Arise Bills of Interest
2015 Second Special Session
Sept. 25, 2015

The Alabama Legislature’s second special session began Sept. 8 and adjourned Sept. 16. During the session, 149 bills and resolutions were introduced. Arise followed legislation related to our legislative priorities throughout the session. “(CA)” indicates a proposed constitutional amendment. Measures in blue are Arise priority legislation. Measures in yellow were enacted. Measures in red with white text are Arise policy priorities that were enacted.

Adequate state budgets

GF budget bills:


**HB6/SB18** (Clouse/Orr) – FY 2016 General Fund budget. **HB6 and SB18 are no longer significant after the enactment of HB1.**

**SB8** (Holtzclaw) – FY 2016 General Fund budget. *No longer significant after the enactment of HB1.*

Health care:

**SB19** (Beasley) – Expands Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act. *Died in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

Other budget measures:

**HB10** (Beckman) – Moves all state use tax revenues to the General Fund. *Died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

**HB22** (Shedd) – Creates the Priority Budgeting and Responsibility Fund to provide for distribution of new revenue passed during the 2015 second special session. *Died in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**HB29** (Poole) – Reduces the Education Trust Fund’s Budget Stabilization Fund from 20 percent to 10 percent of prior-year spending, changes the distribution of revenues above the Rolling Reserve spending cap, and bases the cap on growth in the highest 14 of the previous 15 years. *Enacted as Act 2015-538.*

**HB30** (Poole) – Moves additional use tax revenues from the Education Trust Fund to the General Fund. *Enacted as Act 2015-539.*

**HB38/SB1** (Ainsworth/Sanford) – Creates a new formula for distributing recurring revenues to the ETF and General Fund. **HB38 died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee. SB1 died on the Senate calendar.**

**HJR33** (McCutcheon) – Creates the Joint Legislative Committee on Taxpayer Accountability. *Lost in the House when it failed to receive the 2/3 majority required during a special session to pass legislation not in the governor’s call.*

**SB2** (Bussman) – Makes a one-time transfer from the Education Trust Fund’s Budget Stabilization Fund to the General Fund. *Died in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*
SB4 & SB37 (Pittman & Orr) – Moves $50 million of use tax revenue from the Education Trust Fund to the General Fund. **SB4 and SB37 died on the Senate calendar.**

SB5 (Livingston) – Makes a one-time transfer from the Education Trust Fund’s Budget Stabilization Fund to the General Fund and repays the transfer with money from the BP Deepwater Horizon lawsuit settlement. **Died in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.**

SB6 (Pittman) – Reduces the Education Trust Fund’s Budget Stabilization Fund from 20 percent to 10 percent of prior-year spending, changes the distribution of revenues above the Rolling Reserve spending cap, and bases the cap on growth in the highest 14 of the previous 15 years. **Died on the Senate calendar.**

**Tax reform**

**HB3** (Rowe) – Increases the state cigarette tax by 25 cents per pack. **Enacted as Act 2015-535.** *(Note: Arise supports a larger cigarette tax increase to help reduce smoking.)*

**HB8** (Beech) – Increases the state pharmacy privilege tax. **Enacted as Act 2015-537.**

**HB9** (Beckman) – Limits state income tax deduction for FICA and self-employment taxes. **Died in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.**

**HB12** (Clouse) – Increases the state nursing home privilege tax. **Enacted as Act 2015-536.**

**HB13** (Greer) – Increases the maximum business privilege tax from $15,000 to $25,000 and makes other changes to the tax. **Died in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.**

**HB14** (Ingram) – Raises the state auto title fee. **Passed the House but died in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.**

**HB15** (Sells) – Raises the state auto rental tax. **Passed the House but died in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.**

**HB17** (Williams, J.D.) – Creates state and local excise taxes on certain sexually oriented materials. **Died on the House calendar.**

**HB21** (Hill, M.) – Increases the maximum business privilege tax from $15,000 to $30,000, exempts companies with less than $10,000 of state taxable net worth, and makes other changes to the tax. **Died on the House calendar.**

**HB24** (Shedd) – Creates an excise tax on soft drinks. **Died in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.**

**HB28** (McCutcheon) – Raises the state gasoline and diesel taxes by 5 cents per gallon and increases them annually if certain criteria are satisfied. **Died on the House calendar.**

**HB32/SB7** (Beckman/Sanford) – Creates a state lottery, for multistate games only, to help fund General Fund services (CA). **HB32 died in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee, SB7 died in the Senate Tourism & Marketing Committee.**

**HB34** (Ford) – Creates a state lottery to help fund college scholarships and education (CA). **Died in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee.**
HB42/SB35 (Collins/Pittman) – Repeals certain insurance premium tax credits. *HB42 died in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee, SB35 died on the Senate calendar.*

HJR8 (Rogers) – Creates Flat Tax Study Commission. *Passed the House but died on the Senate calendar.*

SB10 (Figures) – Raises state property tax by 1 mill to help fund General Fund services (CA). *Died in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB12 (Coleman) – Requires “combined reporting,” treating parent corporations and subsidiaries as one entity for corporate income tax purposes. *Died in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*


**Other subjects**

HB27 (Faulkner) – Forbids cities and counties to create their own minimum wage. *Died on the House calendar.*

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For the full text of these bills and others introduced during the Alabama Legislature’s 2015 second special session, go to [http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLoginFire.asp](http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLoginFire.asp).