

Arise Bills of Interest 2017 Regular Session

May 23, 2017

--FINAL UPDATE OF 2017 REGULAR SESSION--

Arise followed legislation related to our issue priorities throughout the Alabama Legislature's 2017 regular session. Measures in blue are Arise priority legislation. Measures in yellow have been enacted. Measures in green have passed both houses but have not yet been signed by the Governor. Measures in red with white text are Arise policy priorities that have been enacted.

Adequate state budgets

Budget bills:

HB155 (Clouse)/**SB150** (Pittman) – FY 2018 General Fund budget. *HB155 passed the floor of the House and the Senate and was sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB171 (Poole)/**SB129** (Orr) – FY 2018 Education Trust Fund budget. *SB129 passed the floor of the Senate and the House and was sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB178 (Warren)/**SB147** (Pittman) – FY 2018 Children First Trust Fund budget. *HB178 passed the House and the Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

Health care:

HB211 (England)/**SB54** (Ward) – Suspends Medicaid eligibility, instead of repealing it, for eligible people in county jails or juvenile facilities. *HB211 passed the House and the Senate and was signed by the Governor.*

HB284 (Patterson)/**SB406** (Whatley) – Requires all health insurers in Alabama to cover therapy for autism spectrum disorder regardless of a child's age. *HB284 has passed the House and Senate and has been signed by the Governor.*

HB347 (Clouse) – Reauthorizes the nursing home provider tax for Medicaid. *HB347 has passed the House and Senate and been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB348 (Clouse) – Reauthorizes the hospital provider tax for Medicaid. *HB348 passed the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB404 (Williams, J.D.) – Requires the Department of Mental Health to provide specific therapy for certain children who have autism spectrum disorder. *Died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

SB85 (Pittman) – Establishes criminal penalties for Medicaid provider fraud. *Enacted as Act 2017-66.*

SB195 (Orr) – Increases verification requirements for the Medicaid program and recipients. *SB195 was indefinitely postponed and died in the Senate.*

SB355 (Beasley) – Expands Medicaid. *Died in Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB357 (Glover) – Exempts dental services from inclusion in Regional Care Organizations. *SB357 died in Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee.*

Other budget measures:

HB2 (Hanes) – Prohibits DHR from seeking a waiver of federal work requirements for some SNAP recipients and requires DHR to develop a work training program for SNAP recipients. *HB2 died on the House calendar.*

SB188 (Orr) – Reduces the length of time that unemployed workers can draw unemployment compensation. *SB188 died on the floor of the House.*

SB194 (Orr) – Makes restrictive changes to benefit levels and time limits for the SNAP and TANF programs. *SB194 died in the Senate Fiscal Responsibility & Economic Development Committee.*

SB196 (Orr) – Increases penalties for fraud in the workers' compensation program. *SB196 died on the House calendar.*

SB302 (Ward) – Issues state bonds for prison construction. *SB302 died on the House calendar.*

HB545 (Farley) -- Issues state bonds for prison construction, allows cities and counties to contract to house state prisoners, and requires referrals to Parole Board for consideration of medical paroles. *HB545 died in House Judiciary Committee.*

Tax reform

Grocery tax:

HB44 (Knight) – Ends the state sales tax on groceries. *HB44 died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee. (Note: Arise supports replacing the grocery tax revenue in a progressive way.)*

HB303 (Wadsworth) – Reduces the state sales tax on groceries by 1 percentage point. *HB303 died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

SB232 (Sanders) – Ends the state sales tax on groceries and over-the-counter medications and ends the state income tax deduction for federal income taxes. *SB232 died in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

Other tax measures:

HB6 (Harper) – Authorizes the Legislature to create a state lottery. *HB6 died in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee.*

HB10 (Ford) – Authorizes a state lottery to support college scholarships. *HB10 died in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee.*

HB23 (Greer) – Exempts some deferred compensation plan benefits from income tax. *HB23 died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

HB223 (Rogers) – Establishes a state lottery and authorizes a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. *HB223 died in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee.*

HB290 (Weaver)/**SB235** (Ward) – Exempts photography from sales and use taxes by treating it as a service. *HB290 passed the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB302 (Wadsworth) – Reduces the state corporate income tax rate from 6.5 percent to 6 percent. *HB302 died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

HB411 (Ingram)/**SB293** (Marsh) – Increases the income levels at which taxpayers can claim the maximum standard deduction on state income taxes. *HB411 died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee. SB293 died in the Ways & Means Education Committee.*

HB346 (Blackshear) – Creates an optional “simplified” income tax with limited deductions and exemptions. *HB346 passed the House and Senate and was sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB491 (Todd) -- Provide that a law granting a tax exemption won’t apply to local taxes unless the locality grants the exemption. *HB491 died in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

HB564 (Mooney) – Allows up to 5 cents county gasoline tax. *HB564 died in House Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure Committee.*

HB574 (Baker) -- Increases economic incentives that can be offered. *Passed House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

SB67 (Coleman-Madison) – Requires “combined reporting,” treating parent corporations and subsidiaries as one entity for corporate income tax purposes. *SB67 died in the Senate Fiscal Responsibility & Economic Development Committee.*

SB123 (Marsh) – Makes changes to the Alabama Accountability Act, including increasing income tax credits and allowing a credit against utility gross receipt taxes. *SB123 died on the floor of the House.*

SB405 (Hightower) – Requires that all future tax incentives expire after five years. *SB405 was indefinitely postponed and died on the floor of the Senate.*

“Ban the box” legislation

HB280 (Givan)/**SB200** (Ross) – Prohibits state and local governments from asking job applicants about convictions prior to making a job offer. *HB280 died in the House State Government Committee. SB200 died in the House State Government Committee.*

