

Current Measures Moving Through the Legislative Process



Presented by Steve Gray

Order of the Day

- Timetable for Processing Legislation
- Measures Impacting County Government Moving Through the Legislative Process
- Questions



Upcoming Key Deadlines

Timetable for Processing Legislation

- Key upcoming deadlines:
 - February 13th - Original Floor Action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in OWN House
 - February 24th – Deadline for making Requests for appropriation and revenue bills to be drafted
 - February 26th - Deadline for Original Floor Action on appropriation and revenue bills originating in Own House
 - March 4th – Deadline for Committees to Report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in Other House
 - March 12th – Deadline for Original Floor Action on general bills and constitutional amendments



Measures Impacting Counties Moving Through the Legislative Process

House Bill 1

(The Build Up Mississippi Act) As Passed House

- Section 1 – Legislative title (The Build Up Mississippi Act)
- Section 2 – Imposing of the 1 ½% Sales Tax (county & city opt out option)
- Section 3 – Grocery Tax phase down to 2.5%
- Section 4 – Collection of Use Tax on out of state vehicle purchases
- Section 5 – 5% percent tax rate on motor fuels
- Section 6 – Removal of the Municipal 18.5% diversion and deposited into the Budget Stabilization Fund
- Section 7 – Exemptions of sales tax on certain motor fuels
- Section 8 – Phase down of the Income Tax to .3% & Imposing a 5% tax rate on explicit illegal activity
- Section 9 – Creation of a Budget Stabilization Fund in State Treasury
- Section 10 - Further clarifies that counties opting out of the 1 ½ % imposed unincorporated sales tax increase shall not benefit from the “new” state aid funds.
- Section 11 – Creates Recurring revenue from the State Lottery to PERS at \$100 million.
- Section 12 – Creates the Maintenance and Capacity Projects Fund (MDOT)
- Section 13 – Brings forth current law regarding the lottery code section
- Section 14 - Codifies Section 1 as a new section under Chapter 65 Title 27 Mississippi Code
- Section 15 – Effectiveness of the measure

House Bill 150 & Senate Bill 2256

Weight Limit Increase Measures

- Both measures passed out of their respective committees
- House Bill 150:
 - Increase Weight to 64,000 lbs for 3 axle configuration and 72,000 lbs for 4 axle configuration for cement trucks.
 - Also increase weight to 64,000 lbs for 3 axle configuration for garbage trucks
- Senate Bill 2256:
 - Increase Weight to 64,000 lbs for 3 axle configuration and 72,000 lbs for 4 axle configuration for cement trucks.
 - Does “not” currently address garbage trucks.

House Bill 184 & Senate Bill 2830

Purchasing Measures

- Both measures passed their respective committee
- House Bill 184:
 - Increase from \$5k to \$10k for purchases made requiring two (2) quotes
 - Increase from \$2k to \$5k for purchases made not requiring a purchase requisition, purchase order, or receiving report
 - Also allows reverse auction to be discretionary
- Senate Bill 2830:
 - Increase from \$5k to \$15k for purchases made requiring two (2) quotes

Senate Bill 2832

Public Notice Measure

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- Senate Bill 2832
 - Allows counties with no newspaper published or located within the county to issue public notices via the count's website

House Bill 1302

ERBR Funding & Sports Betting

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- House Bill 1302:
 - This measure creates the Mississippi Mobile Sports Wagering Act. In Section 6, subsection (b) of this act, from and after July 1, 2030, all monies which shall consist of taxes and fees generated and collected under the Mobile Sports Wagering Act and deposited to the Mobile Sports Wagering Tax Fund “SHALL” be paid on or before the last day of each month by the Department of Revenue to the State Treasurer to be deposited in the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund (ERBR) created in 65-1-179.

