

Arise Bills of Interest 2017 Regular Session

April 11, 2017

Arise will follow legislation related to our issue priorities throughout the Alabama Legislature's 2017 regular session. Fifteen meeting days have elapsed. Up to 15 meeting days remain in the session. Measures in blue are Arise priority legislation. Measures in yellow have been enacted. 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 House and awaits a Senate committee assignment. SB150 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

HB171 (Poole)/**SB129** (Orr) – FY 2018 Education Trust Fund budget. *HB171 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee. SB129 passed the Senate and is in the House Ways and Means Education Committee.*

HB178 (Warren)/**SB147** (Pittman) – FY 2018 Children First Trust Fund budget. *HB178 passed the House and is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee. SB147 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

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 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee. SB54 passed the Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee.*

HB284 (Patterson) – Requires all health insurers in Alabama to cover therapy for autism spectrum disorder regardless of a child's age. *In the House Insurance Committee.*

HB347 (Clouse) – Reauthorizes the nursing home provider tax for Medicaid. *Passed the House and is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

HB348 (Clouse) – Reauthorizes the hospital provider tax for Medicaid. *Passed the House and is in Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

HB404 (Williams, J.D.) – Requires the Department of Mental Health to provide specific therapy for certain children who have autism spectrum disorder. *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. *In the Senate Fiscal Responsibility & Economic Development Committee.*

SB355 (Beasley) – Expands Medicaid in Alabama. *In the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB357 (Glover) – Requires that Medicaid dental services be provided through traditional Medicaid instead of regional care organizations (RCOs). *In the Senate Finance & 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. *Approved by the House State Government Committee.*

SB188 (Orr) – Reduces the length of time that unemployed workers can draw unemployment compensation. *Approved by the Senate Fiscal Responsibility & Economic Development Committee.*

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

SB196 (Orr) – Increases penalties for fraud in the workers' compensation program. *Passed Senate and in House State Government Committee.*

SB302 (Ward) – Issues state bonds for prison construction. *SB302 passed the Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee.*

Tax reform

Grocery tax:

HB44 (Knight) – Ends the state sales tax on groceries. *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. *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. *In the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

Other tax measures:

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

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

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

HB223 (Rogers) – Establishes a state lottery and authorizes a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. *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 was approved by the House Ways & Means Education Committee. SB235 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

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

HB346 (Blackshear) – Creates an optional “simplified” income tax with limited deductions and exemptions. *Approved by 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 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee. SB293 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

SB67 (Coleman-Madison) – Requires “combined reporting,” treating parent corporations and subsidiaries as one entity for corporate income tax purposes. *Failed to win approval 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. *Passed the Senate and was approved by the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

SB353 (Figures) – Increases the state property tax and earmarks the new revenue for Medicaid. *In the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

“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 is in the House State Government Committee. SB200 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

Death penalty reform

HB32 (England)/**SB16** (Brewbaker) & **SB18** (Sanders) – Abolishes judicial override of jury sentencing recommendations in capital cases. ***SB16 was enacted as Act 2017-131.*** *HB32 and SB18 are no longer moving.*

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. *In the House Judiciary Committee.*

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

SB12 (Pittman) – Allows for execution by firing squad. *Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

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

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

SB170 (Dial) – Requires the death penalty for anyone convicted of murdering an active-duty law enforcement officer. *Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB187 (Ward) – Reduces appeal time in capital cases. *Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

Housing Trust Fund

HB159 (Todd) – Creates a funding mechanism for the Alabama Housing Trust Fund. *In the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

Minimum wage

HB26 (Givan) – Creates a state minimum wage of \$10 per hour and regularly adjusts it for inflation. *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 was approved by the House Financial Services Committee. SB249 is in the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee.*

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

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. *In the House County & Municipal Government Committee.*

Public transportation

HB454 (Williams, J.D.)/**SB360** (Smitherman) – Creates a public transportation trust fund but does not appropriate state money to it. *In the House Transportation, Utilities & Infrastructure Committee.*

Other subjects

HB277 (Warren)/**SB236** (Ward) – Requires that all child care facilities, including church-sponsored ones, be licensed. *HB277 was approved by the House Children & Senior Advocacy Committee. SB236 is in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*

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

HB30 & HB31 (Ford) – Allows early voting. *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 is in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. SB128 passed the Senate and was approved by the House State Government Committee.*

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

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

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

HB282 (Jones)/**SB237** (Ward) – Defines crimes of moral turpitude for purposes of voter disqualification. *HB282 passed the House and was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. SB237 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

HB457 (Beckman) – Amends landlord/tenant law to require courts to hold eviction hearings within 45 days after the time to answer the complaint. *In the House Judiciary Committee.*

SB23 (Sanders) – Requires that driver's license offices be open in every county at least one day a week. *Passed the Senate and is in the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee.*

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

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

SB45 (Sanders) – Allows any eligible citizen who is not in prison to register to vote. *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. *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. *Approved by the Senate Constitution, Ethics & Elections Committee. The original version of SB77 would have established an early voting period.*

SB155 (Ward) – Clarifies prison and sentencing reform issues related to probation or parole violations, release dates and alternative sentencing. *In the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB344 (Albritton) – Requires municipal courts to release arrestees on unsecured bonds or personal recognizance, with some exceptions. *In the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

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>.