



# The ACCS Legislative Update

2017 Legislative Session Update #2017-03  
February 24, 2017

## A Successful Week for ACCS

The Alabama Legislature once again met for two days this week – Tuesday, February 21 and Thursday, February 23. They have now completed six of the 30 days allowed in the Regular Session. Several ACCS priorities were successfully completed or took major steps forward in the legislative process this week. On Tuesday, the Senate gave final approval to **Senate Confirmations 8, 9, 10 and 12**, giving Chuck Smith, Susan Foy, Crystal Brown, and Al Thompson new 4-year terms on the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees. Congratulations to our newly-reappointed Trustees! Also on Tuesday, the Senate passed **SB114**, our “Body Corporate” legislation, by a vote of 30-1. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for further consideration and has been assigned to the House Education Policy Committee, which gave a favorable report to its companion bill, **HB163**, last week.

We have also had positive discussions with Sen. Arthur Orr and Rep. Bill Poole, Chairmen of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee and House Ways and Means Education Committee, respectively, and other legislators regarding ACCS’s budget priorities. The Education Budget will start in the Senate this year, and is expected to start its annual legislative journey before the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee in the near future.

With the new bills introduced this week, the total number of bills is now up to 561 (316 in the House and 245 in the Senate). The Legislature will reconvene next Tuesday, February 28, with the House convening at 1 PM and the Senate at 2 PM.

In other news, Governor Bentley on Tuesday signed **Executive Order 28** which creates the Alabama Grocery Tax Task Force to study and recommend ways to remove the state sales tax on groceries. You may view the Governor’s Press Release here:

<http://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2017/02/governor-bentley-announces-alabama-grocery-tax-task-force/>

## Bills of Interest:

### **SB114/HB163 – Sen. Pittman/Rep. McMillan:**

To establish the Community College System as a body corporate and give the Board of Trustees authority to manage the acquisition and disposition of property (*SB114 passed by Senate on 2/21; HB163 on House Special Order calendar for Tuesday*)

### **SB153/HB97 – Sen. Singleton/Rep. Collins:**

To create the Alabama Network of Statewide Workforce and Education-Related Statistics (ANSWERS) for Alabama (Longitudinal Data System) within the Dept. of Labor (*SB153 failed on BIR vote on 2/21; could be brought back up at later date. HB97 has received favorable report by the House Education Policy Committee*)

### **SB203/HB275 – Sen. Holtzclaw/Rep. Drake**

To clarify the level of access that public schools and higher education institutions must give to military recruiters of the United States Armed Forces and US Department of Homeland Security (*SB203 received favorable report for Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee; HB275 introduced this week and assigned to House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee*)

### **SB22 – Sen. Dial:**

State income tax credit for rural physicians; to expand the number of years the credit may be taken and make the credit available to rural dentists (*Given favorable report by Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*)

### **HB152 – Rep. Boyd:**

To exempt the purchase of library/research electronic databases of manuscripts, books, maps, pamphlets, or periodicals from the competitive bid law (*Given favorable report by the House State Government Committee; also on House Special Order calendar for Tuesday*)

### **SB66 – Sen. Dial:**

Expands the current income tax credit provided to Alabama employers with less than 50 employees to cover all eligible unemployed veterans hired as opposed to only recently deployed unemployed veterans (*Given favorable report by Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*)

### **SB230 – Sen. Sanford:**

To establish the Alabama Shared Revenue Fund where all state revenues will be initially deposited and distributed to the Education Trust Fund and General Fund based on established percentages (*Introduced this week and assigned to Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*)

### **HB302 – Rep. Wadsworth:**

Constitutional Amendment to lower the state tax rate on the net income of corporations to 6 percent beginning in calendar year 2019 (*Introduced this week and assigned to the House Ways and Means Education Committee*)

