



EDAA LEGISLATIVE REPORT – WEEK 9

House Passes Economic Development Bill

The House overwhelmingly passed HB 317 Tuesday. The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Ken Johnson, provides for additional accountability and transparency in the State's economic development statutes. The bill also clarifies that certain economic development professionals are not lobbyists as defined in Alabama's Ethics Law. The bill is strongly supported by the State Department of Commerce and local economic developers. HB 317 is needed to ensure Alabama remains competitive in its efforts to recruit industry. The bill, which passed the House by a vote of 79-7, now moves to the Senate for consideration.

House Committee Approves General Fund Budget, More Money for State Workers

The House Ways and Means General Fund Committee easily passed a \$2 billion General Fund budget Wednesday. Budget increases include:

- \$55 million for Department of Corrections
- \$53 million for Medicaid
- Approximately \$14.5 million for a 3% COLA for state employees
- \$8.9 million for Department of Mental Health
- \$3.1 million for Department of Human Resources
- \$2.4 million for Department of Public Health
- \$1.7 million for bonuses for state retirees

The proposed budget will be considered by the full House on Tuesday. If it passes (which is very likely), it will then go back to the Senate, where the body will have two options: 1. Concur with the House changes, which will send the budget across the street to the Governor's desk or 2. Send the bill to conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions. If the General Fund passes next week, it will be the quickest General Fund Budget process in recent memory.

Senate Postpones Vote on Day Care Legislation

A bill proposing to regulate some previously unlicensed religious day cares was not voted on this week and is expected to return to the floor Tuesday. The bill, which passed the House last month, would require some for-profit religious day cares and those that receive federal or state funding to be licensed by the Alabama Department of Human Resources and adhere to minimum safety standards. Those day cares not receiving federal or state funding would remain exempt. Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh (R-Anniston) expects the bill to pass following amendment negotiations.

Senate Committee Approves Bill to Fund School Security

The Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee approved a bill this week that would allow school systems to use money from the Advancement and Technology Fund in an effort to make schools safer. Funds could be used for initiatives such as placing police officers in schools or making building entrances more secure. The fund will likely be appropriated \$58 million for next year. The proposed legislation, which has been endorsed by Governor Ivey and Interim School Superintendent Ed Richardson, can now move to the full Senate for consideration.

Senate Committee Stops Medicaid RCO Repeal

The Senate Health Committee voted Wednesday to block a bill that would have repealed 2012 legislation allowing for the creation of regional care organizations (RCOs) to manage Medicaid in Alabama. The proposed bill, SB 351, would have removed authorization for the state to create the RCOs. The bill was indefinitely carried over.

House Committee Approves Capital Punishment Legislation

A bill that would give inmates on death row the option to choose execution by nitrogen hypoxia was approved Wednesday by the House Judiciary Committee. While Oklahoma and Mississippi allow the method as a backup, it has never been used. The proposed legislation can now move to the House floor 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: 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 first time and referred to the Senate committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development (March 6, 2018)

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

Scheduled Hearing:

[Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development \(Senate\)](#)

Date: March 14, 2018

Time: TBA (CDT)

Location: Room 727

[AL - HB430](#) [Commerce, recapture benefit extended to call centers that relocate out of state](#)

Last Action: Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment (March

8, 2018)

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

AL - HB494 Taxation, tax abatements, authorized for data processing centers, extended for five years, Sec. 40-9B-4.1 amd.

Last Action: Read for the first time and referred to the House of Representatives committee on County and Municipal Government (March 8, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter \(R\)](#)

Scheduled Hearing:

[County and Municipal Government \(House\)](#)

Date: March 13, 2018

Time: 12:30pm (CDT)

Location: Room 410

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, businessess, 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 second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment (March 8, 2018)

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

AL - SB379 Taxation, tax abatements, authorized for data processing centers, extended for five years, Sec. 40-9B-4.1 amd.

Last Action: Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Finance and Taxation Education (March 8, 2018)

Primary Sponsor: [Senator J. T. "Jabo" Waggoner \(R\)](#)