

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2016 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Mississippi Association of Supervisors

Week in Review

With the end of Week 14, the deadline for original floor action on appropriations and revenue bills originating in other house has passed. Deadline to concur or not concur on amendments from other house to constitutional amendments and general bills is Thursday, April 14.

APPROACHING FINAL WEEKS

As the 2016 Regular Session winds down, the next few weeks will be filled with members concurring on bills from opposite chambers, or declining concurrence and inviting conference, where the final details of the bills will be worked out with a committee comprised of three members each from House and Senate. The chairman of the committee serves as one conferee, and chooses the other two members.

HOUSE GUTS SENATE'S "TAXPAYER PAY RAISE" BILL!

On Tuesday, April 5, the Mississippi House debated Senate Bill 2858, the "Taxpayer Pay Raise Act," which is the Senate's proposal to cut \$575 Million in individual and corporate income taxes over the next 15 years. However, the House approved a version that removes all the proposed tax cuts except the lowest bracket of the state income tax. The House leadership's plan is to keep several tax plans alive, and by amending SB2858, the Senate would be pressured to send the bill to conference for further negotiations. In addition to stripping SB 2858, the House also amended the measure to prohibit any tax cuts to take effect until a Mississippi state lottery is established. The House performed a similar amendment to SB 2541 to establish a state lottery, designating the proceeds would go towards infrastructure funding and education. Efforts to amend SB 2858 to raise taxes and cut state tax exemptions to fund state roads and bridges failed.

SAVE THE LOCAL SYSTEMS BRIDGE PROGRAM

The LSBP Program expires this June 2016. MAS has been informed by the Office of State Aid that one of the two bills (**SB2469 & HB878**) will be used as a vehicle to extend the life of the LSBP Program. Both bills now go to conference for further negotiation. **Contact your local legislative delegation and request that they extend the life of the LSBP and fund it at \$40 Million.**

SHORT TERM INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

If the LSBP is extended, funding the program will be the next objective. With state tax revenues consistently falling short of revenue projections, and across-the-board cuts being made to state agencies, there is a strong chance that funding the LSBP through an appropriation may be a significant challenge. If this becomes the case, please begin talking to your local legislative delegation about funding the LSBP through one of the legislative omnibus bond packages. Currently, there is "NO" money in either bond package for the LSBP. Request \$40 million for LSBP. Below are the bill numbers to both bond packages that are still alive. NOTE: Both bond packages are headed to conference for further conferencing.

House Omnibus Bond Package: HB 1729 Senate Omnibus Bond Package: SB 2857

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT: SB 2885

When Senate Bill 2885 was originally introduced, the homestead exemption reimbursement was funded at \$78 Million from the Senate chamber. The House Appropriations Committee performed a committee strike all action and increased the funding to \$84 Million. The \$84 Million would be level funding from the 2015 Regular Session. Full funding for the 2016 Regular Session would be \$87.5 Million. *Note: SB2885 now heads to conference for further conferencing.*

Please contact your local legislative delegation and request full funding for the homestead exemption reimbursement.

**House and Senate reconvene Monday,
April 11 at 4:00 p.m.**

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