



The ACCS Legislative Update

2017 Legislative Session Update #2017-02

February 17, 2017

Session Now in Full Swing...

The Alabama Legislature met for two days this week – Tuesday, February 14 and Thursday, February 16. They have now completed four of the 30 days allowed in the Regular Session. While the Senate largely focused on addressing routine business and passing noncontroversial bills without much debate this week, the activity in the House of Representatives was much different. On Tuesday, the House spent hours debating a resolution supporting President Donald Trump's agenda and a bill included in last week's ACCS update (**HB100**) that would allow the state to withhold funds to public colleges and institutions of higher education for not complying with state and federal immigration laws, dubbed the "Americans First Act". Both measures were included in the House Republican Caucus's 2017 agenda, and were ultimately passed by the House on Tuesday night and sent to the Senate for further consideration. On Thursday, the House turned their attention to passing a large number of "Sunset" bills, which are required to continue the operation of numerous state agencies, boards, and commissions.

Wednesday included a full day of committee meetings that saw ACCS's priority "Body Corporate" legislation and several other bills of interest debated in multiple committees. **SB114** and **HB163** both received unanimous support and passage from the Senate Education and Youth Affairs Committee and the House Education Policy Committee, respectively, and are now in line to come before the full Senate and House of Representatives for votes in the near future. **SB153** and **HB97** – bills creating a Longitudinal Data System – also came before House and Senate committees this week. After extensive debate from supporters and opponents, both bills were ultimately voted on favorably by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and House Education Policy Committee, respectively; however, there is likely much more discussion and debate to take place before these bills come up for further consideration.

Many new bills were introduced this week, bringing the total number of bills up to 485 (266 in the House and 219 in the Senate). The Legislature will reconvene next Tuesday, February 21, with the House starting at 1 PM and the Senate at 2 PM.

Bills of Interest:

SB114/HB163 – Sen. Pittman/Rep. McMillan:

To establish the Community College System as a body corporate and give the Board of Trustees authority to manage the acquisition and disposition of property (*Bills voted favorably by Senate Education and Youth Affairs Committee and House Education Policy Committee*)

SB153/HB97 – Sen. Singleton/Rep. Collins:

To create the Alabama Network of Statewide Workforce and Education-Related Statistics (ANSWERS) for Alabama (Longitudinal Data System) within the Dept. of Labor (*Bills voted favorably by Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and House Education Policy Committee*)

SB101 – Sen. Orr:

To prohibit public colleges and universities, local boards of education, and public schools from using public funds or property to advocate for or against statewide or local ballot measures (*Voted favorably by Senate Education and Youth Affairs Committee*)

HB71 – Rep. Poole:

Warrantless arrests, authorized for a person trespassing on property of an educational institution (*Voted favorably by House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee*)

HB100 – Rep. Phil Williams:

Americans First Act, to require public colleges and institutions of higher education to comply with state and federal immigration laws, including the Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, or be subject to forfeiture of certain funds (*Passed House on 2/14; has not been assigned to Senate committee*)

HB198 – Rep. Poole

Supplemental appropriation from the Education Trust Fund Advancement and Technology Fund to the Department of Education, Alabama Community College System, and 4-year institutions of higher education (House Ways and Means Education Committee)

SB203 – Sen. Holtzclaw

To clarify the level of access that public schools and higher education institutions must give to military recruiters of the United States Armed Forces and US Department of Homeland Security (Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee)

HB236 – Rep. Davis

Competitive bidding; to require awarding authorities to make provisions for the submission of bids by secure electronic means (House County and Municipal Government Committee)

