

# MAS' WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VOLUME 9  
March 4, 2022

## The 2022 Regular Legislative Session

The Ninth week of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session is complete. The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house has passed. The deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house is Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) LEGISLATION**

As many ARPA bills continue to move through the legislative process, please remember to contact your local legislative delegation regarding projects you may have submitted to them for funding. Also, for any general inquiry regarding the status of a particular ARPA measure, please do not hesitate to contact the MAS Office for that information.

*Between now and the end of the Regular Legislative Session, it is important that you call your legislators on the following measures:*

### **Homestead Exemption Reimbursement (Senate Bill 3024)**

**Senate Bill 3024** appropriates from the State general fund to the MS Department of Revenue for the purpose of reimbursing counties, for tax losses incurred by reason of the exemption of homes from certain ad valorem taxes. Section 7 of this measure provides for an appropriation of \$90,600,000.00. Note: This measure currently resides in the House Chamber.

### **Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund (ERBR) (Senate Bill 3167)**

**Senate Bill 3167** makes an appropriation of \$300,000,000.00 from the state capital expense fund for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. **NOTE:** This measure currently resides in the House Chamber.

## **Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Program Advances** **(House Bill 842)**

On Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed out **House Bill 842**. House Bill 842 authorizes **two** additional rounds for counties regarding the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program. **NOTE:** This measure will now head to the Senate Floor for consideration.

## **Cash-In-Lieu Measure Survives Second Major Deadline** **(House Bill 843)**

Last year MAS worked to get a Medicare-in-Lieu bill passed into law that gave counties the opportunity to offer their Medicare eligible employees an opportunity to transition to Medicare and away from the county's health benefits plan. Unfortunately, we found out that the federal government (Medicare regulations) deemed it illegal to treat one group different from another group. **House Bill 843** allows for a "Cash-in-Lieu" instead of Medicare in-lieu and this methodology will allow everyone to participate in Cash-in-Lieu, without federal regulations creating any type of prohibitions. **NOTE:** This measure now resides on the Senate Floor Calendar.

## **Purchasing Threshold Measure** **(Senate Bill 2371)**

**Senate Bill 2371** increases from 50k to 75k for purchases from the lowest and best bidder without publishing or posting advertisement for bids, provided that at least two competitive bids have been obtained. **NOTE:** This measure now presides on the House Floor Calendar.

**House and Senate will reconvene on Monday, March 7 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Join us next Friday, March 11 at 10:30 a.m. for our weekly legislative Zoom call.**

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3852299667>**

Or Call in at: 888.788.0099

Meeting Id Number: 385 229 9667

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