



# The ACCS Legislative Update

2017 Legislative Session Update #2017-05

March 10, 2017

## A Third of the Way Done...

The Alabama Legislature again met for two days this week on Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 9, completing the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> legislative days of the 30 days allowed in the Regular Session. While the majority of work in both the House of Representatives and Senate this week was largely noncontroversial, both chambers did get bogged down at times on contentious legislation. For example, the House had heavy debate on a measure to create a task force to study our state's firearm laws, while the Senate spent several hours on Thursday debating a bill to create a new Permanent Joint Committee on Alabama Monument Protection that would be the ultimate decider on the relocation or removal of certain historical monuments around the state. We are getting to a point in the legislative session where more contentious issues begin to be debated for much longer periods of time and the passage of legislation begins to slow down, so this is no surprise.

Speaking of contentious issues, a substituted General Fund Budget was approved by the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee on Wednesday, which level-funds most agencies, removes the raise for state employees that was included in the Governor's budget proposal, and is tens of millions of dollars short of the Alabama Medicaid Agency's budget request. The budget is expected to come before the full House of Representatives for debate on Tuesday, which will likely make for a long night in the House. The timing on the Education Budget is less certain – it could come before the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee at some point next week, or the first week of April after the Legislature returns from its two-week Spring Break beginning the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>. Once the committee approves a budget in some form, it would likely come up soon after for extended debate in the full Senate.

With the new bills introduced this week, the total number of bills is now up to 692 (393 in the House and 299 in the Senate). The Legislature will reconvene next Tuesday, March 13, with the House convening at 1 PM and the Senate at 2 PM. In addition, next week will be the first three-day week of the session, with the Legislature meeting Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

## Bills of Interest:

### **SB114 – Sen. Pittman:**

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 is ready to come before the full House of Representatives for final passage*)

### **HB152 – Rep. Boyd:**

To exempt the purchase of library/research electronic databases of manuscripts, books, maps, pamphlets, or periodicals from the competitive bid law (*Favorable Report from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee 3/9*)

### **SB262/HB345 – Sen. Waggoner/Rep. Gaston:**

To provide a new income tax credit against the tax liability of a taxpayer for the rehabilitation, preservation, and development of historic structures (*Favorable Report from the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee 3/9; awaiting action by the House Ways and Means Education Committee*)

### **SB66 – Sen. Dial:**

Expands the current income tax credit provided to Alabama small businesses to cover all eligible unemployed veterans hired (*Passed by the Senate 3/7; assigned to the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee*)

### **SB288/HB384 – Sen. Dial/Rep. Fincher:**

To increase the time frame required for a K-12 teacher to give notice before terminating his or her employment and to delete postsecondary education employees from the requirements in the law (*Introduced this week and assigned to the Senate Education and Youth Affairs Committee and the House Education Policy Committee*)

### **SB287 – Sen. Dial:**

To provide for the participation of additional entities in the Alabama Ahead Act and to make a supplemental appropriation from the Education Trust Fund Advancement and Technology Fund to the Department of Education, Alabama Community College System, and 4-year institutions of higher education (*Introduced this week and assigned to the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*)

### **SB293 – Sen. Marsh**

To expand the adjusted gross income range allowed for a maximum standard deduction for taxpayers claiming single, married, and head of household for Alabama individual income tax purposes (*Introduced this week and assigned to the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*)

