

Volume 3 - April 5, 2019



The Diplomat

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

A Publication by the deGraffenried and Company

THE SENATE

Quiet Week

THE HOUSE

Chugging Along

OPEN RECORDS ACT

Introduced

IN COMMITTEE

This Week

**House Reconvenes
Tuesday, April 9- 1:00 p.m.**

**Senate Reconvenes
Tuesday, April 9- 3:00 p.m.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.deGlobby.com

Ryan deGraffenried, III • Johnny Crawford • Susan Hansen • David Rogers
529 South Perry Street, Suite 10, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 • Email: deg@deGlobby.com

THE SENATE
Quiet Week

The Senate returned from spring break at a much calmer pace. The Legislature met three days this week having now completed seven legislative days. While controversy on the Senate floor was at a minimum, the Senate behind the scenes and debating legislation in the various committees was very busy

Thursday, the Senate Tourism and Marketing Committee held public hearings, on dueling lottery bills. SB116 & SB130 by Sen. Jim McClendon (R-Springville) A vote was not taken. These bills would provide for a state lottery and allow video lottery terminals at the state's four dog tracks and Lowndes County. They could bring jobs and revenue to financially struggling areas of the state. SB220 by Sen. Greg Albritton (R-Atmore) would limit lottery games to traditional paper tickets.

THE HOUSE
Chugging Along

The House started the week remembering Rep. Dimitri Polizos, who died unexpectedly last week. He was a well-known restaurant owner in Montgomery and was first elected in a special election in 2013, he was re-elected in 2014 and 2018. Governor Ivey has called for a special election with qualifying to end next Tuesday with a primary to be held on June 11 and the general on November 12.

The House then worked passing ten bills Tuesday including HB101 by Rep. Kerry Rich (R-Guntersville). This bill could require insurers to maintain an information security program and to report certain cybersecurity events to the Commissioner of Insurance. Also passing in quick order was HB106 by Rep. Chris Brown (R-Mobile). The bill would authorize the Commissioner of Insurance to create educational programs for consumers regarding matters regulated by the Department of Insurance and add hurricane and non-hurricane wind and hail to the list of perils from which information is provided by insurers to the department. Both bills passed without a dissenting vote.

Rep. April Weaver's (R-Alabaster) HB45 passed 101-0. It would authorize the Alabama Board of Nursing to award advanced-practice nurse loans to those who recently completed a graduate program and went to work in medically underserved areas. It now goes to the Senate.

Thursday, the House passed, by a vote of 94-4, HB289 by Rep. Alan Baker (R-Brewton). Under the bill, economic developers would not be considered lobbyists and would not register with the state or be required to disclose their employers and activity. Lawmakers last year approved a temporary exemption that expired April 1. The House-passed version of the bill would make the exemption permanent.