House Bill 1644

Broadband Exemption Measure

- This measure has passed the House Floor Chamber by a vote of 116 to 0
- House Bill 1644:
 - **Section 1** (Lines 41 – 44) of this measure defines the required speed threshold for mobile broadband at 35 megabits per second downlink three (3) megabits per second uplink for “mobile” broadband that is capable of providing fixed broadband service.
 - **Section 2** (Lines 111 – 134) of this measure extends the exemption on “fixed” broadband technologies for 10 years and the technology speeds requirements per customer must be at least equal to the Federal Communication Commissions (FCC’s) fixed broadband speed benchmarks in both directions. In addition, the mobile broadband exemption is capped at 5 years instead of 10 years. This section also provides accountability by requiring the following: [a taxpayer seeking an exemption for equipment under this section “SHALL” submit a certified sworn description of such equipment, including transmission speeds, to the tax assessor of the county in which such equipment is located, on or before April 1st of the first assessment year in which the exemption is being claimed.]

House Bill 19

Discretionary Reverse Auction

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- House Bill 19:
 - This measure will allow governing authorities to determine if reverse auction is not the best interest of the governing authority, and that determination will be able to be approved by the governing board of the governing authority.

House Bill 1460

Small Municipalities Limited Counties Population Grant Fund.

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- House Bill 1460:
 - This measure seeks to increase from \$250k to \$1m in the maximum amount of dollars that may be awarded to the Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant Fund.
 - Grant is limited to counties with population under 30,000
 - Grant program is administered through MS Development Authority (MDA)
 - Projects are defined as highways, streets, and other roadways, bridges, sidewalks, utilities, airfields, airports, acquisition of equipment, acquisition of real property, development of real property, improvement to real property, and other projects “approved” by MDA

Senate Bill 2568

Holding Car Tags Without Insurance

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- Senate Bill 2568:
 - This measure mandates that a car tag “SHALL” not be issued or renewed unless the owner or operator of the motor vehicle does not present proof of liability insurance coverage for their motor vehicle.
 - **ALERT: County revenue could be negative impacted**

Senate Bill 2883

Welcome Center Grant Program

- This measure is double referred and has passed out of one committee
- Senate Bill 2883:
 - This measure authorizes the MS Development Authority (MDA) to enter into contracts and other agreements with county boards of supervisors for the purpose of staffing Mississippi Welcome Centers. This measure establishes a welcome center staffing grant fund that's administered by MDA.
 - **ALERT: MAS has concerns about participating counties being stuck with potential liability and cost issues.**

House Bill 142

Election Commissioner Pay

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- House Bill 142:
 - In Section 1 subsection (4)b, (Lines 151 – 153) the boards of supervisors “MAY” pay the election commissions an additional amount not to exceed thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) per election.

Senate Bill 2835

Notice of Special Meetings

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- Senate Bill 2021:
 - In Section 1 of this measure, The president, or vice president in the absence or disability of the president, or any three (3) members of the board, may call special meetings when deemed necessary. Notice “SHALL” be given of all special meetings, for at least **three (3) days**.
 - In addition, the notice “SHALL” be posted on the official county website and/or the county’s official social media webpage for the duration of at least three (3) days immediately preceding the special meeting.

Senate Bill 2899

Court Reporters Pay Increase

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- Senate Bill 2899:
 - Section 1 contains the pay increase amount (From \$49,500 to \$59,400) (From \$58,500 to \$70,200) (From \$64,000 to \$76,800) .
- NOTE: There is a reverse repealer attached to this measure

Senate Bill 2835

MS Emergency Communication Act

- This measure has passed out of its respective committee
- Senate Bill 2835:
 - In Section 6 of this measure, all the surcharges for mobile, VOIP, and landline is increased to \$2.00. The 25-line cap for commercial is increased to 200 lines.
 - In Section 9 of this measure, of the total funds received by the Emergency Communication Districts (ECDs) 30% “shall” be deposited into a NG911 Implementation Fund.
 - In Section 11 of this measure, all ECDs must adopt an NG911 plan no later than Dec. 31st 2030, and any district failing to adopt its plan by such date may not expend any monies from the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund or ECD 911 Implementation Fund.



Questions?