

# MAS' WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VOLUME 12

March 24, 2023

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## The 2023 Regular Legislative Session

The Twelfth week of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session is now complete. The deadline to concur or not concur in amendments from other house to general bills and constitutional amendments and the deadline for introduction of “local and private bill that are not revenue bills has passed. The deadline for final adoption of conference reports on appropriations and revenue bills and for conference reports on general bills and constitutional amendments to be filed is Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Conference Weekend!

It is conference weekend, MAS will be at the Capitol all weekend monitoring/working on all bills that may impact county government. Please note, the MAS lobbying team will keep you updated via text/call throughout the weekend if there are any significant changes to major MAS bills or if we need help with any bills that pose a negative impact to county government.

**HOUSE & SENATE will reconvene on Saturday, March 25 at 4pm**

**\*\*\*Tip! Items in gold are hyperlinked and will take you to a new page\*\*\***

## Conferees Named on Following Measures:

### House Bill 1111

**House Bill 1111** was a measure originally drafted to address county court jurisdiction for termination of parental rights when it passed the House Chamber. Yet, when it got to the Senate, this measure was amended with a committee strike all amendment and the entire body of the language addressing parental rights were removed and it was replaced with language creating a statewide county court system with unfunded mandates. **NOTE:** Now that conference has been invited on this measure, both chambers will assign a body of six members to further conference on this measure. MAS will continue to update as this issue progresses. **ADDITIONAL**

### Homestead Exemption Reimbursement

**Senate Bill 3022:** This act is the appropriation measure for the MS State Department of Revenue. Located in Section 7 of this bill is the appropriation line item for the homestead exemption reimbursement. This legislation currently has the reimbursement being funded at \$92,000,000.00. This represents a \$1.4 million increase from last year's reimbursement.

**House Conferees:**  
Read, Bounds, White

**NOTE:** We still need members contacting their local legislative delegation and requesting that the Senate “Strike All Language” (*that creates this new statewide county court system*) be removed.

**House Conferees:**  
*Cockerham, White, Reynolds*

**Senate Conferees:**  
*Wiggins, Boyd, Barrett*

**Senate Conferees:**  
*Hopson, Michel, McCaughn*

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## Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund

**Senate Bill 3120** makes a FY 2024 appropriation from the state Capital Expense Fund to the MS Department of Transportation (MDOT) for certain infrastructure expenses. Located in Section 3 of this measure is a line-item appropriation for the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund (ERBR) to be funded at \$100 million.

**House Conferees:**  
*Read, Busby, Arnold*

**Senate Conferees:**  
*Hopson, Branning, Debar*

## Additional Use Tax Revenue for Counties

**Senate Bill 2692:** Section 38 of this measure will allow for an additional one percent increase for the 5% use tax diversion. Instead of the current 5% diversion, it will now be a 6% diversion. This additional percentage is estimated to create an additional \$25 million for the diversion. NOTE: This will be new money added to the current use tax funding structure, and a new split will be established between the Local Systems Bridge Program and funding for the State Aid Road Construction Program.

**House Conferees:**  
*Lamar, Steverson, Massengill*

**Senate Conferees:**  
*Harkins, Chassaniol, McMahan*

## Rural Fire Truck Funding

**House Bill 1605** makes an appropriation for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Department of Insurance for Fiscal Year 2024. NOTE: Section 13 of this measure funds the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Program and Supplementary Rural Fire Fund at \$6 million dollars. ADDITIONAL NOTE: Section 14 of this measure funds the Rural Fire Truck Matching Assistance Fund at \$2 million dollars.

**House Conferees:**  
*Read, Oliver, Hale*

**Senate Conferees:**  
*Hopson, Michel, Wiggins*

## Beaver Control Assistance Program

**Senate Bill 3013** makes an appropriation for the purpose of defraying the expenses to the State Department of Agriculture and Commerce for Fiscal Year 2024. NOTE: Section 4 of this measure funds the Beaver Control Assistance Program at \$1.1 million.

**House Conferees:**  
Read, Pigott, Mangold

**Senate Conferees:**  
Hopson, DeLano, Suber

## Corrections

**Senate Bill 2495:** This measure introduces an effort to expedite the removal of state inmates from county jails as early as practicable. This measure states that MDOC shall pay the county jails for housing state offenders out of any available funds. The mandate is as follows: \$25.00 per day per offender for days one through thirty, \$30.00 per day per offender for days thirty-one through sixty, and \$34.00 per day per offender for days sixty-one or greater.

**Conference Report Has Been Filed and Signed**

**MASIT**  
MAS Insurance Trust



## 2023 MASIT Law Enforcement Risk Management Conference April 26-27, 2023

MASIT will host an inaugural Law Enforcement Risk Management Conference at the Sheraton Refuge Hotel in Flowood, MS- **April 26 - 27, 2023**. Sessions are designed specifically for county law enforcement personnel and will address high risk areas in Mississippi and nationwide. Industry expert speakers from Law Enforcement Risk Management Group (formerly LLRMI) and OSS Academy will present, along with MASIT defense panel attorneys and the Department of Homeland Security.

Registration is open to all 82 counties. All county officials are invited. Sheriffs, road deputies, training officers, jail administrators and other law enforcement personnel are encouraged to register.

Agenda and registration form are available on the MAS website at: <https://www.mssupervisors.org/masit-law-enforcement-risk-management-conference>. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please email Stephanie Spangler at [Sspangler@massup.org](mailto:Sspangler@massup.org) or Renada Skannal at [Rskannal@massup.org](mailto:Rskannal@massup.org). Or call the MAS office at 601.353.3741.