



The ACCS Legislative Update

2017 Legislative Session Update #2017-13
May 23, 2017

Marathon Week Ends Legislative Session

The Alabama Legislature held a very rare four-day legislative week from Tuesday, May 16 to Friday, May 19 to close out the 2017 Regular Legislative Session. While the end of a legislative session usually is a chaotic race to pass as many pieces of legislation as possible, the final day this year – while chaotic in its own right – saw a much slower pace. The discord in the House of Representatives carried over from last week and continued to slow action on legislation considerably. As a result of the House's inaction on Senate bills, the Senate also slowed down the passage of House bills. The result was fewer bills made it through the legislative process than in years' past (which some would say is a good thing).

Before adjourning sine die, the Legislature was able to pass **SB129**, the Education Budget, and **SB315**, revisions to the Disabled Veterans and Dependents Scholarship program, two priority pieces of legislation for ACCS. Unfortunately, another ACCS priority bill, **SB307** – providing a supplemental appropriation from the Education Trust Fund Advancement and Technology Fund – did not receive final legislative passage. While both the House and Senate passed different versions of the bill, time ran out before they could agree on a final version. The funds that ACCS would have realized in the bill (\$3.3 million) remain in the Advancement and Technology Fund and will be available for appropriation in next year's regular legislative session or in a special session should one be called by Governor Ivey (there is already discussion of a special session to address prison overcrowding issues). Absent a special session, the 2018 Regular Legislative Session will begin on January 9, 2018.

Thank you for ALL of your support during the session. ACCS had a great legislative session, and we are well-positioned to continue seeing legislative support for ACCS in the future.

Final Report on ACCS-Monitored Bills

HBs 11, 12, & 223 – Lottery bills – Never brought up for debate

HBs 44 & 303 / SB227 – Elimination/reduction of the state sales tax on groceries – Never brought up for debate

HB71 – Warrantless arrests on property of educational institutions – Passed House; did not come up for floor vote in Senate

HB97 / SB153 – Longitudinal Data System – Never came up for floor votes in House or Senate

HB100 – Forfeiture of funding for “sanctuary campuses” – Passed House; never brought up in Senate committee

HB152 – Purchase of electronic databases of books, maps, etc. for library/research purposes exempt from competitive bid law – Pending Governor's signature

HB163 – ACCS Body Corporate Legislation – [Act 2017-171](#)

HB177 – Consolidation of PEEHIP and SEHIP into one health insurance plan – Public hearing in House committee; never brought up for debate

HB236 – State & local government entities required to provide electronic format to submit bids – Died in House committee

HB262 – Licensure as natural hair stylist after apprenticeship with licensed cosmetologist – [Act 2017-300](#)

HB284 – Insurance coverage mandated for autism spectrum disorder, including state plans – [Act 2017-337](#)

HB302 – Corporate income tax rate reduced to five percent – Never brought up for debate

HB319 – College adjunct professors compensation atleast half of full-time instructors – Never brought up for debate

HB345 – Reauthorization of income tax credit for rehabilitation of historic structures – Pending Governor's signature

HB410 – Concealed carry of pistols on college campuses – Public hearing in House committee; never brought up for debate

HB432 – Employee and employer surcharge to RSA for hiring retiree without suspension of benefits – Never brought up for debate

HB550 – Providing actual expenses instead of per diem for travel to state organization meetings where the organization or individual is a dues-paying member – Pending Governor's signature





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- SB3** – One-time bonus check for education retirees – Passed Senate; never brought up in House committee
- SB92** – Move On When Ready Program for high schoolers to community colleges – Never brought up for debate
- SB101** – Education entities prohibited from using public funds to advocate for or against ballot measures – Passed Senate; did not come up for floor vote in House
- SB129** – The Education Budget – Act 2017-335
- SB188** – Reduced number of weeks for unemployment compensation and added weeks for enrolling in a job training or certification program – Passed Senate; did not come up for floor vote in House
- SB203** – Expanded access of students and campus facilities to military recruiters – Act 2017-259
- SB230** – Creation of Shared Revenue Fund w/ 78% to ETF and 22% to General Fund – Never brought up for debate
- SB288** – Deletion of community college employees from termination notice requirements in Students First Act – Passed Senate; did not come up for floor vote in House
- SB302** – Construction of four new megaprisons and coordinating of prison education to ACCS – Passed Senate; did not come up for floor vote in House
- SB307** – Supplemental appropriation from Advancement and Technology Fund – Passed both House and Senate; Senate did not vote to approve House changes
- SB315** – Modifications to Disabled Veterans and Dependents Scholarship program – Pending Governor's signature
- SB321 / HB356** - Lump-sum cash payment retirement option for retirees – Never came up for floor votes in House or Senate
- SB381 / HB532** – Creation of new DROP program for retirees – Never came up for floor votes in House or Senate
- SB405** – Five year sunset of all tax credits, deductions, and exemptions – Never came up for floor vote in Senate
- SJR85** – Creation of Community College Advisory Council on Outcome-Based Funding – Act 2017-217

