

2019 EDITION

KEY

- 9 9-1-1 Directors
 - **E**ngineers
- M Emergency Managers
 - Probate Judges
 - Revenue Officers
 - S Sheriffs
 - Tax Officials
 - Training/Education
- \$ Reimbursement Eligible

*All County Commission Chairs, Commissioners & Administrators are encouraged to read the Final Report in its entirety.

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
2019 ACCA Bills that Have Become Law	5
New Laws Impacting Counties	
Taxes, Exemptions & Abatements	7
Courts & Law Enforcement	9
Vehicle Regulation	11
Elections & Voting	13
County Government Administration	15
Probate Court	17
Economic Development	18
Transportation & Infrastructure	19
Miscellaneous	20
Constitutional Amendments Awaiting Public Vote	23
New Local Laws	25

INTRODUCTION

County Leaders and Advocates,

The 2019 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature concluded May 31, nearly three weeks ahead of the constitutionally imposed 105-day deadline. The last week of the session was focused on securing final passage of the general fund and education budgets, as well as several priority bills for House and Senate leadership – including a number of economic development bills and a proposed constitutional amendment to reform governance of the state education system. Among the bills that received passage in the final hours of the session was ACCA priority bill HB183 (SSUT) by Rep. Rod Scott – bringing the total number of county legislative priorities enacted this session to seven.

The deadline has passed for Gov. Kay Ivey to act on legislation passed during the final week of the session, so any bills that did not receive her signature will not become law this year.

This final legislative report outlines the new general and local laws impacting county government in some form. Many of the bills outlined below will be the subject of discussion during the ACCA Annual Convention in August. In other cases, the Association staff will provide details on the implementation procedures in the coming weeks. County officials or employees with questions about the contents of this report are encouraged to contact the ACCA Office.

The final legislative report of the 2019 regular session is divided into the following sections:

- > 2019 ACCA Bills that Have Become Law
- > New Laws Impacting Counties
- > Constitutional Amendments Awaiting Public Vote
- > New Local Laws

Following the format of last year's report, this report includes a navigation key to help direct county leaders to the bills that might be of interest to them, based on their affiliate organization membership and broader role in county government. However, everyone is encouraged to review this report in its entirety because each new law is likely to have some sort of impact on local government operations.

The Association staff would like to extend a profound thank you to all county officials, employees and affiliate organization members who participated in this year's legislative advocacy efforts.

With tremendous gratitude and respect,

The Association Staff



2019 ACCA BILLS THAT HAVE BECOME LAW

Improving County Infrastructure Through Increased Fuel Taxes 🖪 🔂





Act 2019-2 by Rep. Bill Poole & Sen. Clyde Chambliss

Passed during the first special session of 2019, this new law will increase Alabama's gasoline and diesel fuel taxes by 10 cents per gallon through 2021. The first increase of 6 cents will take place September 1, 2019 — bringing the state's total excise tax on gasoline to \$0.24 per gallon. An additional two cents will be added on October 1, 2020, and again on October 1, 2021. Effective October 1, 2023, the gasoline and undyed diesel excise tax rate will be adjusted by the average annual percentage change in the National Highway Construction Cost Index, with the increase or decrease of the excise tax rate not exceeding \$.01 per gallon. Counties will receive 25 percent of the new revenue to put strictly toward road and bridge improvements and construction, fund matching, debt payment and joint projects. Under the new law, counties will also be able to save time and stretch their dollars by swapping their federal funds for \$400,000 in state funds — and also participate in a \$10-million local government grant program and a \$30-million to \$50-million, pay-as-you-go ATRIP-II program. Effective March 12, 2019.

Utilizing Next-Generation 9-1-1 Technology (9)

Act 2019-70 by Sen. Jimmy Holley & Rep. Debbie Wood

The Alabama Next Generation Emergency Network (ANGEN) is a communication technology system designed to streamline the routing process for 9-1-1 calls, reduce costs for 9-1-1 districts, and improve accuracy and redundancy issues in the current system. While the State 9-1-1 Board has been administering the program since 2013, it now has clear statutory authority to administer ANGEN under this new act. The law further makes a number of technical amendments to the general powers of the Board, enabling it to more effectively provide critical services and support to the state's 9-1-1 districts. Effective July 1, 2019.

Offering Better Local Retirement Benefits (9) (3) (1) (2) (3) (1)

Act 2019-132 by Sen. Jabo Waggoner & Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter

Local government entities participating in the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) now have the option to shift their existing Tier II employees to the more attractive benefits package afforded to local employees hired prior to 2013. The law gives local government employers until April 2021 to provide their Tier II members with the plan benefits offered to Tier I employees. Any local governments seeking to provide this additional benefit that did not increase the Tier I member contribution rate as provided for in Act 2011-676 must develop a plan to gradually increase the member contribution rates and submit it to the ERS before electing to provide such benefits. The ERS Board of Control is permitted to deny a local government from exercising the authorization in this act if the local government has a history of non-compliance with ERS requirements or if its financial stability is in question.

