

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS

Weekly Legislative Update

2017 Regular Legislative Session

March 31, 2017

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS LEADS TO INEVITABLE SPECIAL SESSION

On Wednesday, the Mississippi Legislature Sine Died without completing the budget for certain state agencies. The Office of State Aid Road Construction and The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) were among those agencies. Gov. Phil Bryant is expected to call the Legislature back into a special session soon, at least before July 1st, which is the start of the State budget year. A standoff between the House and Senate leaders over funding for roads and bridges and internet sales tax resulted in the death of the MDOT & State Aid budget bills. In addition, a rewrite of the state's school funding formula never materialized. Both chambers continue to work and deliberate on this issue. Governor Bryant said he would also include the new funding formula on the call of a special session if an agreement can be met.

NOTE: Currently there is "NO" bill to address additional funding for the Local System Bridge Program (LSBP).

FINALIZED STATE BUDGET HITS WITH MAJOR CUTS

The \$6.04 billion budget for the fiscal year that begins in July is \$329 million less than the original budget for the current year. As State revenue continued to lag, Governor Bryant has been forced to cut the current year budget four times, totaling \$171 million. In addition, on Tuesday, lawmakers granted Gov. Bryant authority to leverage up to \$50 million more from the state rainy-day fund if necessary, to pay state bills through June.

MAS PROPOSAL ITEM HEADS TO GOVERNOR

Senate Bill 2836: This bill raises the purchasing threshold from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for purchases that would "**NOT**" require a purchase requisition form. Please thank your local legislative delegation for supporting this MAS Proposal Item.

FINAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT REDUCED

Senate Bill 2973 contains the homestead exemption reimbursement in **Section 8** of this bill. This bill finalized its funding for the homestead exemption reimbursement at **\$80,625,992.00**. This is a **\$3,828,649.00** cut from last year's funding level.



THE 2017 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Mississippi Legislature completed its calendar of bills on Wednesday afternoon and ended the 2017 Regular Legislative Session.

2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION: REGISTER NOW

Registration is now open for the MAS 88th Annual Convention, June 12—15 in Biloxi. More information is available on the MAS website: www.mssupervisors.org/88th-annual-convention

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