

# Arise Bills of Interest 2017 Regular Session

May 8, 2017

*Arise will follow legislation related to our issue priorities throughout the Alabama Legislature's 2017 regular session. Thirteen meeting days have elapsed. Up to 17 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. *SB150 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee. HB155 passed the floor of the House and the Senate in different forms. It is awaiting a Conference Committee or concurrence from the House on the Senate version.*

**HB171** (Poole)/**SB129** (Orr) – FY 2018 Education Trust Fund budget. *HB171 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee. SB129 passed the floor of the Senate and the House. It is awaiting a Conference Committee or concurrence from the House on the Senate version.*

**HB178** (Warren)/**SB147** (Pittman) – FY 2018 Children First Trust Fund budget. *SB147 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee. HB178 passed the House and the Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

### Health care:

**HB211** (England)/**SB54** (Ward) – Suspends Medicaid eligibility, instead of repealing it, for eligible people in county jails or juvenile facilities. *SB54 passed the Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee. HB211 passed the House and the Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature.*

**HB284** (Patterson)/**SB406** (Whatley) – Requires all health insurers in Alabama to cover therapy for autism spectrum disorder regardless of a child's age. *Passed the floor of the House and is in Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee. SB406 is in the Senate Health 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. *Passed the Senate Fiscal Responsibility & Economic Development Committee.*

**SB355** (Beasley) – Expands Medicaid. *In Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee.*

**SB357** (Glover) – Exempts dental services from inclusion in Regional Care Organizations. *In Finance and 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. *Passed the floor of the Senate and in the House Commerce and Small Business 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. *Approved by the Senate and passed the House State Government Committee.*

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

**HB545** (Farley) -- Issues state bonds for prison construction, allows cities and counties to contract to house state prisoners, and requires referrals to Parole Board for consideration of medical paroles. *In 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 passed the floor of House and is in the Senate Finance & Taxation 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.*

**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 passed the floor of the Senate and is in Ways & Means Education Committee.*

**HB346** (Blackshear) – Creates an optional “simplified” income tax with limited deductions and exemptions. *Passed the floor of the House and passed the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

**HB491** (Todd) -- Provide that a law granting a tax exemption won’t apply to local taxes unless the locality grants the exemption. *In the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

**HB564** (Mooney) – Allows up to 5 cents county gasoline tax. *In House Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure Committee.*

**HB574** (Baker) -- Increases economic incentives that can be offered. *Passed House Ways and Means Education Committee.*

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

**SB405** (Hightower) – Requires that all future tax incentives expire after five years. *In Finance and Taxation Education 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 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

## Death penalty reform

**HB32** (England)/**SB16** (Brewbaker) & **SB18** (Sanders) – Abolishes judicial override of jury sentencing recommendations in capital cases. *HB32 was approved by the House Judiciary Committee. SB18 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee. SB16 passed both houses, was signed by the Governor and has been assigned Act #2017-131.*

**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, later amended to allow execution by nitrogen hypoxia. *Passed the Senate and passed the House 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. *Passed the floor of the Senate and in the House Judiciary Committee.*

**SB375** (Sanders) – Makes repeal of judicial over-ride retroactive. *In 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 passed the floor of the House and is in the Senate Banking 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.*

**HB535** (Garrett) – Makes minor and incremental changes to deferred presentation law (payday lending). *HB535 passed the floor of the House.*

**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 Senate Banking & Insurance Committee.*

**SB404** (Whatley) -- Requires license to engage in payday lending, allows for extended repayment period, requires 48 hour cooling off period before second loan. *In Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.*

## Public transportation

**HB454** (Williams, JD)/**SB360** (Smitherman) – Creates Alabama Public Transportation Trust Fund to fund public transportation projects. *HB454 was passed by the House Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure Committee. SB360 passed the floor of the Senate and is in the House Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure Committee*

## Other subjects

**HB277** (Warren)/**SB236** (Ward) – Requires that all child care facilities, including church-sponsored ones, be licensed. *SB236 is in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. HB277 was passed by Senate Judiciary 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 floor of the House and was approved by the Senate Committee on Government Affairs. SB128 passed the floor of the Senate and 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 floor of the House and is in 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 the Landlord Tenant Act to require courts to prioritize eviction hearings. *Passed House Judiciary Committee.*

**SB23** (Sanders) – Requires that driver's license offices be open in every county at least one day a week. *Passed the floor of the Senate and approved by 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. *The original version of SB77 would have established an early voting period. Passed the floor of the Senate and in the House Constitution, Campaigns, and Elections Committee.*

**SB155** (Ward) – Clarifies prison and sentencing reform issues related to probation or parole violations, release dates and alternative sentencing. *Approved by 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>.**