

**Volume 9 - May 17, 2019**



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

**A Publication by deGraffenried and Company**

**THE SENATE**

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**House Reconvenes  
Tuesday, May 21 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Senate Reconvenes  
Tuesday, May 21 - 3:30 p.m.**

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The 3-day legislative weeks continue as the Legislature tentatively plans to adjourn Sine Die Friday, May 31st. The current plan is to have another 3-day week next week followed by a 4-day week beginning the day after Memorial Day. It is ambitious, but doable. There is a plan to return before the end of the year, most likely in October, for a special session to address prisons.

## **THE SENATE**

### **Abortion debate**

Tuesday, chaos in the Senate continued as national media groups congregated inside the statehouse to witness the passage of HB314 by Rep. Terri Collins (R-Decatur). This bill makes it a felony for a doctor to perform an abortion in Alabama, with the only exception being the health of the mother. The Senate rejected, by a vote of 11-21, a motion to also make exceptions for rape or incest. Four Republicans; Cam Ward, Andrew Jones, Jim McClendon and Del Marsh joined the seven Democrats present in favor of the amendment. The bill eventually passed 25-6 and was signed by the Governor Ivey Thursday. The new law is set to go into effect in six months and will be the strongest pro-life law in the country. It undoubtedly will be challenged in court immediately.

Wednesday, the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee approved a substitute to the House passed General Fund Budget. It included a \$17 million, or half, of the money needed for CHIP, the federal health care program for low and mid-income children. The program was omitted from both budgets over a disagreement. It is expected, but not certain. The other half of the money will be provided in a substitute to the Education Budget. The Senate is expected to consider the General Fund Budget next week.

Thursday, the Senate passed with a vote of 30-0, SB397 by Sen. Del Marsh (R-Anniston) a constitutional amendment replacing the current elected state Board of Education with a Commission appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. It would also require the new Commission to replace Common Core-derived standards. Carried over in the Senate Thursday was SB191 by Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) that would change Alabama's current civil asset forfeiture law, making it tougher for law enforcement to seize property by requiring forfeiture to be part of criminal case and not a separate civil case. We do not expect it to be reconsidered this session.

## **THE HOUSE**

### **Late Nights**

Tuesday, in the House a debate ensued over SB193 by Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) that would reduce the number of week's jobless people could receive benefits. It passed along party lines, but not until after five hours of debate. The House remained in session until almost midnight working through a long special order calendar of bills.

Wednesday, the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee gave a favorable report out of the committee with a vote of 6-2 to SB220 by Sen. Greg Albritton (R-Atmore) by a vote of 6-2. This constitutional amendment bill approving a lottery is expected to face strong opposition on the House floor next Tuesday, leaving its passage in limbo.