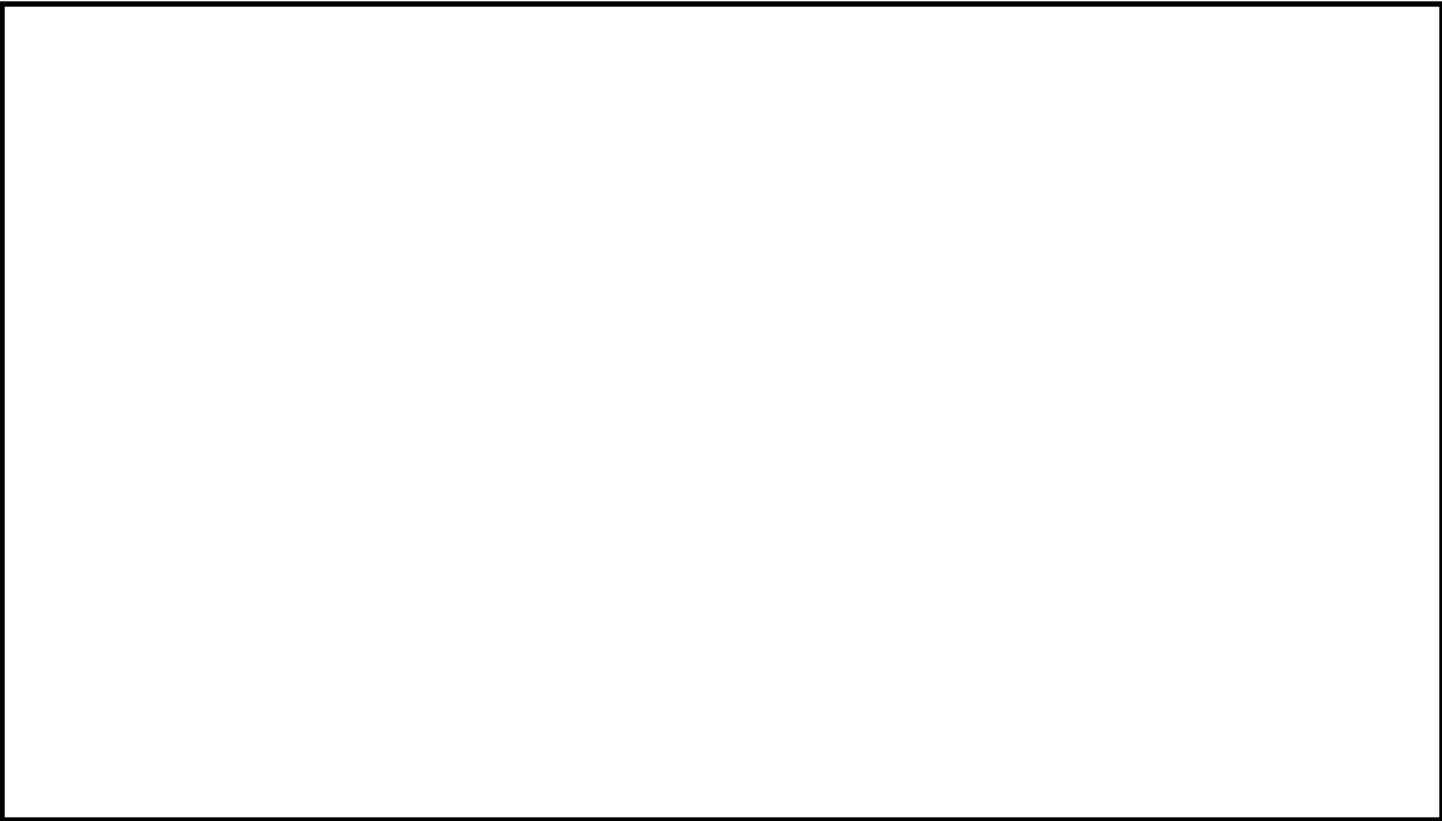
Open Records Act Introduced

Introduced this week was SB237 by Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster). The bill would establish the Alabama Open Records Act and would provide citizens with better access to public records. It would provide procedures for making and responding to requests for access to public records, and would set the fees to be charged for copies. Rep. Chris Pringle (R-Mobile) will handle the legislation in the House.

This legislation would create the Office of the Public Access Counselor within the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, establishes an appeals process and provide for administrative and judicial remedies. It also provides civil penalties for noncompliance.

IN COMMITTEE This Week

- **SB152** by Sen. Billy Beasley (D-Clayton) was approved in committee this week. It adopts the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act, effective January 1, 2021, and requires owners of vessels over 16 feet and under 26 feet, for which construction was completed after December 31, 2020, to obtain a certificate of title issued by the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA). This bill establishes a \$50 fee to be paid upon application for a certificate of title (or replacement), application for transfer of ownership, or search requests.
- **SB1** by Sen. Jim McClendon (R-Springville) would have prevented the holding or touching of a cell phone and other devices while driving. The vote failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee with 3 yes and 9 no.
- **SB156** by Sen. Jim McClendon had a public hearing in the Senate Healthcare Committee with a vote expected later in the session. This bill clarifies and updates Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) in the code. It will reflect more accurately what a CRNA does each and every day. It does **not** allow prescriptive authority but will allow CRNAs to continue their work in coordination with physicians and does not allow for independent practice.
- **SB191** by Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) received unanimous approval by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill creates the Alabama Forfeiture Accountability and Integrity Reform Act and would set out the exclusive process for asset forfeitures in the state.
- **HB152** by Rep. Steve Clouse received a favorable report from the House General Fund Committee. This bill is the proposed General Fund Budget.
- **HB41** by Rep. Shane Stringer (R-Mobile) received unanimous approval from the House Judiciary Committee Wednesday. This bill would put more regulations on the sale of E-cigarettes and other vaping devices.



deGraffenried
& Company

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

**529 South Perry Street, Suite 10
Montgomery, AL 36104**