

# Looking Ahead: 2018 Legislative Priorities and ATRIP-2: Next Steps

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# Infrastructure: Funding for Roads and Bridges

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- The need for construction, maintenance, and repair of county roads and bridges continues to exceed available revenue for counties to undertake necessary projects.
- The Association proposes to continue its work with a coalition of statewide organizations in pursuing legislation to provide adequate funding for both state and local road and bridge projects utilizing the current gas tax formula.

# Medicaid Reimbursement Cap for Inmates

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- Senator Reed introduced legislation last session that would have capped inpatient and outpatient inmate costs at the AL Medicare rate. This legislation passed in the Senate, but did not reach the House floor.
- The Association has been in negotiations with the Alabama Hospital Association with the goal of proposing legislation to cap the inpatient and outpatient inmate medical costs to counties at the Medicaid rate.

# Workers' Compensation Claims

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- The Association proposes to introduce legislation that would allow local government workers' compensation programs to process claims through the Local Government Health Insurance Program (LGHIP) utilizing BlueCross BlueShield.
- Amending the current law will potentially be a significant cost benefit to counties and improve efficiency with the current system

# Fines for Delinquent Business Licenses

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- Under current law, businesses that are delinquent in purchasing a business license are only required to pay a penalty fine of \$1.50. This penalty costs local entities more to enforce than they actually collect from the business license and does little to delay delinquent filings.
- The Association proposes legislation to amend the current law by increasing the minimum penalty for non-purchasers to \$10.00 or the minimum cost of enforcing the penalty.

# Purchasing Air Units for Local Governments

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- In 2017, Representative Standridge carried an Association priority bill to allow counties and other local entities to utilize the NACo purchasing program for the procurement and installation of heating and air conditioning units.
- The Association proposes to reintroduce this legislation that would allow counties and other local entities to utilize this national cooperative for heating and air conditioning units, while remaining in compliance with the public works law.

# Improving Emergency Response in Alabama

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- The Association proposes legislation that would authorize the county commission chairperson to declare a local state of emergency for the county following an official declaration by the Governor's Office.
- The Association, working with Alabama EMA, also proposes legislation that would authorize the Alabama Disaster Recovery Program to provide financial assistance to individuals and certain nonprofit facilities following certain disasters and to cover costs related to specific pre-disaster protective measures.

# Updates to Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT)

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- The Association, in collaboration with the Department of Revenue, supports technical changes to the SSUT law that will ensure the efficient collection of this emerging revenue source for state and local governments.
- These technical changes will ensure out-of-state online retailers do not have a competitive advantage over in state businesses.



# ATRIP-2: Next Steps

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# Alabama Infrastructure Task Force

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Broad-based group established by Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh to evaluate infrastructure needs in Alabama and to establish priorities for the 2018 session and beyond. Research assistance provided by the University of Alabama and Auburn University.

# Alabama Infrastructure Task Force

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Task Force has held three meetings and has now established several working groups, including:

- Technology Considerations
- Physical Infrastructure, Safety and Intermodal Transportation
- Transportation Revenues, Standardization and Resource Allocation
- Transportation Policy

In addition, a four-member Task Group on Priority Transportation Projects was established, which includes ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield.

# Alabama Infrastructure Task Force

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The working groups have set initial meetings in December and early January. At this point, any recommendations from the full Task Force will not be made before February. The Association anticipates that counties will be given the opportunity to make a presentation to legislators and others during a meeting in mid-January.

# Legislative Schedule: Key Dates

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January 8, 2018

Party Qualifying begins for candidates to seek election to the  
Alabama Legislature

# Legislative Schedule: Key Dates

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January 9, 2018

First Day of 2018 Regular Legislative Session

# Legislative Schedule: Key Dates

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February 9, 2018

Close of Party Qualifying period for 2018 legislative candidates

# Legislative Schedule: Key Dates

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April 23, 2018

Conclusion of 105-day window for the 2018 Regular Legislative Session



# Legislative Schedule: Key Dates

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March 5, 2019

First day of 2019 Regular Legislative Session

# Questions?



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