



The Diplomat

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

A Publication by the deGraffenried and Company

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**House Reconvenes
Tuesday, April 23 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Senate Reconvenes
Tuesday, April 23 - 3:00 p.m.**

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THE SENATE**Quick week**

The Legislature passed the one-third mark Thursday with the 11th Legislative Day of the Regular Session. Currently 321 bills have been introduced in the Senate and 482 in the House.

The Senate started the week late Tuesday afternoon and got down to business passing HB289 by Rep. Alan Baker (R-Brewton) that will exempt economic developers from having to register as lobbyists under the state ethics law. Similar legislation passed last year, but it was time specific and expired this month. The new legislation is permanent and passed 31-0. It goes to the Governor for her signature.

The Senate also approved SB228 by Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur), which would close the loophole that currently allows sheriffs to personally pocket surplus funds for feeding prisoners. It also passed 31-0 and goes to the House for consideration.

Thursday, the Senate quickly passed a handful of bills including SB23 by Sen. Chris Elliot (R-Fairhope) that proposes to remove the authority of municipalities to license, levy and assess by ordinance within the police jurisdiction sales and use taxes within the police jurisdiction, and reduces the physical limits of the police jurisdiction for all municipalities and the territorial jurisdiction of all municipal planning commissions. It now goes to the House for consideration.

THE HOUSE**Staying the course**

Tuesday, the House gavelled in and quickly dispensed of a 15-bill Special Order Calendar consisting of non-controversial legislation, including legislation requiring public schools to conduct pledge of allegiance each day.

Thursday, the House passed several bills before adjourning around the lunchtime hour to allow members to get home before the impending weather and the Easter weekend. HB346 by Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter that would prevent local governments from banning or taxing plastic bags and other one-use items was on the Special Order Calendar, but adjournment came before reaching the bill, which has strong opposition and is questionable on a return to the calendar.

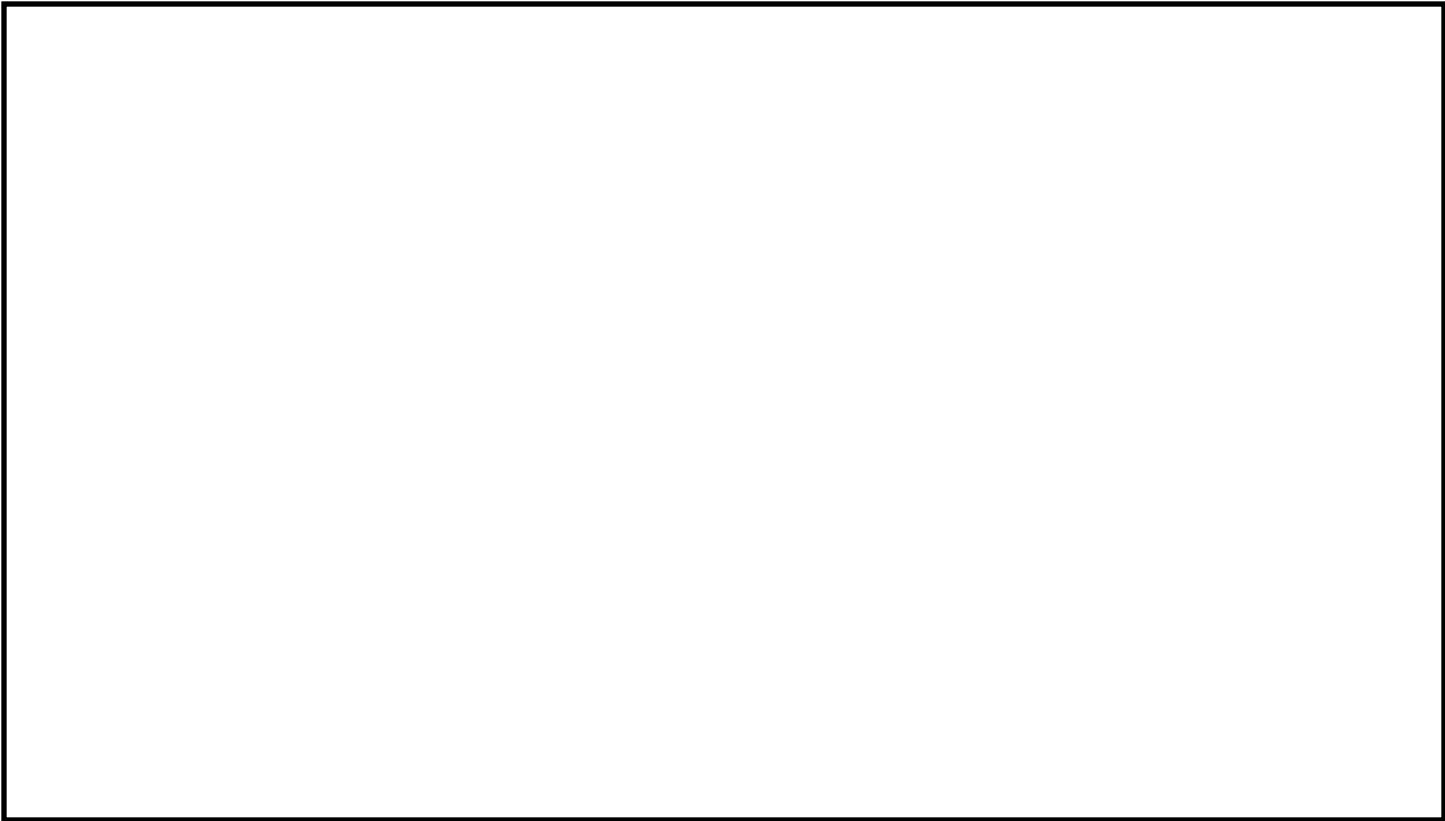
SB38 by Sen. Greg Reed (R-Jasper) was also on the calendar, but met a similar fate when time ran out on the day. The bill would allow the Board of Nursing to enter into the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact as a means of providing uniformity in licensing requirements throughout party states. The legislation should be back before the House next Tuesday.

