



# The ACCS Legislative Update

2017 Legislative Session Update #2017-10

April 28, 2017

## Education Budget is On the Move

The Alabama Legislature met on Tuesday, April 25 and Thursday, April 27, completing the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> legislative days of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session. The primary action of the week relating to education took place on Thursday, when the House Ways and Means Education Committee debated and approved a substituted version of **SB129**, the Education Budget, and other budget-related bills. While the House W&ME Committee's version of the budget mostly kept the higher education side of the budget the same, the changes that were made were all of benefit to ACCS - an additional \$1 million was added for both dual enrollment and workforce development initiatives. In addition, the committee also approved **HB198**, which would provide a supplemental appropriation in this year's budget to local boards of education and higher education institutions for technology purchases, deferred maintenance, and/or facility insurance or repairs. The current amount allocated in the bill to ACCS is just over \$3.3 million. While it is still possible for the budget to change further as it continues through the legislative process, we are extremely pleased with this budget package given the limited new dollars that were available to be appropriated. These bills are expected to come up on the House floor for debate next Wednesday.

The Legislature will reconvene next week on Tuesday, May 2, with the House convening at 1 PM and the Senate at 2 PM. Next week will be a three-day legislative week, with the Legislature meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

## Bills of Interest:

### SB129 – Sen. Orr/Rep. Poole:

To make appropriations for the support, maintenance, and development of public education – **the Education Budget** (*Favorable Report from the House Ways and Means Education Committee on 4/27; expected debate on the House floor on 5/3*)

### 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 (*Favorable Report from the House Ways and Means Education Committee on 4/27; expected debate on the House floor on 5/3*)

### SB315 – Sen. Dial:

To modify existing requirements of the disabled veterans and dependents scholarship program under the Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs and to increase the education assistance provided by the state to eligible Alabama National Guard members (*Favorable Report from the House Ways and Means Education Committee on 4/27; expected debate on the House floor on 5/3*)

### 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 final passage by the Legislature on 4/27; awaiting the Governor's signature*)

### 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 (*Favorable Report from the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on 4/26*)

### HB410 – Rep. Butler:

To clarify the allowance and prohibition of carrying firearms in certain places, including allowing concealed carry of pistols on campuses of institutions of higher education (*Public Hearing was held in House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee on 4/26; no vote was taken on the bill*)

### HB554 – Rep. Phil Williams:

To repeal the Entertainment Industry Incentive Act (Film Income Tax Credits) beginning January 1, 2018 (*Introduced this week and assigned to the House Ways and Means Education Committee*)

### HB570 – Rep. Phil Williams:

To repeal the Alabama New Markets Development Act (Income Tax Credit) beginning January 1, 2018 (*Introduced this week and assigned to the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee*)

### SB405 – Sen. Hightower:

Constitutional Amendment to require any tax credits, exemptions, deductions, or preferential tax rates enacted in 2019 and beyond to expire within five years unless extended by the Legislature (*Introduced this week and assigned to the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee*)

