



The ACCS Legislative Update

2017 Legislative Session Update #2017-09
April 21, 2017

Governor Signs “Body Corporate” Bill

The Alabama Legislature met on Tuesday, April 18 and Thursday, April 20, completing the 18th and 19th legislative days of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session. We are almost two-thirds of the way done with the session. This week saw both the House and Senate address controversial legislation that slowed action considerably. On Tuesday, the Senate heavily debated and ultimately passed a bill that would modify various aspects of state gun law, including eliminating the requirement to obtain a permit in order to carry a handgun concealed, and held a “Pro-Life Day” on Thursday where multiple “pro-life” bills were debated and passed. Meanwhile, the House spent hours debating a bill to make fantasy sports contests legal in the state on Tuesday and a bill to mandate health insurance coverage for certain autism services on Thursday. Both bills were ultimately passed.

The most significant action of the week of importance to ACCS, however, did not happen in the Legislature but instead in the Governor’s office. On Thursday afternoon, Governor Ivey signed **HB163** into law. It has now been assigned Act #2017-171. Thanks to all of you who helped push this bill across the finish line this year!

It is expected that **SB129**, the Education Budget, will begin its journey in the House of Representatives next week with a Public Hearing in the House Ways and Means Education Committee on Wednesday. We will keep you apprised of any changes as the budget continues to move through the legislative process.

The Legislature will reconvene next week on Tuesday, April 25, with the House convening at 1 PM and the Senate at 2 PM.

Bills of Interest:

HB163 – Rep. McMillan/Sen. Pittman:

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 (*SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE GOVERNOR; ACT #2017-171*)

SJR85 – Sen. Marsh:

To create the Alabama Community College Advisory Council on Outcome-Based Funding to develop an outcome-based funding model for future budget appropriations for the institutional operations of community and technical colleges (*Given Favorable Report by the Senate Rules Committee 4/20*)

HB345 – Rep. Gaston:

To provide a new income tax credit against the tax liability of a taxpayer for the rehabilitation, preservation, and development of historic structures (*Passed by the House 4/18; assigned to the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*)

HB532/SB381 – Rep. Hanes/Sen. Shelnut:

To reopen participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) to employees in ERS and TRS under certain conditions (*Introduced this week and assigned to the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee and Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*).

HB550 – Rep. Davis:

To provide for the reimbursement of actual expenses to state employees and officials for events that include state organizations where the state or individual is a dues-paying member instead of the current \$75 per night per diem (*Introduced this week and assigned to the House State Government Committee*)

SB377 – Sen. Marsh

To repeal the Alabama New Markets Development Act (Income Tax Credit) beginning January 1, 2018 (*Introduced this week and assigned to the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*)

