

MAS' WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VOLUME 5

February 3, 2023

The 2023 Regular Legislative Session

The Fifth week of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session is now complete. The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house has passed. The deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house is Thursday, February 9th.

Measure to Halt PERS's Ability to Increase Employers Contribution Rate Resides on House Floor Calendar

(House Bill 605)

House bill 605 current status has the ability to make significant changes to the authoritative status of the Public Employer's Retirement System (PERS) Board of Trustees. If this measure is passed into law in its current stage, the most recent 22% employer contribution recommendation by the PERS Board would be mandated not to take effect unless authorized by the Legislature. In addition, there would be a new section added to the code (25-11-123) that would mandate the PERS Board of Trustees to present its recommendations to the Legislature for making changes to the retirement plan that would improve the funded status of the plan and reduce the necessity for periodic increases in the employer's contribution rate.

NOTE: This measure currently resides on the House Floor Calendar.

Measures Allowing Counties to Spend ARPA Funding in Last 6 Months of the Term Passes Both Chambers

(House Bill 626 and Senate Bill 2734)

Both House Bill 626 and Senate Bill 2734 have passed their respective chambers. House Bill 626 passed the House Floor Chamber by a vote of 107 to 5. Senate Bill 2734 passed the Senate Floor Chamber by a vote of 51 to 0.

NOTE: Both bills will now head to the other chamber for committee consideration. ***Both measures are MAS proposal items.***

Bill Mandating MDOC to Pay Counties More Per Day for Housing State Inmates Resides on Senate Floor Calendar

(Senate Bill 2495)

Senate Bill 2495 introduces an effort to expedite the removal of state inmates from county jails as early as practicable. This measure states that MDOC shall pay the county jails for housing state offenders out of any available funds. The mandate is as follows: \$25.00 per day per offender for days one through thirty, \$30.00 per day per offender for days thirty one through sixty, and \$35.00 per day per offender for days sixty-one or greater.

NOTE: This measure currently resides on the Senate Floor Calendar.

MAS supports public policy that provides more revenue to counties regarding the per diem of housing state inmates.

Measure Giving Counties Discretion to Donate to the Local Main Street Program Amended with Language Creating a New 2023 Supplementary Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Program.

(House Bill 1194)

On Wednesday, February 1st, **House Bill 1194** passed the House Floor Chamber by a vote of 107 to 7. This measure was further amended by a House Floor Amendment that would create in the State treasury “The 2023 Supplementary Rural Fire Truck Fund.” Counties that meet the requirements may receive an amount of not more than \$100k per fire truck for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending July 1, 2024.

NOTE: This measure will now head to the Senate Floor Chamber for committee consideration. ***MAS supports public policy that will provide supplementary funding for rural fire truck funding.***

The Following are Additional Measures Impacting County Government that MAS is Closely Monitoring:

House Bill 850: This measure provides the county board of supervisors authorization to approve or reject ad valorem tax increase for a school district under a conservatorship.

NOTE: This measure passed the House Floor Chamber by a vote of 73 to 39. It will now head to the Senate Chamber for committee consideration.

House Bill 217: This measure removes the requirement that the board of supervisors of any county that has a master water management district within the county implement a tax assessment that is levied by the commissioners of the master water management district.

NOTE: This measure passed the House Floor Chamber by a vote of 110 to 3. It will now head to the Senate Chamber for committee consideration.

House Bill 903: This measure increases the amount of the fine for individuals who our found guilty of violating littering ordinances of counties and municipalities. This measure mandates that the guilty person shall be fined not less than \$750.00 or not more than \$1,000.00.

Note: This measure passed the House Floor Chamber by a vote of 103 to 10. It will now head to the Senate Chamber for committee consideration.

HOUSE & SENATE will reconvene on Monday at 4pm.

Join us next Thursday, February 9 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

Then Enter Meeting Id Number: 385 229 9667

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Save the Dates

National Association of Counties (NACo) 2023 Legislative Conference
February 11th – 14th
Washington DC

MS NACo Conference Reception

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2023

Time: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Location: Washington Hilton Hotel

Room: Cabinet, Concourse Level

MAS 2023 Annual Convention

Date: June 12 - 15

Location: MS Coast Convention Center

More info to come on hotels and registration