

Arise Bills of Interest 2011 Regular Session

March 11, 2011

The Alabama Legislature convened for the 2011 Regular Legislative Session on March 1. During the first five days of the legislative session, 463 bills have been introduced. There are 25 meeting days remaining in the 2011 Session. Throughout the session, Arise follows legislation that relates to our annual legislative priorities and endorsements:

Adequate state budgets

HB57/SB121 (Canfield/Pittman) – Proposes for the Education Trust Fund a “rolling reserve” budget process that would cap appropriations and tie annual appropriation increases to a 15-year average of ETF revenue growth. *HB57 passed in both the House and Senate, and SB 121 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

HB59 (Mask) – Proposes to repeal the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for teachers and state employees not already enrolled in the program. *HB59 received a favorable report from the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

HB122/SB133 (Barton/Orr) – General Fund budget for FY 2012 to provide appropriations for ordinary expenses of executive, legislative and judicial departments. *HB122 is in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee, and SB133 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

HB123/SB132 (Love/Pittman) – Education Trust Fund budget for FY 2012 to provide appropriations for the support, maintenance and development of public education. *HB123 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee, and SB132 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

HB133 (Oden) – Proposes to allow the governor to reduce the number of school days by up to five when proration is declared in the Education Trust Fund budget. *HB133 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

HB246 (Ford) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to distribute all offshore oil and gas capital payments between FY 2013 and FY 2017 to a job creation and retention program. *HB246 is in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee.*

SB51 (Brewbaker) – Proposes to decrease the minimum number of school instructional days from 180 to 175 for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. *SB51 is in the Senate Education Committee.*

SB72 (Marsh) – Proposes to prohibit new participation by teachers and state employees in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) and to limit interest paid on DROP accounts. *SB72 passed in the Senate and passed with an amendment in the House.*

SB162 (Orr) – Proposes to make supplemental appropriations to Medicaid, corrections, mental health, public health and certain other state General Fund agencies for FY 2011. *SB162 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

Health care

HB60/SB215 (Galliher/Beason) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit mandatory participation by individuals, employers or health care providers in any health care system. *HB60 received a favorable report from the House Health Committee, and SB215 is in the Senate Health Committee.*

HB178/SB46 (McClurkin/Ward) – Proposes to establish the right of health care providers, institutions and payers to decline to perform services that violate their consciences. *HB178 is in the House Health Committee, and SB46 is in the Senate Health Committee.*

Taxes & tax reform

HB61/SB159 (Weaver/Reed) – Proposes to increase income tax deductions to 200 percent of amounts paid for health insurance premiums by qualifying employers and qualifying employees. *HB61 received a favorable report from the House Commerce & Small Business Committee, and SB159 is in the Senate Health Committee.*

HB124/SB111 (Merrill/Orr) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit counties and municipalities from levying an occupational tax unless the tax was imposed before Jan. 1, 2011. *HB124 is in the House County & Municipal Government Committee, and SB111 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

HB230/SB173 (Galliher/Orr) – Proposes to create, for businesses with 50 or fewer employees, an income tax credit of \$1,000 per new job paying more than \$10 per hour. *HB230 is in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee, and SB173 is in the Senate Job Creation & Economic Development Committee.*

HB242 (Knight) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries and to limit the state income tax deduction for federal income taxes paid for certain taxpayers. *HB242 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

SB8 (Brooks) – Proposes, similar to SB74, to increase from \$7,500 to \$15,000 the taxable income line below which people with disabilities and the elderly are exempt from property tax on a principal residence. *SB8 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

SB9 (Brooks) – Proposes to increase the maximum homestead exemption from \$4,000 in assessed value to \$8,000 in assessed value. *SB9 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

SB 10 (Brooks) – Proposes to adjust the maximum homestead exemption annually to reflect cost of living increases. *SB10 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

SB 15 (Ward) – Proposes, similar to SB50, to authorize tax credits for certain companies that create jobs, including larger credits for jobs created in counties with high unemployment and low per capita income. *SB15 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB26 (Ward) – Proposes to exempt from state income tax any compensation for active duty military service by Alabama residents deployed outside the United States. *SB26 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

SB50 (Ward) – Proposes, similar to SB15, to authorize tax credits for certain companies that create jobs, including larger credits for jobs created in counties with high unemployment and low per capita income. *SB50 received a favorable report from the Senate Job Creation & Economic Development Committee.*

SB74 (Marsh) – Proposes, similar to SB8, to increase from \$7,500 to \$15,000 the taxable income line below which people with disabilities and the elderly are exempt from property tax on a principal residence. *SB74 received a favorable report from the House Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB109 (Orr) – Proposes to authorize counties and municipalities to exempt food purchases from local sales tax. *SB109 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB126 (Whatley) – Proposes to authorize income tax credits to financial institutions and businesses for qualified research and development expenses. *SB126 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB150 (Williams) – Proposes to authorize income tax credits to certain telecommunications or manufacturing facilities for employee retraining or for upgrading or expanding existing facilities and equipment. *SB150 is in the Senate Small Business Committee.*

SB152 (Bussman) – Proposes to exempt companies with fewer than 100 employees from increases in non-educational property taxes for up to five years for qualifying expansion or relocation projects. *SB152 received a favorable report from the Senate Job Creation & Economic Development Committee.*

SB190 (Allen) – Proposes to provide a 100 percent license tax credit to freight lines and equipment companies for expenses incurred to maintain, repair or improve a railroad car. *SB190 is in the Senate Commerce, Transportation & Utilities Committee.*

Equal Pay Commission

No legislation relating to this priority has been introduced thus far this session.

