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"If you would persuade, you must appeal to interest rather than intellect." Ben Franklin

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THE SENATE

General Fund

THE HOUSE

War & Peace

IN COMMITTEE

This Week

**House Reconvenes
Tuesday, May 28 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Senate Reconvenes
Tuesday, May 28 - 3:30 p.m.**

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The Legislature was topsy-turvy this week with everyone eyeing Sine Die, which is expected next week. Tuesday was productive, Wednesday a train wreck and Thursday a day of peace, all signs of a session nearing the end. There are six legislative days remaining, but adjournment is expected next Friday, maybe even as early as Thursday leaving several days unused.

THE SENATE

General Fund

Tuesday afternoon, the Senate gavelled in and flew through a 19-bill Special Order Calendar. Next came the General Fund Budget that also passed with little debate, and included the entire amount needed to fund CHIP, the federal health care program for low and mid-income children. It now goes to a conference committee between the House and Senate to resolve any differences.

Wednesday, the Senate showed little productivity after Sen. Rodger Smitherman (D-Birmingham) began to filibuster over a bill that would reorganize the Birmingham Water Works Board by shifting power away from the City of Birmingham and giving people outside Birmingham City limits more seats on the board. The Senate adjourned with no action taken on the matter.

Thursday was a repeat of Tuesday in the Senate with an agreement to work quickly through a lengthy calendar of about 28-bills and adjourn before lunch.

THE HOUSE

War & Peace

The House Ways and Means Education Committee held a public hearing on the Education Budget Tuesday, and Wednesday gave it a favorable report as amended, but still comparable to the Senate passed version. The House version trims back some increases, but ensures that all state universities receive at least a 6 percent increase and maintaining the 4 percent teacher pay raise. The House is expected to take the budget up on the floor next Tuesday.

Also Tuesday, the House began by bringing up for debate SB220 by Sen. Greg Albritton (R-Atmore) the lottery, but it was pretty anti-climatic. The bill was first on the calendar, but failed to get enough votes to suspend the Budget Isolation Resolution (BIR) on a 53-36 vote (Three-fifth of those voting is needed), far short of the 63 votes needed to pass a constitutional amendment should the procedural vote have prevailed. House sponsor Rep. Steve Clouse (R-Ozark) later announced the lottery bill would not come back up again this legislative session.

The House continued their trend of late nights and had plans to remain in session until midnight Wednesday to work through 40 pieces of legislation allowing only ten minutes of debate on each bill. But the wheels came off and the House quickly adjourned around 9:30 as a result of Rep. Arnold Mooney (R-Pelham) filing a formal complaint against Rep. John Rogers (D-Birmingham) asking that he be censured over abortion related comments he made a couple of weeks ago.

