

# MAS' WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VOLUME 4  
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## The 2022 Regular Legislative Session

The Fourth week of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session is complete. The deadline for introduction of general bills and constitutional amendments has passed. The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house is Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The House and Senate will reconvene on Monday at 4:00 p.m.

### County Supervisors Salary Authorization Measure Pass Out of their Respective Committees (Senate Bill 2719 & House Bill 527)

Both Senate Bill 2719 and House Bill 527 have passed out of their respective committees this week. Both bills currently reside on their chamber's Floor Calendar. Both bills provides authorization for Mississippi county boards of supervisors to accept to approve an initial salary increase due to a salary schedule realignment. In addition to the salary schedule realignment, in year 2024, a county board of supervisors will have the option to authorize themselves a \$2,000.00 salary increase, and in year 2028, a county board of supervisors will have the option to authorize themselves an additional \$2,000.00 pay increase. **NOTE:** Both measures will have until February 10<sup>th</sup> to pass off their respective Floor Calendar.

### Cash In-Lieu Measures Move out of Committees (House Bill 843 & Senate Bill 2867)

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 and will head to the Senate for consideration. Senate Bill 2867 has passed out of the Senate County Affairs Committee. It will now head to the Senate Insurance Committee for consideration.

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

On Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, the House Ways and Means Committee passed out [House Bill 842](#) which authorizes two (2) additional rounds for rural fire trucks for counties. **NOTE:** This measure currently resides on the House Floor Calendar.

## **Mandate to Electronically File Campaign Finance Statements Passes Out of House AET Committee ([House Bill 33](#))**

On Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, the House Accountability, Efficiency, and Transparency (AET) committee passed out [House Bill 33](#). This measure mandates that all campaign finance statements, reports of contributions and expenditures and other reports be filed and posted online by the MS Secretary of State. **Note:** This measure currently resides on the House Floor Calendar.

## **Support Needed for [House Bill 1033](#)! Moving the First Responders Health and Safety Act from Local Government Mandate to State Government.**

[House bill 1033](#) provides that the cancer benefits policy paid to first responders as defined by the First Responders Health and Safety Act shall be paid by State funds and not local government insurance policies. **NOTE:** No action has been taken on this bill and it has until February 1 to pass out of House Insurance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.

## **Senate Leadership Reveals ARPA Spending Plan**

On Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Senate chamber discussed their plan to bring out bills in the coming days to address American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending. The following was outlined and discussed:

- **\$750 million** matching stimulus spending by cities, counties, and rural water associations on water and sewerage infrastructure projects. This will also include \$350 million set aside for rural water associations and \$50 million for smaller cities that are receiving less than \$1 million in pandemic recovery funds.
- **\$59 million** for Child Protection Services department to hire 202 people to deal with the state's beleaguered foster care system and speed up the state's adoption process.
- **\$104.6 million** to help the state's Department of Mental Health, including \$18.5 million for community mental health centers.
- **\$26.7 million** for the Mississippi Department of Health's central operations.

- **\$55 million** for workforce training and job retention. This includes money for nursing and health care programs at universities and community colleges and a program to repay nursing student loans
- **\$62.5 million** for tourism. This includes \$30 million for local destination marketing organizations across the state and \$32.5 million for state parks.
- **\$7.5 million** for death benefits for law enforcement and firefighters who died from COVID-19.
- **\$211.4 million** for infrastructure work at state agencies including the Department of Corrections and including \$26.5 million for work on various state buildings.
- **\$110 million** for water and sewerage projects at universities and community colleges.
- **\$3.2 million** for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to reimburse it for COVID-19 expenses not reimbursed by the federal government.
- **\$10 million** for private colleges and universities.
- **\$10.49 million** for the Mississippi National Guard, with a large part of this going to infrastructure improvements at Camp Shelby.
- **\$12 million** to reimburse hospitals for ICE and negative pressure beds dealing with surges in pandemic cases.
- **\$250 million** for reimbursement for lost state revenue from the pandemic.

**Join us next Friday, February 4 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