

**Volume 6 - April 26, 2019**



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

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**THE SENATE**

**Guns, Lottery & Open Records**

**THE HOUSE**

**Late Night**

**LOTTERY**

**And the winner is?**

**IN COMMITTEE**

**This Week**

**House Reconvenes  
Tuesday, April 30 - 1:00 p.m.**

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

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## **THE SENATE**

### **Guns, Lottery & Open Records**

Tuesday, the full Senate was scheduled to convene at 3:00pm , but immediately after lunch, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee went right to work dealing with an ambitious 16-bill agenda. A public hearing was held on SB237 by Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) that would create the Alabama Open Records Act establishing a five-day compliance timeline, provide reimbursement guidelines for copies and create a position under the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts for oversight and to stipulate enforcement procedures. The bill is being opposed by local government entities. A committee vote is not expected for at least two weeks.

Immediately after adjournment of Governmental Affairs, the Senate Tourism Committee met. On the agenda was SB4 by Sen. Gerald Allen (R-Tuscaloosa) known as the permitless gun carry bill. It failed by a 5-6 vote and is likely dead for the Legislative Session. Ironically, it was reassigned to Tourism from Judiciary for an easier chance at passage. Also, before the committee was SB220 by Sen. Greg Albritton (R-Atmore), one of two lottery bills introduced this session. It would create a paper-based lottery with proceeds split between the General Fund and the Alabama Trust Fund. It passed 6-5. More about it on the next page.

The Senate then convened, adopted and passed a 2-bill calendar, including SB193 by Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) that would set a variable rate for Alabama's unemployment compensation allowing benefits to be received longer during difficult economic times and shorter during better times. Also passing was SB126 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss (R-Prattville) which would establish how unused appropriations in state agencies should be handled, including creation of a reserve account for some of the unused funds for state emergencies.

## **THE HOUSE**

### **Late night**

Tuesday, the House spent 5-hours working from a Special Order Calendar consisting of "agency" bills, typically dealing with a variety of issues involving the many state agencies. After breaking for dinner, the House reconvened late Tuesday evening and began work on another calendar passing five more bills, including House HB287 by Rep. Laura Hall (D-Huntsville) that would commission monuments for Rosa Parks and Helen Keller to be located on the Capitol Grounds.

Thursday, the House passed SB38 by Sen. Greg Reed (R-Jasper) 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. It now goes to the Governor for her consideration.

Also passing was SB66 by Sen. Jack Williams (R-Mobile). It allows for the taking of whitetail deer and feral swine by means of bait and authorizes the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to adopt rules to manage the feeding of wild game animal populations. It goes to the Governor for her consideration.

