**CALL TO ACTION:**  MS Accountability & Transparency Act - House Bill 229

House bill 229 requires by July 1, 2021 for each county with a population of 20,000 or more according to the latest federal census and each agency of the county, including, but limited to, bureaus, SHALL create and maintain an accountability and transparency website for the county and agency or set up a separate section on the county’s or agency’s current website. This measure provides no state revenue for the mandated technology upgrades/data management and costs are unknown.

**NOTE:** House Bill 229 is currently held on a motion to reconsider on the House Floor Calendar. If your county opposes this measure, please request your house member to request that this bill die on the motion calendar, or that it be brought back before the House body to be recommitted, or be brought back before the House body for a floor amendment to add State funding.

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**Positive Measures Impacting County Government Survives First Major Deadline**

The bills listed below are MAS Proposal Items and Agenda Items that are still alive and moving through the legislative process.

**County Purchasing**

*House Bill 494*: Increases from $1,500.00 to $2,000.00 for purchases made that does not require a requisition, purchase order or receiving report.

**First Responders Health and Safety Act**

*House Bill 982*: This measure provides funding for the mandated cancer policy for first responders and a residual funding stream for the rural fire truck program.

**Local Systems Bridge GAP Funding**

*House Bill 379*: This bill was amended to place $1 million a month into the Local Systems Bridge Program beginning August 15, 2020 through July 15, 2022.

**Reverse Auction**

*House Bill 407 & Senate Bill 2215*: House Bill 407 gives counties the discretion to decide if reverse auction is in their best interest or not, and Senate Bill 2215 exempts “Term Contracts,” and “E-Rate Contracts” from reverse auction.

**Bond Flexibility**

*House Bill 741*: This bill was amended in committee to allow counties to pledge up to 75 percent of their anticipated revenue from the use tax diversion for security for the repayment of bonds issued or other debt incurred by the county, provided that the bonds or other debt will mature over a period of time not to exceed ten (10) years from the date the bonds are issued or other debt is incurred.

**Inmate Medical Costs**

*Senate Bill 2279*: This bill extends the repealer on current law that mandates counties not to being liable for any cost that exceed the Medicaid reimbursement rate for convicted prisoners and pretrial detainees.

**Rural Fire Truck Acquisition/Funding**

*House Bill 721 & Senate Bill 2378*: Both bills authorize another round for rural fire truck acquisitions in addition to funding.

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  E911 Overhaul Legislation Senate Bill 2746

*Senate Bill 2746*: This legislation is bringing forth code sections with changes that will impact how E-911 funding is distributed to counties. It will also create a local governance authority that will be structured under the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Please discuss this bill with your board attorney and Local Emergency Management Directors and voice your concerns with your local legislative delegation.

**NOTE:** This measure currently resides on the Senate Floor Calendar awaiting a Senate Floor Vote.