



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

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Friday, April 17, 2015

The Association staff would like to thank all the county officials who participated in this week's Legislative Webinar, ACCA County Day, and PLAN Montgomery Experience! County government truly made its presence known in Montgomery this week. In addition to having county representation at the Statehouse every day this week, the ACCA also passed its first two priority bills of the 2015 legislative session on Tuesday! More details can be found below, but many thanks to the county officials and employees who contacted legislators about these bills.

The House and Senate will reconvene next Tuesday afternoon for what is expected to be another two-day work week. The House will consider 9 voting-related bills on Tuesday's work agenda; while the Senate has yet to announce its work agenda. ACCA members and affiliate members are encouraged to review the update below for an overview of what to expect next week, as well as a list of reminders and upcoming events.

PROBATE JUDGE PAY RAISE

The Senate version of the Probate Judge Pay Raise bill, [SB 369 by Sen. Tom Whatley](#), is on next week's Senate Judiciary committee agenda. The Association is asking for all-hands on deck to oppose this dangerous legislation. Additionally, county officials and employees are asked to be on the look-out for a subsequent email laying out the potential county-by-county costs of this unfunded mandate; please reference the county-by-county costs when speaking with legislators. **STATUS: This bill is on the Senate Judiciary Committee agenda next Wednesday, April 22 at 1:00pm in Room 325. County officials and employees are urged to contact committee members as soon as possible. Ask them not to support this unfunded mandate that would unduly burden county general funds.** The committee members are as follows:

Senate Judiciary Committee Members: Sen. Ward, Chair; Sens, Williams, Coleman, Figures, Marsh, Orr, Reed, Smitherman, Stutts, Whatley.

While the House version of the bill ([HB 447 by Rep. Matt Fridy](#)) has not been placed on the House Judiciary committee agenda yet, county officials and employees are still urged to contact members of this committee and express opposition to this bill. **Ask committee members not to put this bill on the committee agenda.** The committee members are as follows:

House Judiciary Committee Members: Rep. Jones, Chair; Reps. Hill, J. McClammy, Ball, Beckman, Black, Coleman-Evans, Drake, England, Farley, Faulkner, Fridy, Givan, Pettus, Rowe.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

As referenced above, two ACCA priority bills have passed both Houses as of this week! [SB 96 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss](#) (the companion to HB 225 by Rep. Richard Lindsey) received final passage in the House on Tuesday, and is now on it's way to the Governor's office for signature. Additionally, [SB 30 by Sen. Linda Coleman](#) (the companion to HB 295 by Rep. Rod Scott) passed the House, and will ultimately be decided by a future statewide referendum. **Thank you to all the county officials and employees who called, texted, emailed, etc. legislators to advocate for this important legislation. This is a big win for county government!**

Solid Waste Bills In Position for Floor Consideration

Please Contact Representatives!

The Solid Waste Fee bills, [HB 127 by Rep. Steve Clouse](#) and its companion bill [SB 38 by Sen. Jimmy Holley](#), are both in position to be considered on the House floor as early as next Thursday. This bill would make a tremendous difference in many counties by allowing them to use existing solid waste revenues for administrative and program activities related to the solid waste program.

As mentioned in previous reports, these bills will face opposition from the solid waste industry, which means communication from county officials and employees will play a critical role in moving these bills forward. **STATUS: The Association staff is working to get these bills on the House work agenda as early as Thursday. Please take a moment this weekend to call Representatives and express support for these important ACCA bills.**

Drag Racing Bill COULD BE in House Judiciary Next Week

Call Committee Members!

The Association staff and Attorney General's office partnered to make some improvements to [HB 462 by Rep. AJ McCampbell](#). Representative McCampbell is working to get this bill on the House Judiciary committee agenda as soon as possible. In the meantime, **county officials and employees are encouraged to call members of the committee to express their support for this bill.**

House Judiciary Committee Members: Rep. Jones, Chair; Reps. Hill, J. McClammy, Ball, Beckman, Black, Coleman-Evans, Drake, England, Farley, Faulkner, Fridy, Givan, Pettus, Rowe.

**Don't forget to mention the Probate Judge Pay Raise bill, which is also in the House Judiciary committee.

IN THE SENATE

Yesterday morning, the Association staff reached out to county officials and employees about [SB 164 by Sen. Greg Albritton](#). This bill was brought to the Senate floor yesterday around 12:45pm. To receive final passage, proposed constitutional amendments like SB 164 must get at least 21 favorable votes from members of the Senate.

Before a bill can be considered by the body it must pass a procedural vote. SB 164 only received 18 favorable votes on yesterday's procedural vote. Since the bill was shy of the 21 votes needed to actually pass the bill, Senator Albritton moved to carry it over for consideration at another time.

The Association staff believes that some of the Senators who voted against today's procedural resolution might be persuaded to support this bill if they hear from local residents. Below is the final tally for the procedural vote. **County officials and employees are urged to call, text, or email the Senators who voted against, abstained, or did not vote on SB 164 to express support for this important measure.**

NO VOTE: Allen, Brewbaker, Dial, Figures, Holley, Ross, Singleton, Smith, Waggoner

ABSTENTION: Pittman

DID NOT VOTE: Blackwell, Orr, Reed, Sanders, Scofield, Smitherman, Whatley

FAVORABLE VOTES: Albritton, Beasley, Chambliss, Hightower, Holtsclaw, Marsh, Melson, Sanford, Shelnett, Stutts, Ward, Williams, Bussman, Coleman, Dunn, Glover, Livingston, McClendon

ACCA Bill Expected on Upcoming Committee Agenda

A quick reminder that [HB 193 by Rep. Randy Davis](#) (County Decision-Making), the House companion to [SB 16](#) mentioned below, is now pending in the Senate Constitutions, Ethics, and Elections committee. The Association is working to get this bill on the committee's agenda before the end of the month. **Please contact members of this committee and ask them to support this bill. Remind them that this bill has already passed in the House.**

Senate Constitution Ethics and Elections Committee: Sen. Hightower, Chair; Sens. Hightower, Albritton, Brewbaker, Coleman, Melson, Pittman, Smitherman, Ward, Williams.

Drag-Racing Bill Expected on Upcoming Committee Agenda

[SB 321 by Sen. Bobby Singleton](#) is the companion bill to HB 462 referenced above. The Association is working with the Senator Singleton to get this bill on the upcoming Senate Transportation & Energy committee agenda. **County officials and employees are encouraged to call members of the committee to express their support for this bill.**

Senate Transportation & Energy Committee Members: Sen. Allen, Chair; Sens. Albritton, Chambliss, Coleman, Dial, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston, McClendon, Orr, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Scofield, Ward, Whatley.

Senate Bills in Position for Floor Consideration

Please Seek Support from Senators!

The Association staff is also working to get the following bills on the Senate special order calendar. **County officials and employees are asked to seek support from Senators on these bills, which could be considered on the Senate floor at any time:**

[SB 16 by Sen. Del Marsh](#) (County Decision-Making)

[HB 264 by Rep. Steve McMillian](#) (Local Preferences)

REMINDERS

The next ACCA Legislative Webinar is scheduled for **Monday, May 18 at 10:30am**. Please make plans to join the Association staff for the last legislative webinar before the end of the session.

The fifth ACCA County Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 for the following counties: **Autauga,**

Bullock, Colbert, Covington, Fayette, Greene, Jackson, Lee, Talladega, Washington. Please email Brandy Perry at bperry@alabamacounties.org to RSVP.

Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Association staff if you have any questions about this report.

Thanks,

Terri Sharpley Reynolds
Director of Public Affairs

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