OPEN RECORDS**Next week**

A bill strengthening the state's open records law is expected to be the first bill considered next Tuesday by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. SB237 by Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster), as written, would provide a five-day compliance timeline; provide reimbursement guidelines for copies and creates a position under the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts for oversight and to stipulate enforcement procedures.

IN COMMITTEE**This Week**

- **SB4** by Sen. Gerald Allen (R-Tuscaloosa) repealing the restrictions against carrying a concealed pistol in a car or on oneself, as well as other restrictions against carrying a pistol on certain property, was before the Senate Judiciary Committee this week in the form of a public hearing. Opponents against the bill, including a large group of law enforcement, along with supporters of the legislation packed the committee room to speak on the bill. A vote was not taken and Senate Judiciary Chairman Sen. Cam Ward hinted the committee might not vote on the bill; thus, it was reassigned to the Senate Tourism Committee chaired by Senate Pro Tem Del Marsh where it will likely receive a vote next week.
- **SB66** by Sen. Jack Williams (R-Mobile) received a favorable report from the House Agriculture & Forestry Committee and now moves to the full House for consideration. It would allow for the taking of whitetail deer and feral swine by means of bait, and authorize the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to adopt rules to manage the feeding of wild game animal populations.
- **SB265** by Sen. Linda Coleman-Madison (D-Birmingham) received a favorable report from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and now goes to the Senate for consideration. It would require the Historical Commission and the Division of Construction Management of the Department of Finance to commission monuments for Rosa Parks and Helen Keller to be located on the Capitol Grounds.
- **SB234** by Sen. Tom Whatley (R-Auburn) had a public hearing in the Senate Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee, but did not vote on the bill. It would allow a licensed small farm winery to sell and deliver table wine directly to consumers or licensed retailers provided the winery collects and remits all state and local sales, as well as use and excise taxes due on the sale of wine to consumers. A committee vote is expected next Wednesday.
- **SB271** by Sen. Andrew Jones (R-Centre) received a favorable report from the Senate Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee. It allows the shipment of craft wine and beer up to 24 cases annually directly to an Alabama resident over the age of 21. Two similar bills, **SB274** by Sen. Bobby Singleton (D-Greensboro) and **HB350** by Rep. Terri Collins (R-Decatur) also both had public hearings, but no vote in their respective committees.
- **HB314** by Rep. Terry Collins (R-Decatur) had a public hearing and received a favorable report by voice vote from the House Health Committee. It would criminalize abortion in most all cases, including those involving rape and incest. It now goes to the full House for consideration.



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