Death penalty reform

HB32 (England)/**SB16** (Brewbaker) & **SB18** (Sanders) – Abolishes judicial override of jury sentencing recommendations in capital cases. *SB16 passed both houses, was signed by the Governor and has been assigned Act #2017-131.*

HB68 (Sells) – Adds the murder of a law enforcement or corrections officer or of a child under 14 to the list of offenses eligible for the death penalty. *HB68 died in the House Judiciary Committee.*

HB205 (Coleman)/**SB50** (Sanders) – Imposes a three-year death penalty moratorium. *HB205 died in the House Judiciary Committee. SB50 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB12 (Pittman) – Allows for execution by firing squad, later amended to allow execution by nitrogen hypoxia. *SB12 died on the House calendar.*

SB48 (Sanders) – Establishes procedures to determine if a capital defendant has an intellectual disability and thus is ineligible for a death sentence. *SB48 died the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB49 (Sanders) – Prohibits the death penalty for defendants who were under age 18 at the time of commission of a capital crime. *SB49 died the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB51 (Sanders) – Repeals the death penalty. *SB51 died the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB170 (Dial) – Requires the death penalty for anyone convicted of murdering an active-duty law enforcement officer. *SB170 was indefinitely postponed and died on the Senate calendar.*

SB187 (Ward) – Reduces appeal time in capital cases. *SB187 passed the Senate and House and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

SB375 (Sanders) – Makes repeal of judicial override retroactive. *SB375 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

Housing Trust Fund

HB159 (Todd) – Creates a funding mechanism for the Alabama Housing Trust Fund. *HB159 died in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee but did have a public hearing before the committee.*

Minimum wage

HB26 (Givan) – Creates a state minimum wage of \$10 per hour and regularly adjusts it for inflation. *HB26 died in the House State Government Committee.*

Payday/title lending reform

HB314 (Johnson, K.)/**SB249** (Dial) – Increases the allowable charges for certain loans under the Small Loan Act. *HB314 passed the floor of the House and the Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB321 (Fincher) – Constitutional amendment to cap interest rates on consumer loans at 36 percent a year. *HB321 died in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee.*

HB535 (Garrett) – Makes minor and incremental changes to deferred presentation law (payday lending). *HB535 died on the floor of the Senate.*

SB284 (Orr) – Provides more consumer-friendly repayment options for payday loans, limits borrowers to four payday loans every 12 months, caps interest rates on small loans of more than \$2,000 and makes other changes to consumer lending laws. *SB284 was indefinitely postponed and died on the floor of the Senate.*

SB404 (Whatley) -- Requires license to engage in payday lending, allows for extended repayment period, requires 48 hour cooling off period before second loan. *SB404 was indefinitely postponed and died on the floor of the Senate.*

Public transportation

HB454 (Williams, J.D.)/**SB360** (Smitherman) – Creates Alabama Public Transportation Trust Fund to fund public transportation projects. *HB454 was indefinitely postponed and died on the floor of the House. SB360 was indefinitely postponed and died on the House calendar.*

Other subjects

HB277 (Warren)/**SB236** (Ward) – Requires that all child care facilities, including church-sponsored ones, be licensed. *SB236 is in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. HB277 died on the floor of the Senate.*

HB28 (England) – Increases the number of offenses that can be expunged from a criminal record and allows expungement of juvenile offenses. *HB28 died in the House Judiciary Committee.*

HB30 & HB31 (Ford) – Allows early voting. *HB30 and 31 died in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee.*

HB46 (Scott)/**SB128** (Melson) – Requires that paid tax preparers include an IRS-issued ID number on state income tax returns. *HB46 passed the House and Senate and was sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB74 (England)/**SB141** (Singleton) – Protects individuals from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. *HB74 died in the House Judiciary Committee. SB141 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

HB79 (Hall) – Allows for automatic voter registration when applying for a driver's license or state ID. *HB79 died in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee.*

HB100 (Williams, P.) – Requires state colleges and universities to comply with state and federal immigration laws. *HB100 died in Senate Judiciary Committee.*

HB282 (Jones)/**SB237** (Ward) – Defines crimes of moral turpitude for purposes of voter disqualification. *HB282 passed the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

HB457 (Beckman) – Amends the Landlord Tenant Act to require courts to prioritize eviction hearings. *HB457 was indefinitely postponed and died on the House calendar.*

SB23 (Sanders) – Requires that driver's license offices be open in every county at least one day a week. *SB23 died on the House calendar.*

SB36 & SB39 (Sanders) – Requires constitutional due process in the collection of court-ordered fees and fines. *SB36 and 36 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB37 & SB38 (Sanders) – Allows deferred payments for court costs and fines and prohibits suspension of a driver's license for unpaid costs or fines. *SB37 and 38 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB42 (Sanders) – Prohibits suspension of a driver’s license for unpaid court costs or fines. *SB42 died in the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee.*

SB45 (Sanders) – Allows any eligible citizen who is not in prison to register to vote. *SB45 died in the Senate Constitution, Ethics & Elections Committee.*

SB47 (Sanders) – Allows voter registration any time a board of registrars’ office is open, including on Election Day. *SB47 died in the Senate Constitution, Ethics & Elections Committee.*

SB77 (Smitherman) – Allows voters to cast an absentee ballot without an excuse or explanation and removes requirements for witness or notary signatures. *The original version of SB77 would have established an early voting period. SB77 died in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee.*

SB155 (Ward) – Clarifies prison and sentencing reform issues related to probation or parole violations, release dates and alternative sentencing. *SB155 was indefinitely postponed and died on the Senate calendar.*

For the full text of these bills and others introduced during the Alabama Legislature’s 2017 regular session, go to <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/default.aspx>.