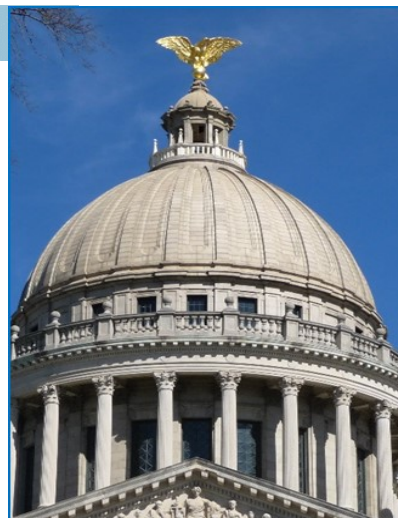


MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS

Weekly Legislative Update

2019 Regular Legislative Session

February 15, 2019



The House and Senate will reconvene Monday, February 18 at 4:00 p.m.

**REGIONAL CAPITOL VISITS**

Southwest PDD Capitol Visit is scheduled for next Wednesday, February 20.

East Central PDD Capitol Visit is scheduled for next Thursday, February 20.

Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the **first floor of the Capitol at 9:00am** to receive talking points.

**SAVE THE DATE**

The 2019 NACo Legislative Conference will be at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.

**HELPFUL TECHNOLOGY**

Download the MAS Directory iPhone app by searching “mas supervisor Directory” in the App Store.

Download the Mississippi Legislature Roster to your iPhone by visiting the App Store and searching “Mississippi Legislature” provided by Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi.

ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS

MISSISSIPPI

**2019 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION REACHES THE HALFWAY MARK**

With the deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendment passing, the 2019 Regular Legislative Session has officially reached the half point. Now members of the Mississippi House and Senate will begin to introduce and consider revenue and appropriation bills. Now is the time to begin talking to your legislators about funding for the Local System Bridge Program (LSBP) and fully funding the homestead exemption reimbursement.

*Below are measures that survived the first half of the session impacting county government.*

**Emergency Road & Bridge Repair Fund (ERBR Fund):**

**House Bill 779:** This measure revises how the Emergency Road & Bridge Repair Fund monies may be spent, while also allowing the boards of supervisors to expend ERBR Funds during the last term of office.

**Rural Fire Truck Funding:**

**House Bill 444:** Provides funding for the Rural Fire Truck Program at \$3 million dollars found in section three of the bill.

**Debt-Setoff:**

**House Bill 991:** Both measures authorizes counties and municipalities to collect certain debts by setoff against the debtor’s state income tax refund.

**County Supervisors Salary:**

**Senate Bill 2827:** Omnibus county official pay increase.

**Tax Lien Properties :**

**House Bill 1307:** This measure pertains to land sold for nonpayment of ad valorem taxes.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: THE MISSISSIPPI FIRST RESPONDERS HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT OF 2019: SENATE BILL 2835**

The Mississippi First Responders Health and Safety Act comes from a nationwide advocacy effort by the law enforcement, professional firefighter, and volunteer firefighter community. Mississippi is only one of three states that does not have a local benefits policy for occupational hazards as it relates to first responders.

**Senate Bill 2835** (as it is currently drafted) is legislation that will mandate both cities and counties to provide health benefits coverage for occupational hazards as it pertains to “all” forms of cancers, as well as acute cardiovascular or stroke event, Hepatitis B or C, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and hearing impairment. As it is currently drafted, eligibility for receiving coverage will only apply to first responders that have served in their capacity for 10 years or more. In addition, the current draft of this bill is very rich and expensive. Other states that have passed a similar version did it in a less expensive manner. As of Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, The Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) and the Mississippi Municipal League (MML) has issued a joint letter to the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi Senate stating that we are working with the advocates of **Senate Bill 2835** to make it narrower and more defined in order for counties to be able to obtain and afford the coverage.

**NOTE:** **Senate Bill 2835** has passed the Senate Chamber and currently resides unassigned in the House Chamber.