



On the Hill

...reporting the progress of the
Alabama State Legislature

Weekly Legislative Happenings

The Alabama Legislature met for 23rd, 24th and 25th legislative days this week. There are only five meeting days left in the session. The last possible calendar meeting day is May 20. At the conclusion of business on Thursday, 678 bills have been introduced in the House and 475 bills have been introduced in the Senate. Due to the ANHA Mid-Year Convention, the next edition of *On the Hill* will be published on Monday, May 6.

Bills ANHA is Monitoring

Health Care

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 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.*

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 passed 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 passed the House.*

House Bill 372-Wren: would establish the Permanent Joint Medicaid Committee and the Medicaid Advisory Commission. *HB 372 passed 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 passed the House. SB 340 passed the Senate and awaits action in the House 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 received a favorable report from the House Health Committee and awaits action in the House.*

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 passed the House.*

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.*

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 605 passed the House.*

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 House and awaits the Governor's signature.*

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.*

Senate Bill 453-Marsh: would extensively amend the workers' compensation law. *SB 453 awaits action in the Senate Business & Labor Committee.*

General Government

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, received a favorable report from the House State Government Committee and awaits action in the House.*

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.*

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.*

Bills Signed into Law

House Bill 36-R. Johnson: would allow the Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules for automated dispensing machines in nursing homes. *HB 36 passed the House and Senate, and was signed into law by Gov. Bentley.*

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 was signed into law by Governor Bentley.*

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.*

House Bills 101-Weaver: would make changes to the Administrative Procedures Act. *HB 101 passed the House and Senate, and was signed into law by Governor Bentley.*