

Arise Bills of Interest 2010 Regular Session

February 5, 2010

The Alabama Legislature convened for the 2010 Regular Legislative Session on January 12th. During the first eight days of the legislative session, 891 bills have been introduced. There are 22 meeting days remaining in the 2010 Session. Throughout the session, Arise follows legislation that relates to our annual legislative priorities and endorsements:

Adequate State Budgets

HB99/SB277 (Canfield/French) – Provides for the maximum amount that may be appropriated from the Education Trust Fund based upon revenues received over the last fifteen years. *HB99 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee, and SB277 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation – Education Committee.*

HB122 (Wren) – Expresses the legislative intent that each PACT contract effective on the date of his act is to be honored regardless of the date issued. *HB122 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB228/SB193 (Ford/Little, T.) – Provides for an annual appropriation from the Education Trust Fund budget to the PACT fund for a certain period of time. *HB228 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee, and SB193 is in the Senate Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability Committee.*

HB237/SB121 (Beasley/Barron) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to transfer \$100 million annually from 2010 to 2019 from the Alabama Trust Fund for road construction projects. *HB237 is in the House Government Appropriations Committee, and SB121 is on the Senate calendar.*

HB274/SB243 (Lindsey/Sanders) – Education Trust Fund Budget for FY2011 – provides the appropriation for the support, maintenance and development of public education. *HB274 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee, and SB243 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation – Education Committee.*

HB289/SB304 (Knight/Bedford) – Proposes to extend from 20 years to 30 years the period used by the Board of Control of the Employees' Retirement System in determining the accrued liability contribution rate. *HB289 is in the House Government Appropriations Committee, and SB304 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation – General Fund Committee.*

HB290/SB303 (Knight/Bedford) – General Fund Budget for FY2011 – provides the appropriation for the ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative and judicial departments. *HB290 is in the House Government Appropriations Committee, and SB303 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation – General Fund Committee.*

HB352/SB292 (Lindsey/Sanders) – Proposes to extend from 20 years to 30 years the period used by the Boards of Control of the Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System in determining the accrued liability contribution rate. *HB352 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee, and SB292 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation – Education Committee.*

SB78 (Bedford) – Proposes to amend the Budget Management Act to authorize the Judicial Branch to expend its legislative appropriations without prior approval of the Finance Department. *SB78 received a favorable report from the Senate Finance & Taxation – General Fund Committee and is on the Senate calendar.*

SB162 (Little, T.) – Provides for an annual appropriation from the Education Trust Fund budget to the PACT fund for certain years. *SB162 received a favorable report from the Senate Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability Committee and is on the Senate calendar.*

SB244 (Sanders) – Proposes to extend from 20 years to 30 years the period used by the Board of Control of the Teachers' Retirement System in determining the accrued liability contribution rate. *SB244 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation – Education Committee.*

Taxes & Tax reform

HB1 (Knight) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the taxpayers' deduction for federal taxes, and to remove the state sales tax on food. *HB1 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB83 (Love) – Contingent upon defined growth in the ETF, proposes to increase personal and dependent deductions for state income tax, and to phase out the standard deduction. *HB83 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB84 (Love) – Contingent upon defined growth in the ETF, proposes to provide additional incentives to defray the costs of small businesses for providing health insurance benefits. *HB84 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB88 (Gipson) – Proposes to exempt from sales taxes over-the-counter medications. *HB88 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB90 (Bridges) – Proposes to create the Targeted Jobs Creation Tax Credit as an incentive to employers to create jobs in certain counties with high unemployment. *HB90 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB94 (Canfield) – Proposes to exempt from state income tax a portion of retirement income from defined contribution plans. *HB94 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB 119 (Todd) – Proposes to increase the state tax on tobacco products. *HB119 is in the House Government Appropriations Committee.*

HB163 (Bridges) – Proposes a tax credit for employers hiring persons receiving unemployment compensation. *HB163 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB181 (Love) – Proposes to increase from 50% to 100% the deduction allowed for certain small businesses for providing health insurance for employees. *HB181 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB206 (McClammy) – Proposes to provide a tax credit to employers hiring certain persons under age 19 during school breaks, after school or on weekends. *HB206 is in the Education Appropriations Committee.*

