

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2016 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Mississippi Association of Supervisors

Week in Review

Week 15 of the 2016 session has passed, along with the deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from other house to general bills and constitutional amendments. The deadline for conference reports on appropriations and revenue bills to be filed is Saturday, April 16, 2016 .

BUDGET OUTLOOK BLEAK AS 2016 SESSION ENTERS ITS FINAL DAYS

From the estimate lawmakers used to set the current year's budget, state revenue is down nearly \$80 million. Governor Bryant has already been forced to make mid-year cuts of \$40 million and dip into the rainy day fund for more than \$35 million. Year-to-date, not counting lawsuit settlements, state revenue is slightly below last year's collections. Some lawmakers believe the shortfall is due to the pace of a recovering economy throughout the nation, while others believe the shortfall is due to the tax cuts issued out over the past four years.

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 LSB Program. Both bills now go to conference for further negotiation.

Conferees assigned to **HB878** are: **House:** Herb Frierson, Mac Huddleston, John Read; **Senate:** Eugene Clarke, Briggs Hopson, Brice Wiggins.

Conferees assigned to SB2469 are: **House:** Herb Frierson, Mac Huddleston, John Read; **Senate:** Eugene Clarke, Gray Tollison, Terry Burton.

If any of the above conferees represent your area, please contact them as soon as possible and request that they extend the life of the LSBP.

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 negotiation.**

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

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT: SB 2885

When SB 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, which is level funding from 2015 Full funding for the 2016 Regular Session would be \$87.5 Million. *Note: SB2885 now heads to conference for further negotiation. Please contact your local legislative delegation and request full funding for the homestead exemption reimbursement.*

Conferees assigned to **SB2885** are: **House:** Herb Frierson, Mac Huddleston, Greg Snowden; **Senate:** Eugene Clarke, John Horhn, Sean Tindell

If any of the above conferees represent your area, please contact them as soon as possible and request that they fully fund Homestead Exemption Reimbursement.

Because this weekend is "Conference Weekend," the House & Senate will convene at 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

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