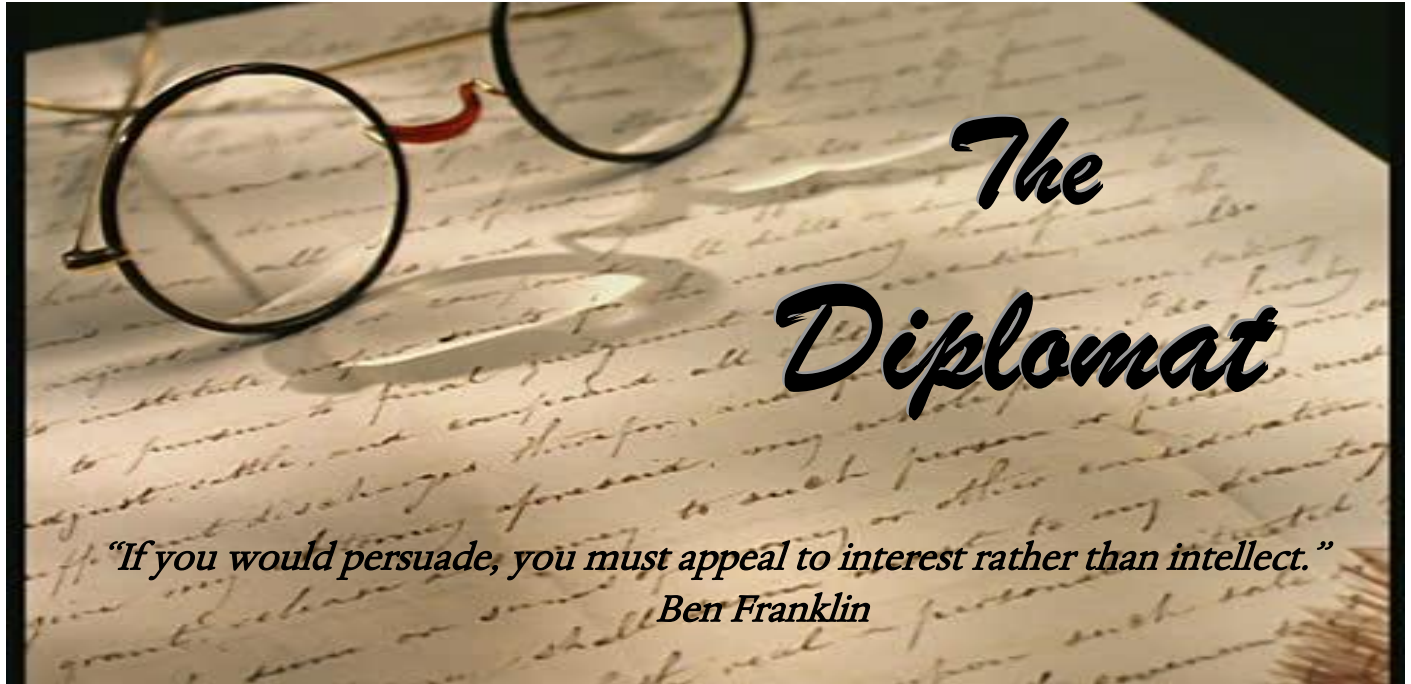


Week 3 - February 21, 2020



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

Ben Franklin

A Publication by the deGraffenried and Company

THE SENATE

Week 3

THE HOUSE

Week 3

OCCUPATIONAL TAX

State vs City

House Convenes
2/25/2020 at 1:00 pm

Senate Convenes
2/25/2020 at 2:00 pm

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THE SENATE

Week 3

The Legislature has completed its sixth legislative day, and now that committees have had several weeks to meet, expect things to start getting a little more exciting on the floors of the statehouse.

Tuesday was Military Appreciation Day in the Senate. The Senate spent the afternoon passing several pro-military pieces of legislation, including SB51 by Sen. Tom Whatley (R-Auburn), which allows military dependents to retain in-state tuition rates even after their sponsor transfers from the state. SB105 by Sen. Will Barfoot (R-Montgomery) also passed. It will enable military dependents to apply to magnet schools up until the first day of the school year.

Thursday the Senate quickly passed 17 “sunset” bills and adjourned. Every year the Legislature reviews various state agencies for continuation, termination or modification.

Wednesday the Senate Judiciary Committee approved, 8-1, to SB165 by Sen. Tim Melson (R-Florence). The legislation will allow medical marijuana with a physician’s prescription. It also creates an appointed nine-member Medical Cannabis Commission to oversee regulating and licensing of medical marijuana cultivators, processors and dispensaries. The bill further requires a statewide seed-to-sale tracking system for all cannabis in the state. It cannot be smoked and must be in the form of pills, gelatinous cubes, gels, oils or creams, transdermal patches and nebulizers.

THE HOUSE

Week 3

This week the House continued to operate from its Regular Order Calendar. The House will begin working from a Special Order Calendar Tuesday. Bills that passed this week include legislation prohibiting smoking and vaping in vehicles occupied with children under the age of 14. It now goes to the Senate for consideration. Also passing was legislation allowing for the use of alternative daily covers at landfills.

OCCUPATIONAL TAX

State vs City

Legislation causing a lot of chatter this session is HB147, by Rep. Chris Sells (R-Greenville) that would limit municipalities from enacting occupational taxes by requiring any such policy to pass the Legislature as local legislation. It only lacks a Senate vote and the Governor’s signature. In response to the bill, the Montgomery City Council, with the vocal support of Mayor Steven Reed, voted to pass an ordinance implementing a 1% occupational tax on all those working inside the city limits starting in 2021. Stay Tuned.