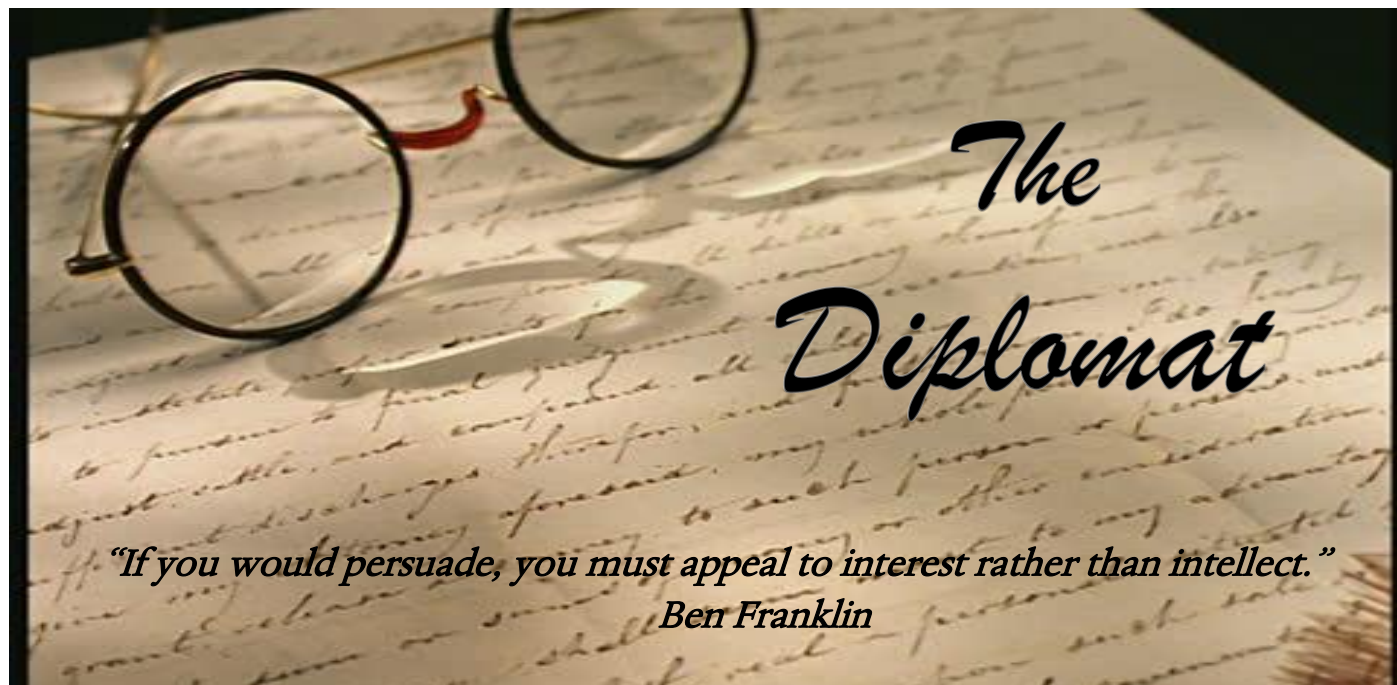


Special Report - March 27, 2020



A Publication by the deGraffenried and Company

**Special Report**

**Alabama Legislative Update**

**and**

**COVID 19 Update**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**[www.deGlobby.com](http://www.deGlobby.com)**

**Ryan deGraffenried III • Susan Hansen • David Rogers**  
**529 South Perry Street, Suite 10, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 • Email: [deg@deGlobby.com](mailto:deg@deGlobby.com)**

Thursday, House Speaker McCutcheon gavelled into the 13<sup>th</sup> Legislative Day of the 2020 Regular Session. The House Chamber was largely empty, which was by design. House Members were asked to stay home rather than return to Montgomery. Speaker McCutcheon adjourned the day for lack of a quorum without setting a date certain to return.

Later Thursday, after discussions between House and Senate Leadership, it was agreed that both chambers will convene Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> for the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Day of the 2020 Regular Session. It is not likely that any significant issues will be taken up that day, only administrative matters. Thereafter, the two chambers are expected to adjourn until April 28<sup>th</sup> for the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Day, although the House has not committed to return on the 28<sup>th</sup>. It has been reported that the public, including lobbyists, will not be admitted into the Statehouse March 31<sup>st</sup>. Beginning April 28<sup>th</sup>, hopes are that it will be business as usual in the Statehouse halls, with the Legislature focusing on passing the budgets, local bill, certain economic development bills and possibly the Governor's prison reform package. Senate members have been asked to submit to leadership a priority list of their own bills they hope to pass.

Upon returning April 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be 15 remaining Legislative Days and 21 of the 105 remaining calendar days before the Legislature must adjourn sine die. Senate Leadership intends to have four or even five-day work weeks during the final days, meaning the Legislature will go into session four or five days during each week. The Legislature usually meets twice per week; that is having session days on Tuesdays and Thursdays with committee meetings held on Wednesdays.

In the best-case scenario, it takes five legislative days to pass a bill, so there will be a time crunch to get bills other than those that have been prioritized passed. We will have to wait and see if there will be a need for the Governor to call the Legislature back for a Special Session later in the year.

Also of interest, Governor Ivey announced at a press conference yesterday that in light of the continued spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, which as of the time of this report exceeds 500 cases in Alabama, school students will not be reporting back to school for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Governor Ivey issued a fourth supplemental state of emergency proclamation, further addressing the increase of COVID-19 cases. The fourth supplement directs that beginning April 6<sup>th</sup>, all K-12 public schools shall complete the balance of the school year using alternative methods of instruction as established by the State Department of Education. Dr. Eric Mackey, the State Superintendent, stated at the press conference with Governor Ivey that student instruction will consist of, among other things, online curriculum and take-home materials for those students that do not have access to online services. Dr. Mackey also stated that Alabama Public Libraries' "homework hotlines" have increased their hours of operation to assist students with questions concerning school assignments and that Alabama Public Television will be airing educational programming.

Governor Ivey reiterated that at this time, she does not intend to issue a "shelter-in-place" order. She will continue to consult with Dr. Scott Harris, the State Public Health Officer, and other medical professionals to determine if such an order may become necessary.