



2018 Legislative Report- Week 5

House Committee Passes Education Budget; Heads to House Floor

The House Ways and Means Education Committee unanimously passed a 2019 education budget on Wednesday. The budget allocates \$6.6 billion in funding, which is an increase of \$216 million from the 2018 budget and is the highest funding level since 2008. The budget includes:

- \$4.1 billion for K-12 (\$114 million increase)
- An increase of \$37 million for higher education
- An increase of \$20.7 million for the state Pre-K program
- A \$5 million increase for the Alabama Reading Initiative
- \$500,000 for Governor Ivey's "Strong Start, Strong Finish" initiative

The bill is expected to be on the House floor on Tuesday.

Teacher Pay Raise Passes House Committee

The Ways and Means Education Committee approved a 2.5 percent teacher pay raise. The increase would be the first pay raise for teachers since 2016, when they received a 4 percent increase.

House Passes First Time Home Buyer Savings Account Bill

The House passed HB 248, the Alabama First-time and Second Chance Home Buyer Savings Account Act on Tuesday without opposition. The bill would establish a First Time Home Buyers Savings Account Program that provides an opportunity for residents to save and grow funds to apply towards the purchase of a home. The bill provides that:

- Accounts may be opened by first-time home buyers and those re-entering the housing market, if they have not owned a home within five years.
- Savings from the account can be used to pay for a down payment and/or closing costs for the purchase of a single-family dwelling.
- The principal deposits and earnings from the account are deductible.
- Deductions for principal contributions are limited to \$6000 for those filing individually and \$12,000 for those filing jointly.
- Total deductions from deposits and earnings cannot exceed \$60,000.
- Qualified expenditures must be made in 5 years from opening the account.

Senate Committee Approves Bonus for Retired Teachers

SB 21 was unanimously approved Wednesday by the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee. While the details are still a work in progress, the bill would give retired educators a one-time bonus check. Work on the bill will continue as lawmakers search for the funds in the budget. The bill now moves to the Senate floor for consideration.

Ivey Signs Economic Development Bill

SB 98 was signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey on Tuesday. The bill allows county commissions to abate so-called “rollback” ad valorem taxes for economic development projects that qualify under the Alabama Jobs Act. As a result, Limestone County will be able to offer “rollback” tax abatements as part of the local incentives package for the Toyota-Mazda plant.

Alabama Files Lawsuit Against Opioid Manufacturer Purdue

Attorney General Steve Marshall announced Tuesday that Alabama is suing Purdue Pharma, Purdue Frederick Company Inc. and Rhodes Pharmaceuticals for violating the Alabama Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The state alleges that the entities engaged in deceptive and inappropriate sales and marketing techniques regarding opioids, resulting in the endangerment of the welfare of Alabamians. The lawsuit contends that Purdue engaged in a highly deceptive marketing campaign in the 1990s that misrepresented the risks and benefits of using opioids.

House Passes Mental Illness Bill

HB 166, which would allow trained marriage and family therapists to diagnose and treat mental illness, passed the House by a vote of 68-14 on Tuesday. While the bill would allow such therapists to make the diagnosis, it would not allow them to prescribe drugs. The same bill also passed the House during last year’s session but did not make it out of the Senate. This year’s attempt now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Legislative Tracking Report

AL - HB97 Transportation network companies, Public Service Commission permit required to operate, minimum requirements imposed

Last Action: Read for the first time and referred to the House of Representatives committee on Commerce and Small Business (January 9, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Representative David Faulkner \(R\)](#)

AL - HB173 Ad valorem taxes, co. commission authorized to abate taxes for Class III property taxed at current use when converted to other taxable use for projects under Ala. Jobs Act, consent of municipality if in corporate limits, Sec. 40-7-25.4 added

Last Action: Read for the first time and referred to the House of Representatives committee on Economic Development and Tourism (January 11, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Representative Danny Crawford \(R\)](#)

AL - HB190 Transportation network companies, Public Service Commission permit required to operate, minimum requirements imposed

Last Action: Read for the second time and placed on the calendar (February 8, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Representative David Faulkner \(R\)](#)

Amendments:

[190833-1](#)

AL - HB317 Economic Development, notification and confidentiality provisions revised for certain economic incentives, State Industrial Development Authority, bonds for industrial development and site preparation, auth., Alabama Jobs Enhancement Act, Secs. 41-29-501 to 41-29-507, inclusive, added; Sec. 41-29-3 am'd.

Last Action: Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment (February 1, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Representative Ken Johnson \(R\)](#)

AL - SB65 Transportation network companies, Public Service Commission permit required to operate, minimum requirements imposed

Last Action: Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Transportation and Energy (January 9, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Senator Bobby D. Singleton \(D\)](#)

AL - SB98 Ad valorem taxes, co. commission authorized to abate taxes for Class III property taxed at current use when converted to other taxable use for projects under Ala. Jobs Act, consent of municipality if in corporate limits, Sec. 40-7-25.4 added

Last Action: Enrolled (January 30, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Senator Arthur Orr \(R\)](#)

AL - SB143 Transportation network companies, Public Service Commission permit required to operate, minimum requirements imposed

Last Action: Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment (February 1, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Senator Bobby D. Singleton \(D\)](#)

AL - SB187 Tax credits, exemptions, deductions, enacted in 2019 Reg. Sess., or thereafter, expiration within seven years from effective date, const. amend.

Last Action: Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development (January 16, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Senator Bill Hightower \(R\)](#)