



The ACCS Legislative Update

2017 Legislative Session Update #2017-11

May 5, 2017

Education Budget Passes House

The Alabama Legislature had its second three-day week of the session, meeting on Tuesday, May 2; Wednesday, May 3; and Thursday, May 4; completing the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th legislative days of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session. With time running short and both budgets and other significant legislation still needing legislative approval, both the House of Representatives and Senate spent long hours into the night each day debating and passing legislation. While the Senate spent much of its time debating the General Fund Budget and a new redistricting plan for legislative districts, the House on Wednesday debated and passed **SB129**, the Education Budget, and other budget-related bills. While a few minor changes were made to the budget before it passed the House, none of those changes impacted ACCS. ACCS's portion of the budget remained the same as it was in the version approved by the House W&ME Committee last week, which level-funds ACCS programs from the FY 2016-17 ETF budget levels except for an additional \$1 million for dual enrollment and \$2.75 million for workforce development initiatives.

At this point, it appears that the budget is headed to a conference committee made up of senators and representatives to work out the differences in the versions passed by each chamber before it can be in a position to be signed into law by Governor Ivey.

The Legislature will reconvene next week on Tuesday, May 9, with the House convening at 1 PM and the Senate at 2 PM. Next week appears to also be a three-day legislative week, with the Legislature meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Legislature must finish the 2017 Regular Legislative Session by Monday, May 22 at the latest.

Bills of Interest:

SB129 – Sen. Orr/Rep. Poole:

To make appropriations for the support, maintenance, and development of public education – **the Education Budget** (*Passed by the House 5/3; awaiting further action from the Senate*)

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 (*SIGNED BY GOVERNOR IVEY 5/4*)

SB315 – Sen. Dial:

To modify existing requirements of the disabled veterans and dependents scholarship program under the Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs and to increase the education assistance provided by the state to eligible Alabama National Guard members (*Passed by the House 5/3; awaiting further action from the Senate*)

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 (*Passed by the House 5/4; awaiting Governor Ivey's signature into law*)

SB188 – Sen. Orr:

To lower the number of weeks of unemployment benefits that a person may be eligible for and to add additional weeks of unemployment benefits for enrollment and progress in a job training or certification program (*Passed by the Senate 5/4; assigned to House Commerce and Small Business Committee*)

SB293 – Sen. Marsh

To expand the adjusted gross income range allowed for a maximum standard deduction for taxpayers claiming single, married, and head of household for Alabama individual income tax purposes (*Passed by the Senate 5/2; assigned to House Ways and Means Education Committee*)

HB262 – Rep. Drummond:

To allow persons who complete 420 clock hours of apprenticeship with a licensed or registered cosmetologist to be eligible for licensure as a natural hair stylist (*Passed by the Senate 5/2; awaiting Governor Ivey's signature into law*)

HB345 – Rep. Gaston:

To provide a new income tax credit against the tax liability of a taxpayer for the rehabilitation, preservation, and development of historic structures (*Given Favorable Report by the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee 5/3*)

