

THE 2019 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Deadline for making requests for general and constitutional amendments to be filed has past. The deadline for introduction of general bills and constitutional amendments is Monday, January 21st.

RURAL BROADBAND LEGISLATION PASSES MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE WITH STRONG BI-PARTISAN VOTE HOUSE BILL 366

On Tuesday January 15th, the Mississippi House of Representatives passed legislation that would expand broadband access to rural Mississippians in House Bill 366, also known as the Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act, authored by House Speaker Philip Gunn. This measure overwhelmingly passed the House with a vote of 115 to 3. This bill would allow electric cooperatives in the State of Mississippi to offer high-speed internet service to its customers. As it stands now, a 1942 Mississippi law bans the nonprofit, member-owned power cooperatives from providing anything but electricity. Cooperatives in other states have successfully entered into the internet business, including our neighboring states. If this legislation passes into law, Mississippi cooperatives could apply for some of the \$600 million in grants and loans recently offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve rural broadband.

NOTE: House Bill 366 does not mandate electric cooperatives to provide high speed internet, it just gives them the discretion to offer it as a service. This bill now resides in the Senate Chamber.

EMERGENCY ROAD & BRIDGE REPAIR FUND

House Bill 779: This measure revises how the Emergency Road & Bridge Repair Fund monies may be spent, while also allowing the boards of supervisors to expend Emergency Road & Bridge Repair Fund monies during the last term of office.

NOTE: This measure is assigned to the House Transportation Committee. The deadline to pass this bill out of committee is February 5th.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT COLLECTION

Senate Bill 2058 & House Bill 180: Both measures authorize counties and municipalities to collect certain debts by setoff against the debtor's state income tax refund.

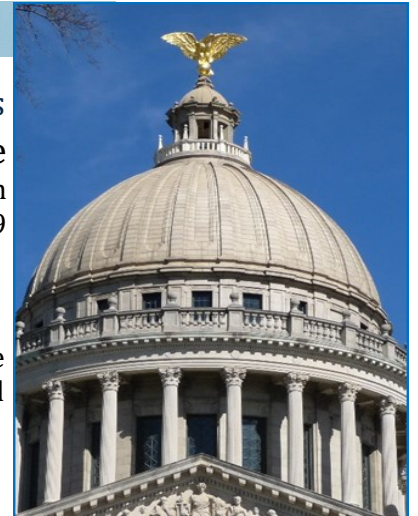
NOTE: Senate Bill 2058 is assigned to the Senate Finance Committee and House Bill 180 is assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee. The deadline to pass these bills out of committee is February 5th.

DISCRETION TO REJECT STATE HIGHWAYS AS A PART OF THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

House Bill 156: This measure clarifies the county's jurisdiction over roads originally constructed as a state highway.

NOTE: This measure gives the county board of supervisors the ability to accept or reject state highways as a part of their county road system.

This measure is assigned to County Affairs & Transportation.



The House and Senate will reconvene Monday, January 21 at 4:00 p.m.

REGIONAL CAPITOL VISITS

The First of Ten County Capitol visits begins with Central Planning and Development District on Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

East Central Planning and Development District will be meeting the following day on Wednesday, January 30, 2019.

Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the first floor of the Capitol at 9:00am to receive talking points.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2019 NACo Legislative Conference will be at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. March 2rd – 6th.

HELPFUL TECHNOLOGY

Download the MAS Directory iPhone app by searching "mas supervisor Directory" in the App Store.

Download the Mississippi Legislature Roster to your iPhone by visiting the App Store and searching "Mississippi Legislature" provided by Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi.

ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS

MISSISSIPPI