



HOUSE BILL 982 PASSES THE SENATE CHAMBER WITH AMENDMENT TO DELAY MANDATE TO COUNTIES AND CITIES

[House Bill 982](#) addresses numerous issues pertaining to the insurance and firefighting community. More specifically, [House Bill 982](#) revisits the code section that establishes the First Responders Health and Safety Act of 2019. This act was a mandate that was passed last year which required counties and cities to provide a defined benefit cancer policy for firefighters and law enforcement officers, due to their occupational hazards. [House Bill 982](#) established a revenue stream to help counties and cities pay for the policies, yet due to the negative financial impact COVID-19 is having on state funding streams and to the revenue streams of local government, the Senate chamber amended [House Bill 982](#) to delay the mandated implementation of the First Responders Health and Safety Act until the year 2022 to give more time to find a funding source to assist counties and cities in funding the mandated cancer policies.

NOTE: This measure will now transfer back to the House for Concurrence or Non-concurrence.

SENATE CHAMBER AMENDS AND PASSES HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE WITH AN EXTENDED LEGISLATIVE SESSION

On Tuesday June 9th, The Senate chamber amended and passed [House Concurrent Resolution \(HCR\) 69](#). The goal of this resolution is to allow the Legislature to operate in an open-ended session in order to address any issues (*possible federal funding*) pertaining to COVID-19. The original resolution would give authority to the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House to call members back as late as December 31st. However, the Senate's amended version requires the members to not be able to meet more than six (6) days over the span of the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. The Senate's language also only allowed for the 2020 session to be extended until midnight of October 10th. **NOTE:** The House concurred on the Senate's amending language to HCR-69, and the resolution will now head to the governor for consideration.

COVID-19 NEGATIVE IMPACT TO THE ECONOMY FORCES STATE CUTS. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT TAKES HIT

Due to the negative impact COVID-19 is having on state revenue collection, all state agencies are receiving a rough across the board 6.5% cut. This cut currently puts the homestead exemption reimbursement ([Senate Bill 2944](#)) at \$75,385,303.00. Last year, the homestead reimbursement was funded at \$80,625,992.00. Compared to last year, this cut represents a \$5,240,689.00 decrease in funding. **NOTE:** [Senate Bill 2944](#) has passed the Senate chamber and now resides in the House chamber. Please continue to contact your local legislative delegation and inform them of the importance of reducing or removing the cut to the homestead exemption reimbursement.

SENATE CHAMBER PASSES GAP FUNDING MEASURE FOR LSBP

On Friday June 12th, the Senate Chamber passed [House Bill 379](#). This bill was amended to provide an additional use tax diversion of the "total" use tax collected at \$1 million a month into the LSBP Program beginning August 15th 2020 until July 15th 2022 to avoid a funding GAP as the 5% LSBP use tax diversion builds up. **NOTE:** This measure will now transfer to the House chamber for Concurrence or Non-concurrence.

The House and Senate will reconvene Monday, June 15 at 4:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

2020 REGULAR

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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, June 17th.

SAVE THE DATE

2020 Annual Convention

The 2020 Annual Convention will be at the MS Coast Coliseum & Convention Center August 10-12, 2020.

HELPFUL TECHNOLOGY

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