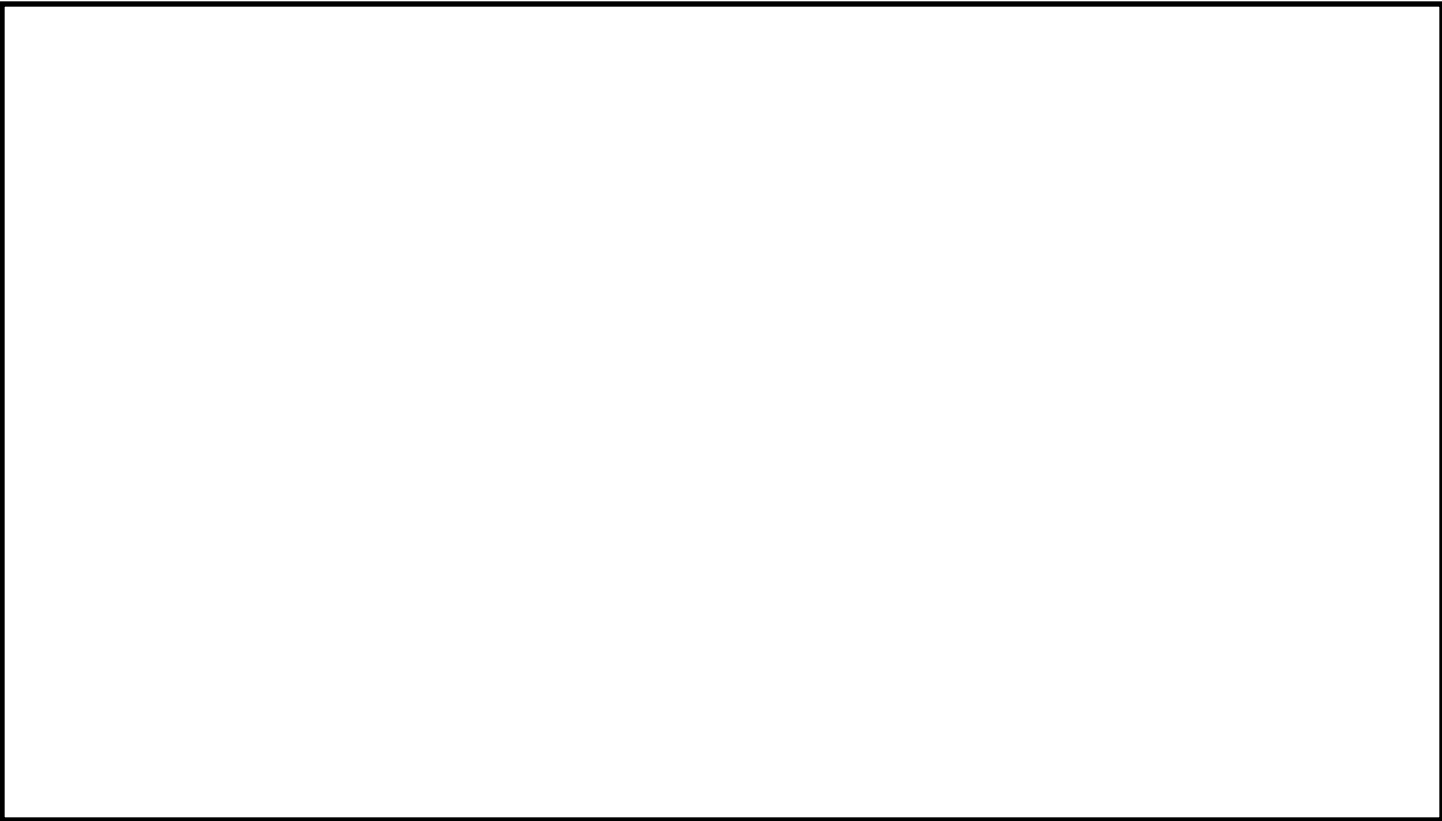
Thursday morning began with House Speaker Mac McCutcheon (R-Monrovia) addressing the body over their conduct on the previous day. His speech was well received and the House worked in unison passing 45 general bills before adjourning late in the day.

One of the bills passing was SB69 by Sen. Greg Albritton (R-Atmore) by a vote of 67-26. It eliminates marriage licenses and replaces them with an affidavit that would be recorded by the probate judge. It goes to the Governor for her signature.

IN COMMITTEE

This Week

- **HB545** by Rep. AJ McCampbell (D-Linden) and **SB321** by Sen. Bobby Singleton (D-Greensboro) both had public hearings in the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee this week, but no vote was taken. Both bills would allow bingo to be played on paper or electronic machines or devices in Greene County.
- **SB225** by Sen Tim Melson (R-Florence) received a favorable report from the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee. This bill would develop and submit a plan for monitoring and regulating hemp production to the federal Secretary of Agriculture for approval. The bill would also remove tetrahydrocannabinols (THCs) in hemp from the Schedule 1 controlled substances list. It now goes to the full House for consideration.
- **SB90** by Sen. Clay Scofield (R-Guntersville) received a favorable report with a substitute in the House Ways and Means Education Committee. The provides Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs grants to provide broadband in rural, underserved areas of the state. It is on one of two Special Order Calendars proposed for Tuesday in the House.
- **HB519** by Rep. Gil Isbell (R-Gadsden) received a favorable report with a committee substitute in the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee. This bill would allow a delivery service permit to be issued by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board that would let a permittee contract with licensed food retail stores to deliver, or if the permittee is a licensed food retail store to deliver, beer and wine directly to Alabama residents who are at least 21 years of age for personal use.
- **SB63** by Sen. Jim McClendon (R-Springville) received a favorable report from the House State Government Committee. This bill amends the definition of cultural resources to delete the language that includes items that are eligible for, or listed in, the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. This bill now goes to the full House for consideration.
- **SB404** by Sen. Roger Smitherman (D-Birmingham) received a favorable report as substituted in the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee. This bill allows small manufacturers of beer to have ownership rights in a brewpub and requires the manufacturer to go through a wholesaler to transfer alcoholic beverages. This bill now goes to the full House for consideration.



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