Constitutional reform

HB181 (Hill) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to allow counties, upon voter approval in a local referendum, to exercise limited home rule in the areas of public health and safety and land use regulation and control. *HB181 is in the House County and Municipal Government Committee.*

HJR34 (Newton, D.) – Proposes, similar to SJR27, a statewide election in June 2012 on whether to hold a convention to revise the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. *HJR34 is in the House Rules Committee.*

SB112 (Orr) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to remove from the Constitution of Alabama of 1901 certain passages containing racist language. *SB112 received a favorable report from the Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics & Elections Committee.*

SJR27 (Bedford) – Proposes, similar to HJR34, a statewide election in June 2012 on whether to hold a convention to revise the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. *SJR27 is in the Senate Rules Committee.*

Public transportation

HB207 (Todd) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the state to use a portion of state gasoline and motor fuel excise taxes to fund public transportation. *HB207 is in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

SB79 (Marsh) – Proposes to authorize county commissions to levy additional gasoline and motor fuel excise taxes up to 5 cents after referendum to support roads, bridges or public transportation. *SB79 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

Worker savings incentives

No legislation relating to this priority has been introduced thus far this session.

Death penalty moratorium

No legislation relating to this priority has been introduced thus far this session.

Other subjects

HB6 (Merrill) – Proposes to decrease from 7 to 6 the minimum mandatory age of attendance in public schools. *HB6 is in the House Education Policy Committee.*

HB10/SB82 (England/Coleman) – Proposes to restore eligibility for TANF and food stamps for certain individuals with felony drug convictions. *HB10 is in the House State Government Committee, and SB82 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

HB56 (Hammon) – Provides for enforcement of immigration laws and verification of legal status of people and creates specific crimes for activities relating to undocumented immigrants in Alabama. *HB56 received a favorable report from the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee.*

HB67/SB24 (Hubbard, J./Brewbaker) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the legislative vote required to override a gubernatorial veto. *HB67 is in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee, and SB24 received a favorable report from the Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics & Elections Committee.*

HB80 (Wren) – Proposes to require tenants under a rental agreement to pay certain attorney's fees under certain conditions. *HB80 is in the House Commerce & Small Business Committee.*

HB98/SB127 (Rich/Pittman) – Proposes a constitutional amendment limiting members of Senate and House of Representatives to three consecutive full terms. *HB 98 is in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee, and SB 127 received a favorable report from the Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics & Elections Committee.*

HB121 (Rich) – Proposes to establish specific criminal penalties for using a fraudulent document to apply for public benefits, to require applicants for certain public benefits to prove lawful presence in the United States, and to require state agencies to verify eligibility of all TANF applicants through the federal E-Verify program. *HB121 is in the House Judiciary Committee.*

HB151 (Hubbard, J.) – Proposes to require electronic filing of campaign finance disclosures starting with the 2014 election cycle, to include Section 527 organizations within the definition of political action committees, and to disqualify candidates who do not comply with certain filing requirements. *HB 151 is in the House Ethics and Campaign Finance Committee.*

HB157 (Rich) – Proposes to require random drug tests for recipients of Medicaid, TANF or food stamps, if an applicant's appearance or demeanor implies possible drug use. *HB157 is in the House State Government Committee.*

HB203 (Nordgren) – Proposes to require parents or guardians who enroll a child in a public school, or whose child is tutored at home or a church school, to provide proof of the child's citizenship. *HB203 is in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.*

HB211 (Love) – Proposes to require the state departments of Education and Finance to create a program to purchase or provide professional liability insurance for teachers and certain other education personnel. *HB211 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

HB215/SB142 (Poole/Fielding) – Proposes to establish early release and mandatory supervised re-entry for certain nonviolent offenders. *HB215 is in the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee, and SB142 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

HB216 (Poole) – Proposes to establish the Honor and Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program as an offender supervision program intended to reduce probation violations and recidivism. *HB216 is in the House Judiciary Committee.*

SB95 (Taylor) – Proposes to require lobbyists to report any item excluded from the definition of a thing of value, whatever the actual cost. *SB95 is in the Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics & Elections Committee.*

SB115 (Orr) – Proposes to prohibit certain fraudulent conduct in obtaining public assistance under any state or federally funded public assistance program. *SB115 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB147 (Whatley) – Proposes to provide transfers to unsupervised probation status for certain probationers under certain conditions. *SB147 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB175 (Taylor) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that the Legislature may not increase members' expense allowances during a current term of office, except for reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of official duties. *SB175 is in the Senate Rules Committee.*

For the full text of these and any other bills introduced in the 2011 regular session, go to <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLoginFire.asp>