THE 2020 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The sixth week of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session has passed. The deadline for making requests for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted has passed. The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house is Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

HOUSE CHAMBER PASSES COUNTY PURCHASING LAW

HOUSE BILL 494 - MAS PROPOSAL

On Wednesday, February 13th, the House chamber passed House Bill 494 by a vote of 110 to 8. This measure increases from one thousand five hundred dollars to two thousand dollars regarding the maximum amount that an item or service purchased by a county that shall not require a requisition to purchase, purchase order, or a receiving report.

NOTE: This measure will now head to the Senate chamber for consideration. To view the vote, click HERE.

FIRST RESPONDERS HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT REVISTED & PASSES OUT OF FIRST COMMITTEE - SENATE BILL 2302

The First Responders Health and Safety Act was a new that law passed in 2019 that mandates local governments to pay for a cancer benefits policy for first responders as defined by the law (fire fighters and law enforcement officers). The mandate does not take effect until 2021. When the First Responders Health and Safety Act of 2019 passed last year, MAS was informed that the state would provide funding for the premiums at the local government level through legislation in the 2020 Regular Legislative Session. Senate Bill 2302 is that funding bill. Senate Bill 2302 creates a fund (Mississippi First Responders Health and Safety Trust Fund) to provide funding assistance to assist local governments in paying for the premiums of the mandated cancer policies. In addition, this measure also creates a continuous revenue stream for rural fire truck funding. This measure is double referred to the Senate Insurance Committee and the Senate Accountability, Efficiency, & Transparency Committee.

NOTE: This measure has already passed out of the Senate Insurance Committee, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SENATORS AND REQUEST THAT SENATE BILL 2302 BE BROUGHT UP FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE PASSED OUT IN THE ACCOUNTABILITY, EFFICIENCY, & TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE.