



# On the Hill

...reporting the progress of the  
Alabama State Legislature

## Weekly Legislative Happenings

The Alabama Legislature met for 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> legislative days to complete two-thirds of the session. At the conclusion of business on Thursday, 615 bills have been introduced in the House and 442 bills have been introduced in the Senate.

## Bills ANHA is Monitoring

### New Bills

**House Bill 566-Henry:** would provide that in all civil actions, the court shall award attorney's fees as part of the cost to the prevailing party. *HB 566 awaits action in the House Judiciary Committee.*

**House Bill 605-Clouse:** would extend the private hospital assessment and Medicaid funding program for fiscal years 2014-2016; and provide for public hospitals to make intergovernmental transfers and certified public expenditures to support the Medicaid program. *HB 563 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

### Health Care

**House Bill 36-R. Johnson/Senate Bill 76-Waggoner:** would allow the Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules for automated dispensing machines in nursing homes. *HB 36 passed the House and awaits action in the Senate. SB 76 awaits action in the Senate.*

**House Bill 41-Nordgren:** would provide an income tax credit for physicians and dentists providing free services to Medicaid recipients. *HB 41 awaits action in the House Ways & Means Education Committee.*

**House Bill 45-DeMarco/Senate Bill 29-Ward:** would create the crimes of elder abuse and neglect and crimes of financial exploitation of an elderly person and provide penalties. *HB 45 passed the House and awaits action in the Senate Judiciary Committee. SB 29 passed the Senate and awaits action in the House*

**House Bill 64-Patterson:** provides for the continuance of the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators until October 1, 2017. *HB 64 passed the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature.*

**House Bill 109-Ball:** would establish the Health Care Compact to regulate health care and establish the Interstate Advisory Health Care Commission. *HB 109 passed the House and awaits action in the Senate.*

**House Bill 110-McClendon:** the Medicaid Fraud Reduction Act of 2013 would investigate claims of fraud, abuse or misuse for controlled substances by Medicaid recipients or providers. *HB 110 passed the House and awaits action in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

**House Bill 131-Rich:** would require drug testing for Medicaid applicants if there is a reasonable suspicion the applicant is using a controlled substance. *HB 131 awaits action in the House*

**House Bill 174-McClendon/Senate Bill 151-Whatley:** specifies that a transfer of a certificate of need from one entity to another does not require a new or additional certificate of need. *HB 174 passed the House and awaits action in the Senate. SB 151 passed the Senate and awaits action in the House.*

**House Bill 316-Todd:** would establish the “New Assistive Devices Warranty Act.” *HB 316 awaits action in the House Commerce & Small Business Committee.*

**House Bill 370-Wren:** would place a cap on the amount of General Fund dollars appropriated annually to the Alabama Medicaid Agency. *HB 370 awaits action in the House.*

**House Bill 371-Wren:** would require the Alabama Medicaid Agency to request a waiver to increase Medicaid recipient co-payments for services. *HB 371 awaits action in the House.*

**House Bill 372-Wren:** would establish the Permanent Joint Medicaid Committee and the Medicaid Advisory Commission. *HB 372 awaits action in the House.*

**House Bill 377-Boothe/Senate Bill 291-Irons:** would make changes to the licensing and regulation of assisted living administrators. *HB 377 awaits action in the House. SB 291 awaits action in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.*

**House Bill 454-McClendon/Senate Bill 340-Reed:** would provide for the delivery of Medicaid health care services on a managed care basis or through regional care organizations. *HB 454 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee. SB 340 awaits action in the Senate Health Committee.*

**House Bill 483-Barton:** would establish different levels of care and Medicaid funding for PACE programs and provide for licensing and fees for PACE programs by ADPH. *HB 483 received a favorable report from the House Children & Senior Advocacy Committee and awaits action in the House*

**House Bill 484-Barton:** would levy a privilege assessment on PACE programs. *HB 484 received a favorable report from the House Children & Senior Advocacy Committee and awaits action in the House*

**House Bill 490-Clouse:** would extend current hospital assessment for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. *HB 490 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**House Bill 491-Clouse:** would extend the current nursing home provider assessment rate until August 31, 2015. *HB 491 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**House Bill 499-Wren:** would establish the Health Center Access and Quality Improvement Program to provide for an assessment on health care centers. *HB 499 awaits action in the House Health Committee.*

**House Bill 557-Scott:** would make each county the responsible agency for health care transportation, hospital care, or primary care for indigent patients. *HB 557 awaits action in the House Health Committee.*

**House Bill 560-Gleason:** would require health care providers to provide a written estimate of prospective costs for non-emergency health care services upon request. *HB 560 awaits action in the House Health Committee.*

**House Bill 562-Clouse:** would extend the current supplemental privilege assessment and monthly surcharge on nursing homes through August 31, 2015. *HB 562 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**House Bill 563-Clouse:** would extend the private hospital assessment and Medicaid funding program for fiscal years 2014-2018; and provide for public hospitals to make intergovernmental transfers and certified public expenditures to support the Medicaid program. *HB 563 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**Senate Bill 251-Ward:** would give health care providers authority to refuse to perform services that violate their conscience. *SB 251 awaits action in the Senate Health Committee.*

**Senate Bill 259-Bedford:** would expand Medicaid to provide assistance to all persons for whom federal matching funds are available to the state under the Affordable Care Act. *SB 259 awaits action in the Senate Health Committee.*

**Senate Bill 392-Keahey:** would prohibit any potential BP settlement funds from being used to repay funds transferred from the Alabama Trust Fund. *SB 392 awaits action in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

## **Budget/Tax/Finance**

**House Bill 15-Todd:** would increase cigarette tax by \$0.32.5 per pack. *HB 15 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**House Bill 153-Clouse:** would transfer of tobacco settlement funds to the General Fund for fiscal year 2014. *HB 153 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**House Bill 158-Clouse/Senate Bill 143-Orr:** General Fund budget. *HB 158 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee. SB 143 passed the Senate and awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**House Bill 172-Ford:** would establish an education lottery. *HB 172 awaits action in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee.*

**Senate Bill 92-Sanford:** would reduce the corporate income tax from 6.5% to 5%. *SB 92 awaits action in the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee.*

**Senate Bill 290-Sanford:** would use any proceeds from a legal settlement with BP to repay the Alabama Trust Fund and the General Fund Rainy Day Account and deposit any remaining proceeds in the Alabama Trust Fund. *SB 290 awaits action in the Senate*

## **Workforce**

**House Bill 28-DeMarco:** an employee could not receive workers compensation benefits if an injury or death was caused by alcohol or drug use. *HB28 awaits action in the House.*

**Senate Bill 41-Dial:** would make Alabama's right to work law a constitutional amendment. *SB 41 passed the Senate and awaits action in the House.*

## **General Government**

**House Bills 101-Weaver, 148-Wren/Senate Bills 77-Waggoner, 112-Holley:** would make changes to the Administrative Procedures Act. *HB 101 passed the House and Senate, and awaits the Governor's signature. All other bills are currently in committee in the house of origin.*

**House Bill 147-Wren/Senate Bill 122-Holley:** would consolidate several legislative operations. *HB 147 awaits action in the House State Government Committee. SB 122 passed the Senate and awaits action in the House State Government Committee.*

**Senate Bill 183-Orr:** would establish the Alabama False Claims act and allow a citizen to file suit against a company on behalf of the State. *SB 183 awaits action in the Senate Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee.*

## **Bills Signed into Law**

**House Bill 94-Love:** would require repayment of funds transferred from the Alabama Trust Fund due to the September 18, 2012, amendment. *HB 94 passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by Gov. Bentley.*