HB472 (Allen) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the imposition of sales taxes on firearms and ammunition that exceeds the sales taxes levied on food. *HB472 is in the House Education Appropriations Committee.*

SB212 (Orr) – Proposes to authorize cities and counties to exempt from local sales taxes food purchases. *SB212 is in Senate Finance & Taxation – Education Committee.*

SB225 (Sanders) - Proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the taxpayers' deduction for federal taxes, and to remove the state sales tax on food. *SB225 is in the Senate Finance & Taxation – Education Committee.*

Worker savings incentives

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

Constitutional Reform

SB177 (Smitherman) – Proposes an election to determine whether to convene a constitutional convention to amend and replace the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. *SB177 received a favorable report from the Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics and Elections Committee and is on the Senate calendar.*

HB502 (Newton, D.) – Proposes an election to determine whether to convene a constitutional convention to amend and replace the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. *HB502 is in the House Constitution & Elections Committee.*

HJR54/SJR42 (Newton, D/Little, T.) – Proposes a special election to determine whether to convene a constitutional convention to amend and replace the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. *HJR54 is in the House Rules Committee, and SJR42 is in the Senate Rules Committee.*

Death Penalty Moratorium

HB280/SB217 (Coleman/Sanders) – Proposes a moratorium on the imposition and execution of the death penalty for a period not to exceed three years. *HB280 is in the House Judiciary Committee, and SB217 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

HB385 (Hall) – Proposes to establish procedures for determining whether a defendant charged with a capital offense is an individual with intellectual disabilities. *HB385 is in the House Judiciary Committee.*

SB27 (Sanders) – Proposes to establish an Innocence inquiry Commission to investigate and determine claims of innocence of a person convicted of a felony. *SB27 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB219 (Sanders) – Proposes procedures for a court to determine whether a defendant charged with a capital offense is mentally retarded. *SB219 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

SB222 (Sanders) – Proposes to exempt from capital punishment an individual convicted of a crime committed before age 18.

SB226 (Sanders) – Proposes to prohibit a court from overriding the verdict and sentencing of a defendant. *SB226 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

Housing Trust Fund

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

Endorsements and other issue areas

HB42 (Bentley) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit mandatory participation in any health care system. *HB42 is in the House Health Committee.*

HB47 (Gipson) – Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit mandatory participation in any health care system. *HB47 is in the House Health Committee.*

HB154 (Black) – Proposes to allow gaming facilities in Alabama to provide the same games of chance as are allowed in Indian gaming facilities. *HB154 received a favorable report from the House Tourism & Travel Committee and is on the House calendar.*

SB11 (Smitherman) – Proposes to modify the existing unemployment compensation statute to provide for use of an alternate base period in determining eligibility and to expand coverage to certain groups. *SB11 received a favorable report from the Senate Business & Labor Committee and is on the Senate calendar.*

HB116 (Todd) – Proposes an amendment to the constitution to allow vehicle and road use taxes to be used for public transportation purposes. *HB116 is in the House Government Appropriations Committee.*

HB70 (Ward) – Proposes to establish the Alabama Transportation Commission with administrative authority over the Alabama Department of Transportation. *HB70 has passed the House and is in the Senate Commerce, Transportation & Utilities Committee.*

HB158/SB274 (McCampbell/Waggoner) – Proposes to establish the United We Ride Commission within the Department of Senior Services to provide transportation services to those disabilities, the elderly and low-income individuals. *HB158 is in the House Government Appropriations Committee; SB274 received a favorable report from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and is on the Senate calendar.*

HB423/SB345 (Page/Means) – Proposes to allow health care facilities and providers to donate legend drugs to charitable clinics under certain conditions. *HB423 is in the House Health Committee, and SB345 is in the Senate Health Committee.*

HB498 (Galliher) - Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit mandatory participation in any health care system. *HB498 is in the House Health Committee.*

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