

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS

Weekly Legislative Update

2017 Regular Legislative Session

March 17, 2017



APPROPRIATION BILLS MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE PROCESS

This week both the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi State Senate debated, discussed, and passed appropriation bills that have been sent to conference for further deliberation or have died on the calendar.

Among those that died Tuesday was **House Bill 1732**, a \$50 million bond bill that split the monies 50% with the cities. This bill was referred to Senate Finance Committee and was not brought out before the deadline. In efforts to keep infrastructure funding alive, last week the House amended **Senate Bill 2939** to include the same language from HB 1732 (\$25 million bond for county bridge construction, maintenance, and repair).

Senate Bill 2939 was brought up on the Senate floor Thursday and the body moved to send it to conference for further deliberation. This bill also allocates the use tax Mississippi already receives through “voluntary payments” on out-of-state purchases by Mississippi residents. 50% of the collected use tax will go to MDOT; 25% will go to counties and 25% will go to cities for road and bridge repair. In addition, when the state general fund revenue grows more than 2% in one year, 50% of those dollars beyond the 2% growth (up to a max of \$100 million) will be devoted to road and bridge improvement under the same formula.

⇒ **Note: This entire package is estimated to spend between \$150 and \$175 million on roads and bridges beginning this July.**

NOTE: Please ask your legislators to concur on **Senate Bill 2939** as it is the only bill remaining that provides any funds for local infrastructure.

ACTION NEEDED

Following are bills that are making their way through the process. Please speak to your local delegation and state your position.

- ⇒ **Senate Bill 2973** contains the homestead exemption reimbursement in **Section 6**. This bill is currently funding the homestead exemption reimbursement at **\$82,038,206.00**, a **\$2,416,435.00** cut from last year’s level funding. \$87.5 million is needed for “Full” reimbursement.
- ⇒ **Senate Bill 2836** raises the purchasing threshold from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for purchases that would **not** require a purchase requisition form.
- ⇒ **House Bill 1583 (Homestead Exemption)** This bill freezes property values for eligible homeowners 65 or older and/or those totally disabled. This homestead exemption cannot capture any new revenue from reappraisal. This bill is headed to conference for further deliberation.
- ⇒ **House Bill 1106** mandates counties to submit bids electronically. This bill is headed to conference for further deliberation.

WEEK IN REVIEW

The deadline for original floor action on appropriations and revenue bills originating in other house has passed.

The deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from other house to general bills and constitutional amendments is Thursday, March 23, 2017.

The House and Senate reconvene Monday, March 20 at 4:00 p.m.

2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION: REGISTER NOW

Registration is now open for the MAS 88th Annual Convention, June 12—15 in Biloxi. More information is available on the MAS website:

www.mssupervisors.org/88th-annual-convention

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