the LSBP and fund it at \$40 million.

**House and Senate reconvene Monday, March 21, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.**

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