Arise Bills of Interest 2012 First Special Session

May 18, 2012

The Alabama Legislature convened for the first special session of 2012 on May 17. During the session's first two days, 64 bills were introduced. No more than 10 meeting days remain. Arise will follow legislation related to our annual legislative priorities and endorsements throughout the session. Measures with a status in boldface have received final disposition.

Adequate state budgets

HB10/SB9 (McCutcheon/Orr) – Proposes to create the Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank to provide loans and other financial assistance to local governments to build or improve roads and bridges for public purposes, including economic development. HB10 is in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee, and SB9 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.

HB11/SB8 (Barton/Orr) – General Fund budget for FY 2013 to provide appropriations for ordinary expenses of executive, legislative and judicial departments. *HB11 is in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee, and SB8 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

HB12/SB14 (Love/Williams) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to exclude refunding bonds from counting toward Alabama's \$750 million cap on bonds for economic development purposes. HB12 received a favorable report from the House Ways & Means Education Committee, and SB14 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.

HB13/SB12 (Love/Orr) – Proposes to transfer 25 percent of Alabama's use tax revenues from the Education Trust Fund to the General Fund. HB13 received a favorable report from the House Ways & Means Education Committee, and SB12 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.

HB14/SB2 (Love/Pittman) – Education Trust Fund budget for FY 2013 to provide appropriations for the support, maintenance and development of public education. HB14 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee, and SB2 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.

HB25/SB11 (Barton/Orr) – Children First Trust Fund budget for FY 2013 to provide appropriations for certain agencies from tobacco settlement funds. HB25 received a favorable report from the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee, and SB11 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.

Taxes & tax reform

HB5/SB7 (Ball/Orr) – Proposes to authorize cities to designate Major 21st Century Manufacturing Zones to provide certain tax incentives to automotive, electronics, medical and certain other manufacturers that locate or expand in the zones. HB5 is in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee, and SB7 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.

HB15/SB13 (Hall/Holley) – Proposes to apply the state sales tax to sales of ophthalmic materials by licensed ophthalmologists. *HB15 is in the House Ways & Means Education Committee, and SB13 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

SB20 (Beasley) – Proposes to provide a one-year state income tax deduction for a portion of Medicaid payments received by qualifying providers if the state reduces Medicaid reimbursement rates. SB20 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.

SB29 (Figures) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the state cigarette tax from 42.5 cents per pack to 75 cents per pack. SB29 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.

Health care

No legislation related to this issue has been introduced during this session.

Housing Trust Fund

No legislation related to this issue has been introduced during this session.

Death penalty moratorium

No legislation related to this issue has been introduced during this session.

Public transportation

No legislation related to this issue has been introduced during this session.

Immigration

HB20/SB28 (Hammon/Beason) – Proposes to amend Alabama's 2011 immigration law to require the Department of Homeland Security to publish a list of all undocumented immigrants who appear in court on a charge of violating a state law, to exempt certain religious activities from criminal penalties under the act, and to make other changes. HB20 is in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee, and SB28 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Constitutional reform

No legislation related to this issue has been introduced during this session.

Other subjects

HB18 (Rich) – Proposes to require suspicion-based drug tests for certain TANF applicants and to reimburse applicants for the cost of negative tests. *HB18 is in the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee.*

SB21 (Bedford) – Proposes to add vegetation management to the list of acceptable uses for county gasoline tax revenues. SB21 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.

For the full text of these bills and others introduced during the Alabama Legislature's 2012 first special session, go to http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLoginFire.asp.