

MAS' WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VOLUME 6

February 10, 2023

The 2023 Regular Legislative Session

The Sixth week of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session is now complete. The deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house has passed. The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house is Tuesday, February 28.

Latest Update Regarding the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)

Board of Trustees (House Bill 605)

The Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) has received information that House Bill 605 (*pertaining to legislation that would mandate a freeze on rate increases from the PERS Board of Trustees without legislative approval, and create mandated oversight hearings*) will not advance from the House chamber, but the PERS Board of Trustees has agreed to delay their employer's contribution increase until July 1, 2024. In addition, during this interim, the PERS Board of Trustees and the Legislature will continue to work to find alternate plans that protect the benefits of employees and retirees while lessening the burden on counties, cities, and school districts.

Numerous Measures Impacting Elections Passed this Week

House Bill 400: This measure increases penalties for committing certain election crimes. This measure passed the House Floor by a vote of 71 to 46. It will now head to the Senate Chamber for committee consideration.

Senate Bill 2351: This measure allows the Secretary of State to perform random procedural audits on counties. This measure will now head to the House Chamber for committee consideration.

Senate Bill 2352: This measure penalizes any person who fraudulently request or submits an application for an absentee ballot. This measure will now head to the House Chamber for committee consideration.

House Chamber Passes Bill Addressing Campaign Finance Report (House Bill 241)

House Bill 241: This measure revises the time for filing campaign finance reports when those reports are filed electronically or with a fax machine. NOTE: This measure states if the reports are filed electronically or by an electronic facsimile (FAX) device, the appropriate office specified in Section 23-15-805 must be in actual receipt of the reports by 11:59 p.m. This measure passed the House Floor Chamber and will now head to the Senate Chamber for committee consideration.

House Chamber Readdresses and Passes Measures Impacting State ARPA Water Grant Program

House Bill 1108: This bill authorizes rural water associations that also provide sewer services to participate in the ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Program. This measure will now head to the Senate Chamber for committee consideration.

House Bill 1213: This measure provides that in awarding grants in the second and subsequent rounds under the Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant Program, the MS Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) shall give priority to eligible applicants that did not receive funding in their first round grants to implement necessary repairs to their existing water and/or sewer system. This measure will now head to the Senate Chamber for committee consideration.

Bill Mandating the MS Department of Corrections (MDOC) to Pay Counties More Per Day for Housing State Inmates Passes Senate Floor Chamber (Senate Bill 2495)

Senate Bill 2495 introduces an effort to expedite the removal of state inmates from county jails as early as practicable. This measure states that MDOC shall pay the county jails for housing state offenders out of any available funds. The mandate is as follows: \$25.00 per day per offender for days one through thirty, \$30.00 per day per offender for days thirty one through sixty, and \$35.00 per day per offender for days sixty-one or greater. **NOTE:** This measure has passed the Senate Floor Chamber. It will now head to the House Chamber for committee consideration.

HOUSE & SENATE will reconvene on Monday at 4pm.

**Join us next Friday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m. for our
weekly legislative Zoom call.**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3852299667>

Or Call in at: 888.788.0099

Then Enter Meeting Id Number: 385 229 9667

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Save the Dates

MS NACo Conference Reception

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2023

Time: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Location: Washington Hilton Hotel

Room: Cabinet, Concourse Level

National Association of Counties (NACo) 2023 Legislative Conference

February 11th – 14th

Washington DC

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MAS 2023 Annual Convention

Date: June 12 - 15

Location: MS Coast Convention Center

More info to come on hotels and registration