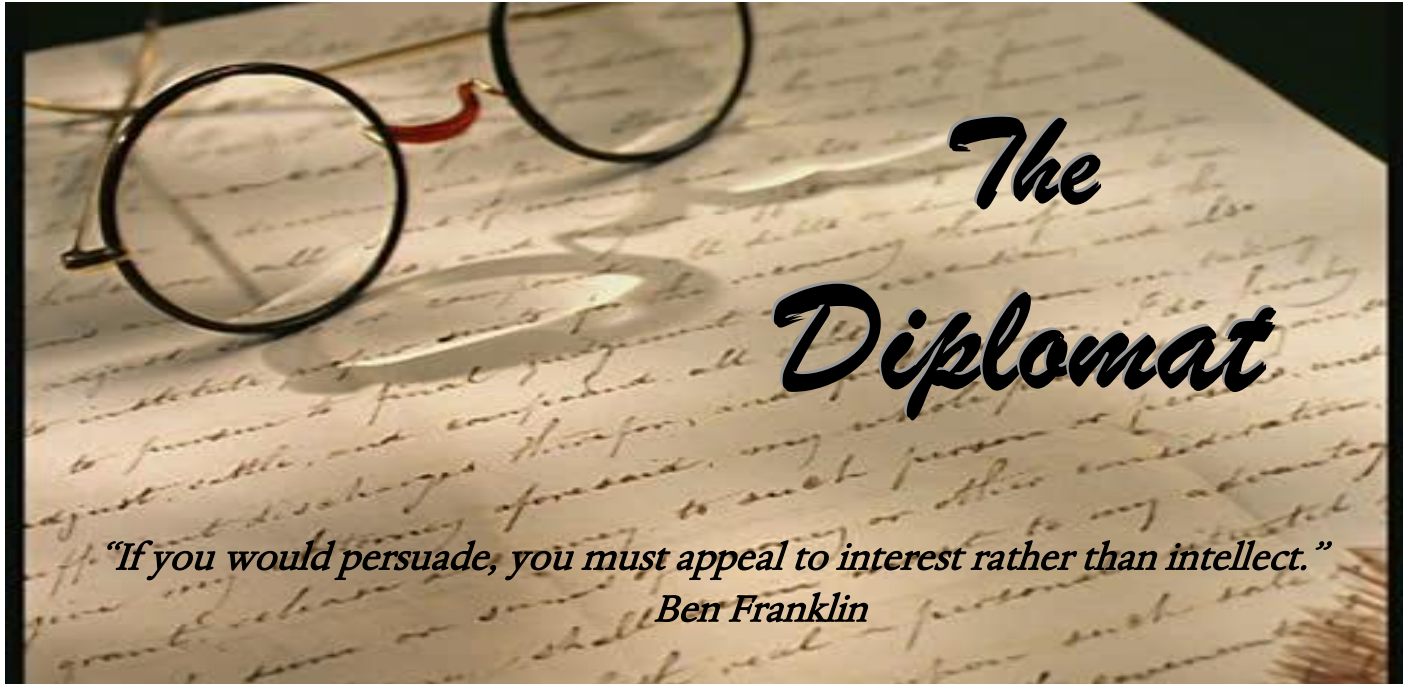


Week 6 - March 13, 2020



A Publication by the deGraffenried and Company

THE SENATE

Week 6

THE HOUSE

Week 6

LOTTERY

Dueling Bills

SPRING BREAK

House Convenes
3/26/2020

Senate Convenes
3/31/2020 at 2:00 pm

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THE SENATE**Week 6**

Tuesday, the Senate debated but did not vote on increased protections for Confederate Monuments after members of the minority caucus began to filibuster. The bill would increase the penalties for violating the 2017 Alabama Memorial Preservation Act from a flat \$25,000 to \$5,000 per day.

Thursday, the Senate spent much of the day debating SB165 by Sen. Tim Melson (R-Florence) that would regulate and allow for the use of medical marijuana for specific medical conditions set out in the bill. It eventually passed 22-11 and goes to the House for consideration where it is expected to encounter opposition.

SB57 by Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster), known as "The Open Records Act," received a public hearing in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Tuesday, where both opponents and supporters spoke. The bill was not voted on, and Sen. Jimmy Holley (R-Elba) the committee chairman, urged Ward to lead negotiations over the next couple of weeks.

THE HOUSE**Week 6**

Tuesday, the House passed several bills including, HB235 by Rep. Jeremy Gray (D-Opelika), by a vote of 84-17 legislation to reverse a 1993 policy that banned yoga from public schools. It goes to the Senate for consideration.

Thursday, the House approved the 28 Senate passed Sunset Bills before taking up a package of bills dealing with mental health.

LOTTERY**Dueling Bills**

Two gaming bills have been introduced in the past week. Rep. Steve Clouse (R-Ozark) introduced HB418, which is the same constitutional amendment he introduced last year, creating a lottery that would split revenue between the state's pre-kindergarten program and higher ed scholarships.

SB282 by Sen. Greg Albritton (R-Range) is a constitutional amendment to create a compact with the Poarch Creek Indians, allow for two new PCI casinos and the creation of a lottery with money going to the Education Trust Fund.

Last month, the Governor created The Study Group for Gambling Policy to gather information aimed at making an informed decision on gaming expansion. The group doesn't report its findings until the end of the year, making one wonder how far gaming legislation will advance this session.

Spring Break

The Legislature will take its Spring Break beginning next week. This year's break is different from most. The Senate is taking a two-week break and is scheduled to return March 31st. The House, however, is not taking a full two-week break. Rather, the House will return to the Statehouse on Wednesday, March 25th to hold committee meetings and will reconvene for the 13th Legislative Day on Thursday, March 26th. As a result, the Senate will lose the 13th Legislative Day and reconvene for the 14th Legislative Day.