

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS
Weekly Legislative Update

2017 Regular Legislative Session

January 27, 2017



Public School Funding Reform Proposed Numbers Disclosed

On Thursday, lawmakers revealed actual numbers on how the proposed public school funding reform would send more revenue to 80 percent of the public-school districts, while 20 percent would **lose** revenue. No calculations are written in stone, but it was revealed the overall funding would rise by \$195 million. The consulting firm EdBuild proposes a \$75 million increase in state funding (*3 percent more than current state formula spending of \$2.3 billion*) **In addition, the proposed increase in local tax contributions would pull in the other \$120 million.**

CALL TO ACTION

Please contact your local legislative delegation and discuss how the possibility of a forced tax increase would impact your county. In addition, please contact your local media and inform them that this possible recommendation could force a significant increase in local property taxes for homeowners, businesses, car tag prices, and landowners.

New Opportunity for Infrastructure funding

House Bill 480: This bill was originally introduced to provide municipalities a portion of revenue collected from certain out-of-state sellers, yet it was amended in committee with a committee substitute, and the new language would allow the state to begin collecting online sales tax from the big online retailer Amazon.com. The state will distribute 70 percent of this new revenue to MDOT, 15 percent to counties, and 15 percent to municipalities.

NOTE: This measure has passed the HOUSE Ways and Means Committee and will now head to the HOUSE Floor for consideration.

MAS Proposal Items

House Bill 1240 & Senate Bill 2836: Both bills increase the minimum acquisition cost of an item or service purchased by a county that does not require a purchase requisition form from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

NOTE: Both the HOUSE and SENATE version of these bills have passed their respective committees and will now head to their respective Floor chamber for consideration.

Senate Bill 2861: This bill was originally drafted and introduced to allow the Public Service Commission to approve an increase to the E-911 service charge to aid counties with E-911 services. This bill was amended in committee with a committee substitute, and now the new language creates a study committee to analyze E-911 funding.

NOTE: This measure has passed the Senate Energy Committee and will now head to the Senate Floor for consideration.

The Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) Weekly Grassroots Initiative

The second and third Regional Capitol visits will be next week. **East Central** will meet on **Tuesday, January 31** and **South Delta** on **Wednesday, February 1**.

Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the first floor of the Capitol at **9 a.m.** to receive handouts (talking points).

WEEK IN REVIEW

The deadline for introduction of general bills and constitutional amendments has passed. The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house is **Tuesday, January 31**

House and Senate will reconvene Monday at 4:00 p.m.

REGIONAL ELECTIONS FOR MAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES

During MAS Regional Capitol Visits, Supervisors will be electing representatives to the MAS Board of Directors, Nominating Committee, and Legislative Committee. These elections will be held promptly following the luncheon at **1:00 p.m.** at MAS office.

Supervisors unable to attend the Capitol Visit may still participate in the election process by conference call. Conference call information is listed below and will be posted on the MAS website.

Dial In Number: (877) 699-4804

Passcode: 601 353 2100 #

REGIONAL CAPITOL VISIT DETAILS

Once you receive your handouts, identify committee meetings you would like to sit in to listen. If there are issues discussed that will impact your county, find your legislator(s) after the meeting and inform them of your concerns.

Remember to go into the gallery to be recognized by either the Senate or House chamber.

After speaking with your legislative delegation, please invite them back to the MAS office for lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. At that time MAS will provide a legislative briefing.