



EDAA LEGISLATIVE REPORT – WEEK 8

Ivey Signs Statewide Ridesharing Bill

Governor Ivey signed legislation on Thursday that will allow ridesharing companies such as Uber and Lyft to operate across Alabama. The statewide regulatory regime allows the Public Service Commission to collect a fee from the ridesharing companies, issue permits, and implement discrimination and substance abuse policies. Alabama is the 45th state to pass ridesharing legislation.

Senate Passes Data Breach Bill

The Senate unanimously approved SB318, the Alabama Data Breach Notification Act, which would require that entities doing business in Alabama or state agencies notify consumers if their personal data has been compromised in a data breach. Such notification would be required within 45 days of the breach's discovery. In the event a breach affects more than 1,000 people, the company or agency would be required to also notify the Alabama Attorney General's office; if it affects more than 500,000 people, the company or agency would be required to post notices online and in the newspapers, on television, and on radio stations where the affected people live. If the company or agency fails to properly notify consumers of the breach, the Attorney General's office can levy a fine of \$5,000 per day and file a lawsuit on behalf of those affected. SB318 now goes to the House for consideration.

Senate Approves Pay Raise for State Employees

A three-percent cost-of-living increase for many state employees was approved in the Senate Tuesday by a 28-1 vote. The bill would affect all state employees working for non-education agencies and would represent the first cost-of-living adjustment since 2008. If passed by the House and signed by the governor, the pay increase would take effect in October.

Senate Authorizes Bonuses for Retired Teachers and State Employees

The Senate overwhelmingly passed two bills Tuesday that would provide many retired teachers and state employees a one-time bonus. The size of the bonus would be determined by how long the person was employed by the state at a rate of \$1 per month worked. For example, an employee who worked 25 years would receive a \$300 bonus; someone who worked for 50 years would receive \$600. The two bills now go to the House for consideration.

Committee Approves First-Time Home Buyer Savings Account Bill

On Wednesday, the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee passed HB248,

which would establish a savings program for first-time home buyers. The bill would allow first-time home buyers and individuals who have not owned a home in the previous five years to save up to \$12,000 (\$6,000 for an individual and \$12,000 for a couple) per year tax-free over a five-year period to apply toward the purchase of a home. The amount contributed to the savings account would be tax deductible. If they do not purchase the home within the five-year window, the contributions and earnings would be subject to tax. HB248 now moves to the full senate for consideration.

Committee Unanimously Approves Fantasy Sports Bill

The Senate Tourism and Marketing Committee unanimously approved a bill Wednesday that would legalize fantasy sports in Alabama. The bill would require fantasy sports companies to register with the Alabama Attorney General's office and pay a registration fee to do business in the state. The AG's office would regulate the companies, and players would have to be at least 19 years old. Fantasy sports have been illegal in Alabama since a 2016 opinion offered by former Attorney General Luther Strange. While Senator Paul Sanford (R-Huntsville) believes it unlikely that his bill will pass this year, it can now move to the full Senate for consideration.

Committee Delays Prison Health Contract

The Legislative Contract Review Committee delayed a \$360 million proposed contract between the Alabama Department of Corrections and Wexford Health Sources amidst allegations of bribery involving the company in Mississippi. The contract, which has been put on hold for 45 days, would provide comprehensive medical and mental health care for more than 20,000 state inmates. While the Committee can temporarily block the contract's implementation, Governor Ivey will have the final authority regarding whether to finalize the contract.

Comprehensive Ethics Bill on Hold; Economic Development Clarification Moving Forward

SB383, introduced last week in an effort to clarify ethics laws and "close potential loopholes" regarding the conduct of public officials, has been put on hold for this year. Instead, the legislature intends to appoint a panel comprised of lawmakers and state officials to study potential changes to the Ethics Law with the goal of preparing a bill for next year.

HB 317, which clarifies that certain economic development officials do not have to register as lobbyists, is scheduled to be on the House floor on Tuesday. The legislation is reported to have broad support, including the Department of Commerce, the economic development community, Governor Ivey and the Attorney General's office.

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: Clerk of the House Certification (February 15, 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 - HB430 Commerce, recapture benefit extended to call centers that relocate out of state

Last Action: Read for the first time and referred to the House of Representatives committee on State Government (February 15, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Representative Phil Williams \(R\)](#)

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 \(R\)](#)

AL - SB356 Taxation, businesses, income tax credit to a business that loses an employee to another business receiving any economic tax incentive from state government

Last Action: Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Finance and Taxation Education (March 1, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Senator Paul Sanford \(R\)](#)