

New Laws Going into Effect or
Full Implementation on October 1, 2016

APPOINTING OUTSIDE COUNSEL FOR LITIGATION OF PROPERTY TAX CASES

Act 2016-127 by Sen. Williams and Rep. Lee

In the past, the local district attorney was required to handle all ad valorem tax cases within their respective circuit. Due to the need for specialized counsel with expertise in certain ad valorem tax cases, the newly passed law allows the county commission to contract with outside counsel in property tax appeals and to appropriate funds for that representation to be paid from the county's reappraisal budget. The law will also allow for self-insurance liability funds (the ACCA Self-Insured Liability Fund) to provide a premium for coverage of these cases.

Signed into law April 12, 2016.
Effective October 1, 2016.

Act 2016-311 (SB 73 by Sen. Holley) – Increase in Board of Registrars' Compensation

This act increases the compensation for members of the Board of Registrars from \$60 to \$80 per day. As with all compensation for registrars, the county commission will be required to pay this compensation and seek reimbursement from the state. This act also authorizes the county commission to allow a member of the county board of registrars who has served at least 16 years in that position to participate in any health insurance program provided by the county. This does not apply to any state health insurance program.

This act takes effect on October 1, 2016.

Act 2016-421 (HB 146 by Rep. Wilcox) – Boats and Vessels ID Stickers

This act requires owners of boats and vessels to obtain from the county licensing official five-year ID stickers to be placed on both sides of the bow of a boat or vessel. The fee for the stickers is \$20.00 with a \$2.00 issuance fee paid to and expended at the sole discretion of the county licensing official. Proceeds from the stickers will be distributed to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources earmarked for the operation of state parks. This act also allows the owners of boats and vessels to purchase ID stickers supporting any organization with a distinctive motor vehicle license tag. The cost of distinctive ID stickers is \$50, with \$25 earmarked for the supported organization and \$25 earmarked to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the operation of state parks.

This act took effect on May 13, 2016, although the implementation date for these changes is October 1, 2016.

Act 2016-111 (SB 219 by Sen. Beasley) – Wine or Liquor Tasting at Liquor Stores

This act authorizes liquor or wine tastings to be held by a licensed manufacturer on the premises of a liquor store operated by the state or otherwise. The Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board shall regulate the procedure for such tastings.

This act shall take effect on October 1, 2016.

