



The House and Senate will reconvene Monday, January 28, at 4:00 p.m.

THE 2019 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The deadline for committees to report general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house has passed. The deadline for original floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments originating in other house is Tuesday March 13, 2019.

EMERGENCY ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIR 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. This measure passed the Senate chamber by a vote of 52 to 0. This measure will now head back to the House for concurrence or non-concurrence.

RURAL FIRE TRUCK FUNDING

House Bill 444: Provides funding for the Rural Fire Truck Program at \$3 million dollars in section three of this bill. This measure currently resides on the Senate floor calendar.

OMNIBUS COUNTY OFFICIAL SALARY INCREASE PASSES HOUSE FLOOR CHAMBER

On Wednesday March 6th, the Mississippi House of Representative passed the omnibus county official salary increase legislation (**Senate Bill 2827**) by a **vote** of 93 to 14.

IMPORTANT APPROPRIATION BILLS IMPACTING COUNTY GOVERNMENT

BCAP PROGRAM

Senate Bill 3043: This measure makes an appropriation for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the State Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

NOTE: In section 8 of this bill, the Beaver Control Assistance Program is funded at **\$1,100,000.00**. This amount is level funded from the previous fiscal year. This measure currently resides in the House Appropriations Committee.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT

Senate Bill 3024: This measure makes an appropriation for the purpose of reimbursing the counties, county districts and municipal separate school districts for tax losses incurred by reason of the exemption of the homes from certain ad valorem taxes.

NOTE: The funding level for the homestead exemption reimbursement is in section 8 of this bill and it is funded at **\$80,625,992.00**. This funding level represents level funding from the previous fiscal year. To fully fund the homestead exemption reimbursement, it will take an appropriation of \$87.5 million. Please contact your local legislative delegation and request full funding of the homestead exemption reimbursement. This measure currently resides in the House Appropriations Committee.

FIRST RESPONDER HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT SENATE BILL 2835

Senate Bill 2835: This measure creates a mandate that will require counties and municipalities to provide health benefit coverage for volunteer firefighters, professional firefighters, and law enforcement officers as it relates to diagnosis attributed to their occupational hazards. This measure currently resides on the House Floor Calendar. Negotiations on this bill continue and we will keep you updated.

REGIONAL CAPITOL VISITS

Three Rivers Planning and Development District Capitol Visit is next Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

North East Planning and Development District Capitol Visit is next Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

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

SAVE THE DATE

The 2019 Annual Convention registration is open. To register please open the following [link](https://goo.gl/yLi1Qu): <https://goo.gl/yLi1Qu>

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.