COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE IN JEOPARDY WITH WEIGHT LIMIT INCREASE THREAT (Senate Bill 2418)

Senate Bill 2418 increases the weight tolerance allowed for vehicles operating under a harvest permit and vehicles loading and unloading at a state port. Under this bill, vehicles operating with a harvest permit shall be allowed a tolerance not to exceed ten percent above their authorized axle weight. Our office has been informed that this weight tolerance increase can have a serious negative impact to local county roads and bridges. With the current bridge closings by the Federal government, and widespread crumbling infrastructure across the state, any type of weight limit increase would make it more challenging to rehabilitate and maintain local county infrastructure.

Please contact your local Senator and request that they defeat Senate Bill 2418.

LEGISLATION IMPACTING REVERSE AUCTION & ELECTRONIC BIDDING (Senate Bill 2674)

Senate Bill 2674: This bill authorizes governing authorities to charge a fee, or require a fee to be paid to a third-party service provider, for an electronic bid submission or participation in a reverse auction. The MAS membership had great discussion about reverse auction and electronic bid prior to the 2018 Regular Legislative Session. There was a concern if reverse auction or electronic bidding would be a cost to the counties, and based on an Attorney General’s opinion, counties could not charge for the service. Therefore, counties would absorb the cost. With Senate Bill 2674, counties would be allowed to charge a fee for participation in a reverse auction or electronic bid service.

NOTE: This bill has passed out of its Senate committee and is now on the Senate Floor Calendar.

HOUSE BILL 722 OFFICIALLY TRANSITIONS TO THE SENATE CHAMBER

This bill is designed to divert 35% of the state’s use tax into a fund to support municipal and county local infrastructure. Counties would receive 15% of the new revenue and it would be distributed based on the State Aid Formula. Municipalities would receive the other 15% and it would be distributed based on their current sales tax diversion formula. In addition, this measure would also provide 5% of this new revenue to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) for grant programs where local governments could apply for road and bridge funding up to $1.5 million per project.

Please continue to contact your local Senator and request that they support House Bill 722.

HOUSE INSURANCE COMMITTEE AMENDS BILL TO DIVERT REVENUE TO THE RURAL FIRE TRUCK FUND

During a House Insurance Committee meeting this week, a motion was made to amend House Bill 948 to divert revenue derived from the nonadmitted policy fee (this is a fee on all premiums) to be deposited into the Rural Fire Truck Fund or Supplementary Rural Fire Truck Fund.

NOTE: This bill has passed out of committee and is now on the House Floor Calendar. Please contact your House members and request that they support the amendment to House Bill 948.