



67 Counties, **One** Voice
In the Alabama Legislature

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Friday, March 27, 2015

The spring recess is almost over, and Legislators are set to return to Montgomery next week. The House and Senate will reconvene on Tuesday, March 31 at 1pm and 2pm respectively.

The Association staff has used the spring recess to 'work' ACCA bills, and keep them moving through the legislative process. As a result, several ACCA bills will be considered in committee next week, and at least one will be up for floor debate. County officials and employees are encouraged to review the information below, and contact the appropriate legislators BEFORE TUESDAY to express county government's position on the bills below:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The House will work from a special order calendar on Tuesday-with two bills impacting county government on the work agenda. County officials and employees are urged to contact **REPRESENTATIVES** to let them know how the following bills would affect counties:

County Decision Making ([HB 193 by Rep. Randy Davis](#)) -- This **ACCA** bill would grant county government limited decision-making to carry out administrative activities without the need for many of the technical local laws the Legislature currently passes. **STATUS: *This bill is on Tuesday's calendar. Ask Representatives to support this bill, and let them know it would cut down some of the local bills that-at times-clog the legislative process.***

Reduced-Price Farm Tags ([HB 217 by Rep. Alan Boothe](#)) -- This **DANGER** bill would remove the current cap on the number of reduced-price tags farmers could purchase-reducing county revenue by up to \$225 for each additional trailer. **STATUS: *This bill is on Tuesday's calendar. Please ask Representatives to remember that the lost county revenue created by this bill would have been used to maintain the very roads used by the farmers.***

In House Committee Next Week:

Solid Waste Fees ([HB 127 by Rep. Steve Clouse/SB 38 by Sen. Jimmy Holley](#)) --

These **ACCA bills** would allow broader use of solid waste funds, but only if they're used in support of local programs related to counties' solid waste program. **STATUS: *These bills are on Wednesday's agenda for the House County & Municipal Government Committee, which meets at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123.*** Ask committee members to support this bill that would greatly aid counties' efforts to improve solid waste programs.

County Modernization ([SB 96 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss](#)) - This **ACCA bill** would revise several outdated sections of existing statutory law related to county government administration. **STATUS: *This bill is on Wednesday's agenda for the House County & Municipal Government Committee, which meets at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123.*** Ask committee members to support this bill to help modernize the administration and management of county government.

House County & Municipal Government Committee members: Rep. McMillan, Chair; Reps. Williams D., Buskey, Boyd, Carns, Clark, Faust, Hurst, Ingram, Treadaway, Williams, J.

Local Vote Process ([HB 295 by Rep. Rod Scott](#)) - This **ACCA bill** would make it more likely that proposed local constitutional amendments would not face a statewide referendum. **STATUS: *This bill is on Wednesday's agenda for the House Constitution, Campaigns & Elections Committee, which meets at 9:00 a.m. in Room 123.*** Ask committee members to support this bill that would ensure controversial issues go before voters by statewide referendum, while increasing the likelihood that ordinary local matters are decided at the local level.

House Constitutions, Campaigns & Elections Committee members: Rep. Davis, Chair; Reps. Beckman, Lindsey, Clark, Fincher, Givan, Harbison, Harper, Polizos, Pringle, Sanderford.

IN THE SENATE:

There are currently three ACCA bills in the Senate, and all three bills have received favorable committee reports. These bills could be considered on the floor as early as next week, though the Senate is expected to spend a significant amount of time on prison reform (click [here](#) to read today's prison reform update from Sonny Brasfield). County officials and employees are encouraged to seek support from **SENATORS** on the following bills:

County Decision-Making ([SB 16 by Sen. Del Marsh](#)) -- This **ACCA bill** would grant county government limited decision-making to carry-out administrative activities without the need for many of the technical local laws the Legislature currently passes. **STATUS: *This bill COULD BE considered on the floor as early as next Tuesday.*** Ask

Senators to support this bill, and let them know it would cut down some of the local bills that-at times-clog the legislative process.

Amending Local Bills ([SB 164 by Sen. Greg Albritton](#)) -- This **ACCA** bill would provide a specific process for the amendment of local bills to better allow for deliberation and negotiation of issues. **STATUS: *This bill COULD BE considered on the floor as early as next Tuesday.*** Ask Senators to support this bill that would allow amendments to local legislation.

Election Expense ([SB 131 by Sen. Paul Sanford](#)) -- This **ACCA** bill would save revenue for counties and the State General Fund by allowing each county to shift election-related notices to the web, while preserving local choice to use newspaper publication. **STATUS: *This bill COULD BE considered on the floor as early as next Tuesday.*** Ask Senators to support this bill that would save substantial revenue for counties and the cash-strapped General Fund.

The Association encourages county officials and staff to utilize the new legislative tracking system to view a full listing of [ACCA Bills](#) and [Danger Bills](#). Remember: the system allows viewers to *post comments* about particular bills. As always, the Association staff welcomes input from membership.

REMINDERS:

The Association staff looks forward to hosting **Baldwin, Cherokee, Calhoun, Chilton, Crenshaw, Etowah, Limestone, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Wilcox, and Winston counties** at the [second ACCA County Day](#) on Tuesday, March 31! These counties will receive an email on Monday morning with more details about the event.

The [third ACCA County Day](#) is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 for the following counties: **Bibb, Blount, Clay, Conecuh, Cullman, Franklin, Henry, Houston, Lowndes, Macon, Randolph, and Sumter counties.**

Do not hesitate to contact the Association staff should you have any questions about today's report.

Enjoy your weekend,

Terri Sharpley Reynolds
Director of Public Affairs