



The ACCS Legislative Update

2017 Legislative Session Update #2017-08
April 14, 2017

A Week For the Ages

The Alabama Legislature met on Tuesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 13, completing the 16th and 17th legislative days of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session. However, the primary action of the week took place on Monday, where impeachment hearings for Governor Robert Bentley began in the House Judiciary Committee. This was the first time that impeachment proceedings for a statewide elected official were held in the Alabama Legislature in over 100 years and the first time ever for a sitting Governor. By the end of the day, Governor Bentley had resigned and Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey was sworn in as Alabama's 54th Governor. As a result of her new position, Governor Ivey also is now the President of the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees. We look forward to working with Governor Ivey and her administration during the remainder of the legislative session and beyond.

There was also other legislative action this week that will have a substantial impact on the Alabama Community College System moving forward. On Tuesday, the Alabama Legislature gave final passage to **HB163**, our "Body Corporate" legislation and part of the ACCS 2017 Legislative Agenda. A huge thank you is owed to the legislative leadership and to the sponsors of the legislation, Rep. Steve McMillan and Sen. Trip Pittman, for quickly shepherding this bill through the legislative process. The bill is now on Governor Ivey's desk for her signature into law.

The Legislature will reconvene next week on Tuesday, April 18, with the House convening at 1 PM and the Senate at 2 PM.

Bills of Interest:

HB163 – Rep. McMillan/Sen. Pittman:

To establish the Community College System as a body corporate and give the Board of Trustees authority to manage the acquisition and disposition of property (*Given final passage by the Legislature 4/11; awaiting the Governor's signature*)

SB203 – Sen. Holtzclaw:

To clarify the level of access that public schools and higher education institutions must give to military recruiters of the United States Armed Forces and US Department of Homeland Security (*SB203 passed by Senate 4/11 and assigned to the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee*)

SB321 – Sen. Hightower:

To create a lump-sum cash payment retirement option for retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and to create the Alabama Pension Authority to issue bonds to fund the program (*Given Favorable Report by the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee 4/12*)

SB3 – Sen. Dial:

To provide a one-time lump sum retirement payment to education retirees from an appropriation from the Education Trust Fund (*Given Favorable Report by the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee 4/12*)

SB288/HB384 – Sen. Dial/Rep. Fincher:

To increase the time frame required for a K-12 teacher to give notice before terminating his or her employment and to delete postsecondary education employees from the requirements in the law (*SB288 given Favorable Report by the Senate Education and Youth Affairs Committee 4/12; HB384 given Favorable Report by the House Education Policy Committee 4/12*)

SJR85 – Sen. Marsh:

To create the Alabama Community College Advisory Council on Outcome-Based Funding to develop an outcome-based funding model for future budget appropriations for the institutional operations of community and technical colleges (*Introduced this week and assigned to the Senate Rules Committee*)

