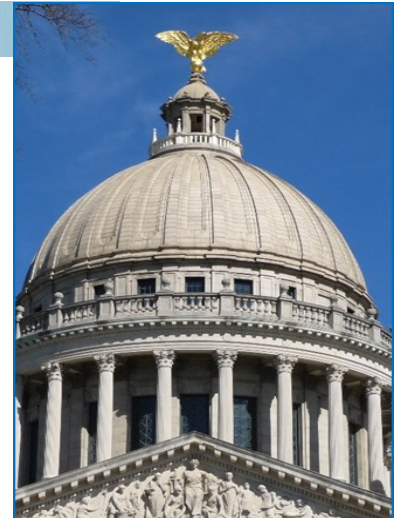


Weekly Legislative Update

2017 Regular Legislative Session

March 24, 2017



CAMPAIGN FINANCE HEADS TO GOVERNOR

On Wednesday March 22nd, the Mississippi Legislature passed a campaign finance reform measure (*SB-2689*) that would restrict the spending of campaign money on personal expenses by public officials. [Senate Bill 2689](#) was a compromise between the House and the Senate proposals from the last two sessions. This law defines personal use as any other expenditures not related to gaining, holding or performing functions of public office. In addition, it would also require credit card purchases to be itemized and not reported as a lump-sum payment. This measure is expected to take effect January 1, 2018, and any money collected by public officials prior to January 1st is exempt.

NOTE: The **Ethics Commission** will charge those in violation of the personal use rules with a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to **\$1,000** and an assessment equal to misappropriated funds.

RURAL FIRE TRUCK PROGRAM ACQUISITION

The Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Program is normally listed in the Department of Insurance Appropriation. This year, that appropriation bill is [House Bill 1498](#) and HB-1498 is headed to conference. If it is not appropriated, then there is a chance it could be bonded. Currently, this program is not in its normal appropriation nor in a bond measure.

⇒ Please contact your local legislative delegation and request funding if you value the use of this program.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT CUT!

(CALLS NEEDED)

[Senate Bill 2973](#) contains the homestead exemption reimbursement in **Section 6** of this bill. This bill is currently funding the homestead exemption reimbursement at **\$82,038,206.00**. This is a **\$2,416,435.00** cut from last year's funding level. \$87.5 million is needed for "FULL" reimbursement.

MAS PROPOSAL ITEM HEADS TO CONFERENCE

[Senate Bill 2836](#): This bill raises the purchasing threshold from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for purchases that would "**NOT**" require a purchase requisition form.

⇒ Please request your local legislative delegation to support this bill.

WEEK IN REVIEW

The deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from other house to general bills and constitutional amendments has passed. The deadline for conference reports on appropriations and revenue bills to be filed is **Saturday March 25, 2017**.

The House and Senate reconvene Saturday, March 24 . House 10 a.m. and Senate 9 a.m.

2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION: REGISTER NOW

Registration is now open for the MAS 88th Annual Convention, June 12—15 in Biloxi. More information is available on the MAS website:

www.mssupervisors.org/88th-annual-convention

Contact Stephanie Spangler, Director of Member Services, at sspangler@massup.org or by phone 601.353.2741 if you have any questions.

