

MAS' WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VOLUME 11

March 18, 2022

The 2022 Regular Legislative Session

The Eleventh week of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session is complete. The deadline for original floor action on appropriations and revenue bills originating in other house has passed. The deadline for final adoption of conference reports on appropriations and revenue bills and for conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments to be filed is Monday, March 28th.

CALLS NEEDED!

EMERGENCY ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIR FUND (ERBRF)

On Tuesday, March 15th, **Senate Bill 3167** did not survive that particular deadline day and died in committee. This measure would have put \$300 million from the Capital Expense fund into the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund (ERBRF). We are informed that there are still talks and negotiations taking place that could still result in ERBRF being significantly funded this session. Please contact your local legislative delegation and request that ERBRF be significantly funded to help improve Mississippi's deteriorating road and bridge infrastructure.

Both HOUSE and SENATE Tax Plan Survive this Week's Deadline

This week, both the Senate and House Chamber amended each other's original tax plan with "Strike All Amendments." The Senate amended **House Bill 531** with their original Senate language, and they included the suspension of the State's 18.4 cents fuel tax for a period of six (6) months. The Senate's amending language also offsets the six month's suspension with revenue from the State's Capital Expense Fund. It is estimated that it will cost the State \$215 million. Regarding the House Chamber, the House amended **Senate Bill 3164** with their original House language, but the House excluded some of their original positions. For instance, the House totally removed the reduction of the Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Car Tag Credit Fund. The House also removed the 8.5% sales tax increase that would offset the removal of the State's income tax. Both the House and Senate plan still reduces the grocery tax. **NOTE:** Both plans will continue to be negotiated until a final product is agreed upon or not agreed upon.

Please Continue to Request that Your Local Legislative Delegation Support the Following Measures:

Senate Bill 3024: This measure appropriates from the State general fund to the MS Department of Revenue for the purpose of reimbursing counties, for tax losses incurred by reason of the exemption of homes from certain ad valorem taxes. Section 7 of this measure provides for an appropriation of \$90,600,000.00. NOTE: Conference has been invited on this measure.

House Bill 842: This measure funds and authorizes two additional rounds for counties regarding the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program. NOTE: Conference has been invited on this measure.

Senate Bill 2371: This measure increases from 50k to 75k for purchases from the lowest and best bidder without publishing or posting advertisement for bids, provided that at least two competitive bids have been obtained. NOTE: Conference has been invited on this measure.

Senate Bill 3015: This measure contains the appropriation funding for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture. Section 4 of this measure provides funding for the Beaver Control Assistance Program at approximately \$1,100,000.00. NOTE: Conference has been invited on this measure.

Cash-in-Lieu Legislation Approved by the Governor

On Thursday, March 17th, the Governor signed **House Bill 843** into law. As a reminder, last year MAS worked to get a Medicare-in-Lieu bill passed into law that gave counties the opportunity to offer their Medicare eligible employees an opportunity to transition to Medicare and away from the county's health benefits plan. Unfortunately, we found out that the federal government (Medicare regulations) deemed it illegal to treat one group different from another group. **House Bill 843** allows for a "Cash-in-Lieu" instead of Medicare in-lieu and this methodology will allow everyone to participate in Cash-in Lieu, without federal regulations creating any type of prohibitions. NOTE: This measure goes into effect July 1st, 2022.

House and Senate will reconvene on Monday, March 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Join us next Friday, March 25 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

Meeting Id Number: 385 229 9667

MAS 2022 SPRING REGIONAL PDD MEETINGS

The dates and locations for the MAS 2022 Spring Regional PDD Meetings have been set. Please find your PDD below for your meeting date and location.

As a reminder, we will be holding elections for the MAS Board of Directors, Legislative and Nominating committee as well as recapping the 2022 legislative session. A meal will be served immediately following each meeting.

For planning and meal purposes, we ask that you please contact Mavis Seaberry at 601.353.2741 or by email at MSeabery@massup.org with the total number of individuals from your county that plan on attending the meeting and meal.

Please call your PDD if you cannot find the location or need directions.

MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

CENTRAL MS PDD REGION:

Tuesday, March 29: 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MAS Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

Hosted By: Central MS PDD

Location: CMPDD Office

Address: **1020 Centre Pointe BLVD, Pearl, MS 39208**

Phone: 601.981.1511

EAST CENTRAL PDD REGION:

Wednesday, March 30: 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MAS Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

Hosted By: East Central PDD

Location: ECPDD Office

Address: **280 Commercial Drive, Newton, MS 39345**

Phone: 601.683.2007

SOUTH DELTA PDD REGION:

Thursday, March 31, 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MAS Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

Hosted By: South Delta PDD

Location: **1427 South Main Street, Greenville, MS 38701**

Phone: 662.378.3831

SOUTHWEST PDD REGION:

Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MAS Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

Hosted By: Southwest PDD

Location: Natchez Grand Hotel

Address: **111 Broadway Street, Natchez, MS 39120**

Phone: 601.446.6044

SOUTHERN MS PDD REGION:

Tuesday, April 5, 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. MAS Meeting

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Hosted By: SMPDD

Location: Southern Oaks

Address: **1246 Richburg Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402**

Phone: 228.868.2311

NORTH CENTRAL PDD REGION:

Wednesday, April 6, 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MAS Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

Hosted By: North Central PDD

Location: NCPDD

Address: **28 Industrial Park Blvd., Winona, MS 38967**

Phone: 662.283.2675

NORTH DELTA PDD REGION:

Tuesday, April 12, 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MAS Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

Hosted By: North Delta PDD

Location: NDPDD Office

Address: **220 Power Dr., Batesville, MS 38606**

Phone: 662.561.4100

NORTHEAST PDD REGION:

Tuesday, April 12, 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. MAS Meeting

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Hosted By: Northeast PDD

Location: Market 105

Address: **118 West College Street, Booneville, MS 38829**

Phone: 662.728.6248

THREE RIVERS PDD REGION:

Wednesday, April 13, 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MAS Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

Hosted By: Three Rivers PDD

Location: First Choice Gateway Pavilion

Address: **139 W Reynolds Street, Pontotoc, MS 38863**

Phone: 662.489.2415

GOLDEN TRIANGLE PDD REGION:

Wednesday, April 13, 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. MAS Meeting

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Hosted By: Golden Triangle PDD

Location: GTPDD office

Address: **106 Miley Drive, Starkville, MS 39759**

Phone: 662.324.7860