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Special Report

In last week's edition of The Diplomat, we reported that the Senate is taking this week and next week for its spring break and returning for the 14th Legislative Day on March 31st while the House is taking this week and part of next week. The House originally planned to return to the Statehouse Wednesday, March 25th to hold committee meetings and convene for the 13th Legislative Day on Thursday, March 26th. However, much has changed since then. There are at least 46 confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the state. Governor Ivey has declared a state of emergency, and many steps have been taken to "flatten the curve" as they say. Accordingly, the plan for now is for the House and Senate to re-convene for the 13th Legislative Day on March 31st. Like many things at the Statehouse, that plan remains fluid.

The Legislature must adjourn sine die by May 18th, which is 105 calendar days since it convened for the 2020 Regular Session on February 4th. The State Constitution sets out that the Legislature can meet for a regular session 30 legislative days within a 105-calendar day period. When the Legislature adjourned last Thursday for its break, it had met 12 legislative days. Whether Legislature will be able to use the remaining 18 legislative days remains uncertain.

Concerns about the state budgets are growing as the impact of the coronavirus on the economy continues. The 2021 General Fund Budget is estimated to be \$2.5 billion, and the Education Trust Fund Budget is estimated to be \$7.5 billion. Those estimates will very likely change. The unknown is by how much. It may be weeks before the financial toll is known.

We will keep you informed as we learn more. Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Stay well!!