

MAS' WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VOLUME 5
February 4, 2022

The 2022 Regular Legislative Session

The Fifth week of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session is complete. The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house has passed. The deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house is Thursday, February 10th.

County Supervisor's Salary Measures Pass Out of Their Respective Chambers (Senate Bill 2719 & House Bill 527)

One of the Two Cash In-Lieu Measures Survived the Feb. 1st. (House Bill 843)

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. Both House Bill 843 and Senate Bill 2867 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:** House Bill 843 has passed the House chamber by a vote of 117 to 3 and will head to the Senate chamber for consideration.

Rural Fire Truck Measure Passes Out of House Ways and Means Committee (House Bill 842)

On Wednesday, February 2, House Floor Chamber passed out House Bill 842 by a vote of 118 to 3. This measure authorizes two (2) additional rounds for rural fire trucks for counties. **NOTE:** This measure will now head to the Senate Chamber for consideration.

Proposed Measure to Increase Fire Protection Funds (House Bill 819)

House Bill 819 increases the fire protection funds for counties and municipalities, raising it from \$4,850,000.00 to \$7,500,000.00. This measure also establishes a \$30k

minimum distribution to “ALL” counties as a based and then the rest of the distribution shall be based on population. In addition, this measure adds to what the fire rebate funds can be spent on such as emergency medical service training, emergency medical service equipment, and emergency medical service. **NOTE:** This measure currently resides on the House Floor Calendar.

Senate Chamber Passes Measure to Increase Purchasing Threshold (Senate Bill 2371)

On Thursday February 3rd, the Senate Chamber passed Senate Bill 2371 by a vote of 51 to 0. 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:** This measure will now head to the House Chamber for consideration.

Providing Two or More Counties Authorization to Contract with Justice Court Clerk (House Bill 1017)

On Wednesday, February 2nd, the House Chamber passed House Bill 1017 by a vote of 117 to 4. House Bill 1017 gives two or more counties the discretion to appoint one person to serve as a justice court clerk for their justice court systems. **NOTE:** This measure will now head to the Senate Chamber for consideration.

Comprehensive E-911 Measure Passes Out of Senate Technology Committee (Senate Bill 2531)

On Tuesday, February 1st, the Senate Technology Committee passed out Senate Bill 2531. This measure creates the Mississippi Emergency Communication Act. This measure has 20 sections. Sections 1 through 9 contains the new language and new sections in the bill. Sections 10 through 19 is current law, and Section 20 is date of effectiveness. The following sections listed below are key sections to focus on regarding Senate Bill 2531:

Section 2 – Key Definitions such as defining the Emergency Communication Service Fund, the NG911 Implementation Fund, and the NG911 Fund.

Section 3 – This section establishes the Board of Governance, explains the authoritative role of the Director of the Authority, discloses the Authority’s purpose, explains the Authority’s mandate, and it breaks down the surcharge distribution.

Section 6 – Breaks down the discretion given to county boards of supervisors to levy up to \$4.00 for the surcharge of commercial landlines, Wireless Pre-paid and Post-paid, and VOIP.

Section 9 - Identifies the timeframe that counties has to adopt their NG911 plan which is not later than December 31st 2027.

NOTE: This measure currently resides on the Senate Floor Calendar and it has a reverse repealer.

Join us next Friday, February 11 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

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