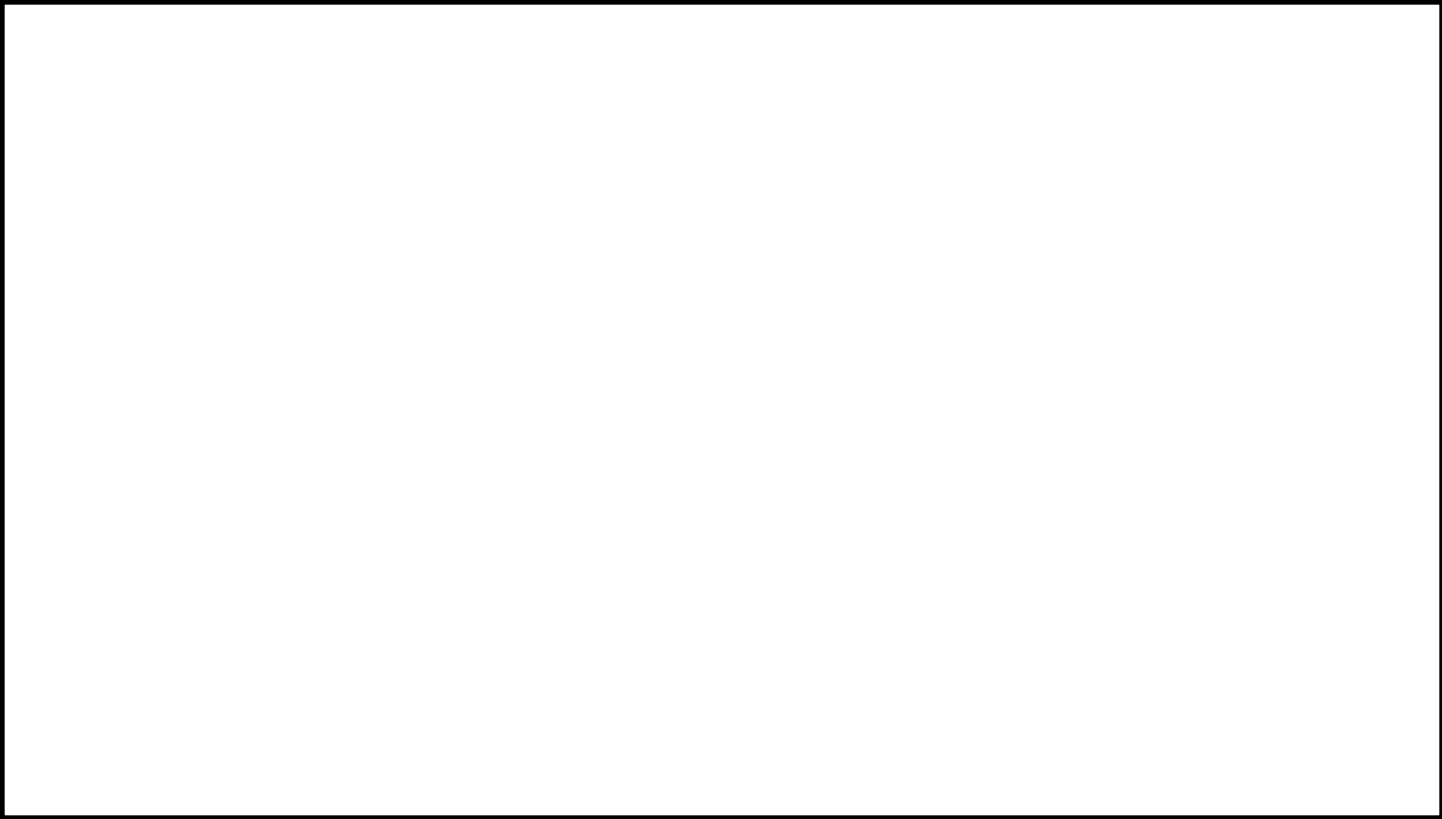
The House spent another late night Wednesday, considering legislation and adjourned shortly before 11 pm. After a two hour debate, HB388 by Rep. Terri Collins ( R-Decatur) that would prevent state schools from advancing third graders to the fourth grade if the student is not reading on grade level was passed.

The House also passed HB225 by Rep. Adline Clarke (D-Mobile) prohibiting employers from paying employees differently based on race or sex. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Moving Forward**

- **HB337** by Rep. Reed Ingram (R-Pike Road) received a favorable report from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. It addresses zoning issues within the police jurisdictions of municipalities incorporated after 1990. It now moves to the full Senate for consideration.
- **HB400** by Rep. Randall Shedd (R-Cullman) received a favorable report from the Senate Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development. This bill allows broadband companies to use existing electric easements to place communication lines within current and newly acquired permitted areas. This bill now goes to the full Senate for consideration.
- **HB535** by Rep. Arnold Mooney (R-Pelham), a local Shelby County Bill, and **HB563** by Rep. April Weaver (R-Alabaster), a local Chilton County Bill, both received a favorable report from their respective House Local Legislation Committee this week. Both are local constitutional amendments that provide justification for a person to use deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of others on church property. Both Bills now go to the full House for consideration.
- **HB519** by Rep. Gil Isbell (R-Gadsden) provides a mechanism for residential delivery of alcoholic beverages to adult residents in the State was carried over by the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee this week.
- **HB70** by Rep. David Standridge (R-Hayden) establishes a procedure for deployment and investment of broadband infrastructure near railroad right a ways. The House Transportation, Utility, and Infrastructure Committee adopted 2 amendments and favorably recommended the bill to the full House for its consideration.
- **SB23** by Sen. Chris Elliot (R-Fairhope) limiting the geographic size of the police jurisdiction of municipalities had a public hearing with no vote in the House County and Municipal Government Committee this week.
- **HB595** by Rep. Proncey Robertson (R-Mt. Hope) had a public hearing in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. This bill establishes procedures for the issuance of a statewide pistol permit called the Lifetime Carry Permit issued by ALEA. No vote was taken by the committee this week.



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