



SENATE CHAMBER PASSES MEASURE TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY EMERGENCY RELIEF

PROGRAM (*SENATE BILL 3047*)

On Tuesday, June 23rd, the Senate Chamber passed [Senate Bill 3047](#) by a [vote](#) of 51 to 0. In general, this measure creates a reimbursement grant program that will be administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). This reimbursement program is framed around the U.S. Treasury Guidelines that were created due to the Coronavirus Relief Fund that was established within the CARES Act. [Senate Bill 3047](#) establishes eligibility requirements, reporting requirements, accountability measures, and other important guidelines that counties and municipalities will have to follow in order to utilize the program.

NOTE: This bill only creates a method to administer a reimbursement grant program. There is “NO” actual dollar amount in this bill. The money that will be administered through this program will come from a separate appropriation bill. The dollar amount for this program is still being discussed.

BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE CHAMBER PASSES THE MISSISSIPPI BACK TO BUSINESS LIABILITY ASSURANCE ACT

(*HOUSE BILL 1783 & SENATE BILL 3049*)

On Wednesday, June 24th, Both the House Chamber ([HB-1783 vote](#) of 72 to 43) and Senate Chamber ([SB-3049 vote](#) of 39 to 12) passed the Mississippi Back to Business Liability Assurance Act. This measure was introduced to protect businesses from liability claims due to the Coronavirus. **NOTE:** The Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) worked to get language in the bill that also protect political subdivisions. Therefore, county and municipal governments will also be protected from liability claims under both measures.

CALL TO ACTION (*HOUSE BILL 982*)

[House Bill 982](#) revisits the code section that establishes the First Responders Health and Safety Act of 2019. This act was an **unfunded 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. The unfunded mandate of this act is set to go into effect next year. MAS requested an extension of the law until a funding source is secured. The legislators agreed to delay the effective date of this law measure until 2022. If this bill dies, counties and cities will be required to pay this unfunded mandate beginning 2021.

NOTE: Please contact your legislative delegation and request that they contact the conferees listed below and request that the conferees “ADOPT” a conference report that further delays the implementation of the cancer policy mandate to counties and cities until 2022.

(House Conferees: *Rep. Kevin Ford; Rep. Gene Newman; Rep. Henry Zuber III)* **Senate Conferees:** *Sen. Walter Michel; Sen. Dean Kirby; Sen. John Polk*)

PURCHASING BILL SIGN BY THE GOVERNOR (*HOUSE BILL 494*)

On Thursday June 25th, Governor Reeves signed [House Bill 494](#) into law. This law raises the threshold from \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 regarding county purchases that does not require a purchase requisition, purchase order, or receiving report. This law takes effect from and after July 1, 2020.

The HOUSE and the SENATE plan to work through this weekend to complete conference reports.

2020 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house has passed. The deadline for original floor action on appropriation and revenue bills originating in other house is Tuesday, June 23.

SAVE THE DATE

2020 Annual Convention

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

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