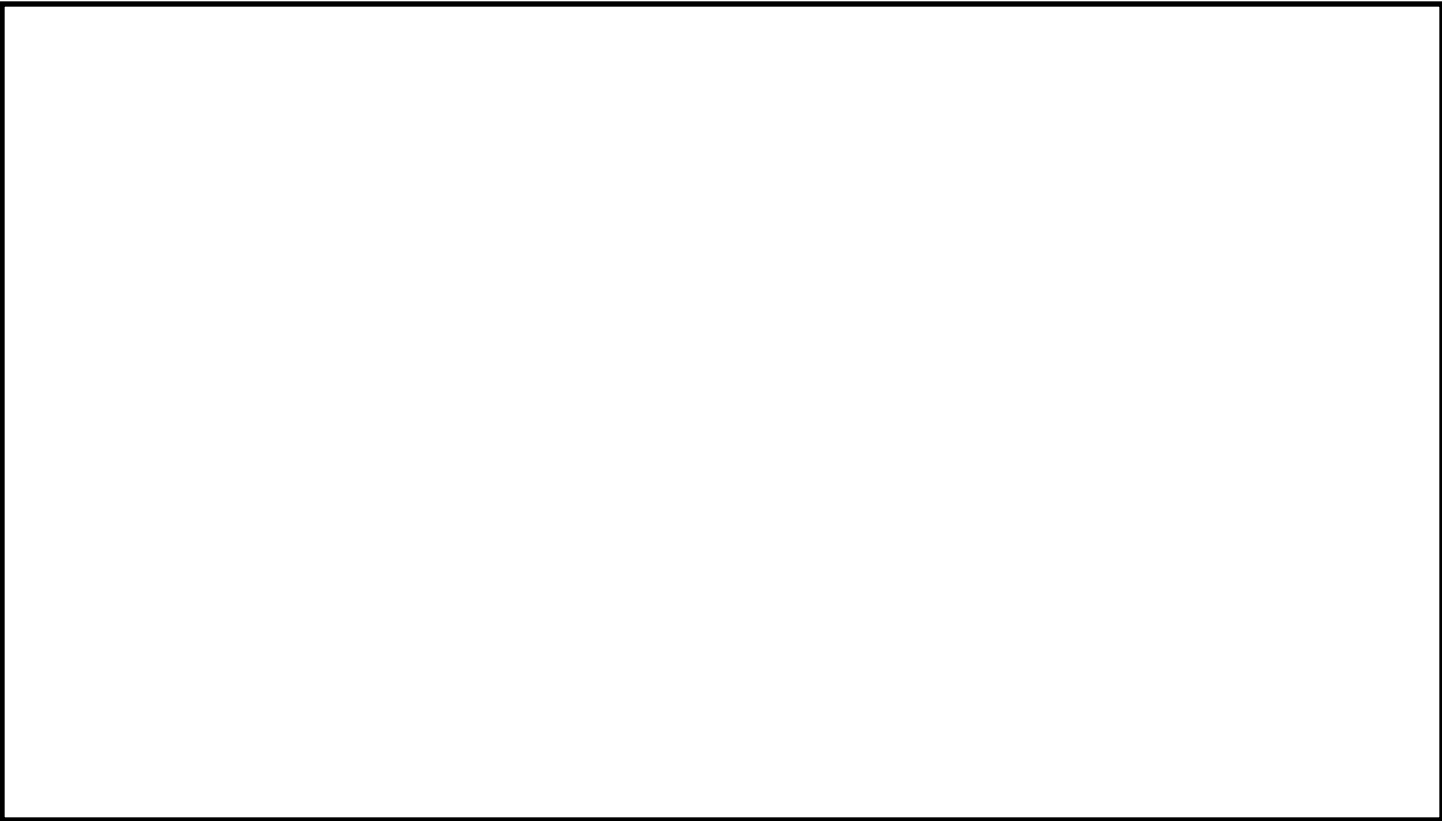
**LOTTERY**  
**And the winner is?**

Thursday, the Senate spent four hours in recess to allow the GOP caucus, who are divided on the lottery and the two dueling bills, to meet privately to discuss the issue. Because it is a constitutional amendment, the bills requires 21 votes for passage and proponents did not have a vote to spare. SB220 by Sen. Albritton (R-Atmore) after several amendements and a lot of discussion the bill passed 21-12 and goes to the House for consideration. Two Democrats, Senators Rodger Smitherman (D-Birmingham) and Linda Coleman-Madison (D-Birmingham) joined 19 Republicans in voting Yes. Seven Republicans joined five Democrats against the Constitutional Amendment. The competing lottery bill is SB116 by Sen. McClendon (R-Springville) which is still in the Senate Tourism committee.

Several amendment were adopted including one that could possibly protect gambling at VictoryLand and GreeneTrack, but that would still be left ultimately to the Alabama Supreme Court. Another amendment passed in an attempt to protect bingo games in Jefferson County. Supporters of the bill includes the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

**IN COMMITTEE**  
**This Week**

- **SB234** by Sen. Tom Whatley (R-Auburn) was approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee Wednesday. 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, use and excise taxes due on the sale of wine to consumers.
- **SB232** by Sen. David Burkette (D-Montgomery) was approved by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. It would authorize any municipality incorporated after 1990 and in a county where another municipality currently has zoning authority over its police jurisdiction to have zoning authority over its police jurisdiction. The House companion bill **HB337** by Rep. Reed Ingram (R-Pike Road) passed the House Thursday.
- **SB236** by Sen. Tim Melson (R-Florence) that would authorize the use of medical marijuana received a favorable report from the Senate Judiciary Committee 6 to 2 with 3 abstentions.
- **SB114** by Sen. Tom Whatley (R-Auburn) was carried over in the Senate Health Committee until next week. It would define the scope of the practice of optometry.
- **HB245** by Rep. Corley Ellis (R-Columbiana) received a favorable report from the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee. It would change the name of certified registered nurse anesthetists national certifying body listed in the Alabama Code to reflect the same change made at the federal level.
- **HB350** by Rep. Terri Collins (R-Decatur) allows the shipment of craft wine and beer up to 24 cases annually directly to an Alabama resident over the age of 21 was carried over another week by the House Commerce & Small Business Committee.
- **HB384** by Rep. Jim Carns (R-Vestavia Hills), relating to the General Retirement System for Employees of Jefferson County, received a favorable report from the Jefferson County Local Legislation Committee.



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