This new law will allow local entities to remain competitive in the job market and retain talented employees. It does not impact state revenue and is expected to reduce costs for many counties, cities and local entities. The Association staff will provide county leaders with more information about the implementation of this new authorization at the upcoming Annual Convention. Effective May 8, 2019.



2019 ACCA BILLS THAT HAVE BECOME LAW

Changes to Sheriffs' Feeding Accounts S

Act 2019-133 by Sen. Arthur Orr & Rep. Rex Reynolds

The feeding of county inmates has historically been the personal responsibility of the county sheriff due to a long-standing ambiguity in state law that allowed sheriffs to pocket the surplus monies remaining in their feeding fund account. This new law establishes a statewide process to ensure all feeding monies are treated as public funds and to clarify the sheriff is not personally responsible for any shortfall in the feeding account. The law creates a Prisoner Feeding Fund in each sheriff's office and requires feeding monies to be received and disbursed separately from the other office funds. Among other changes, the new law also increases the state's portion of the county inmate feeding allowance from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per prisoner per day. The Association staff will provide more information on the impact of this new law during the upcoming Annual Convention. In the meantime, county leaders and sheriffs are encouraged to contact the Association staff with any questions regarding the implementation of these provisions. Effective August 1, 2019.

Amending the County Debt Set-Off Program

Act 2019-184 by Sen. Tim Melson & Rep. Wes Allen

Over the past several years, the state's growing rural healthcare crisis has forced many small hospitals to contract their operations over to larger entities. However, the services provided by these "contractor" entities did not meet the technical definition provided in the statute governing the County Debt Set-Off Program, allowing many of the debts owed to rural healthcare providers to go uncollected. The enactment of this technical amendment to the authorizing statute now ensures county healthcare authorities may continue to participate in the program, even if they contract with an outside entity to provide financial or administrative management assistance. Effective May 15, 2019.

Reinstating Right-of-Way Waiver Valuations

Act 2019-234 by Rep. Corley Ellis & Sen. Billy Beasley

The Alabama Department of Transportation and county highway departments have traditionally utilized "waiver valuations" to acquire rights-of-way from private landowners, permitting the departments to reach mutual agreements with private landowners on the purchase price for right-of-way acquisitions. The Federal Highway Administration recently advised that Alabama law did not recognize the federal concept of a waiver valuation. This amendment to the statutory provisions now permits the use of waiver valuations if (1) the property owner is donating the property and releases the state or political subdivision from its appraisal obligations or (2) the state or political subdivision, with the written consent of the property owner, determines an appraisal is not necessary and the anticipated property value is equal to or less than the amount in the applicable federal regulation — which is currently \$10,000. With this new law, counties can continue to utilize this process that has saved them much time and money over the years. Effective May 22, 2019.

Updating the Simplified Sellers Use Tax Program R

Act 2019-382 by Rep. Rod Scott & Sens. Greg Albritton & Tim Melson

The 2018 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the South Dakota v. Wayfair case established a collection methodology for online sellers that works well with Alabama's Simplified Seller Use Tax (SSUT) program; however, technical issues in the law required amending to guarantee compliance with the Court's ruling. This act amends the law to expand protection from class action lawsuits involving claims for SSUT refunds. It also provides tax amnesty for online sellers for tax periods prior to October 1, 2019, and prohibits the collection of the SSUT on vehicles for which state and local taxes are required to be collected at the time of the vehicle's registration. Effective June 5, 2019.



— TAXES, EXEMPTIONS & ABATEMENTS —

Determination of State & Local Lease Taxes

Act 2019-89 by Rep. Steve Clouse

This act provides that the lease tax on tangible property other than automotive vehicles shall be determined based on the delivery location when delivered by the lessor and based on the rental location when the property is picked up by the lessee at the lessor's rental location. The act further provides that the initial lease tax on leased automotive vehicles shall be determined based upon the location of the dealer with the tax on subsequent lease payments determined based on the address of the lessee. This law clarifies the process currently employed for the payment and collection of state and local lease or rental taxes and, as such, will not affect the collection and distribution of local lease taxes. Effective July 1, 2019.

Motor Fuel Licensing Requirements During Emergency (2) R Act 2019-164 by Rep. Steve McMillan

This law authorizes the Alabama Department of Revenue to temporarily waive licensing requirements for those importing, exporting or transporting motor fuels to areas where the President or Governor has declared a state of emergency or disaster during the time in which the emergency or disaster is declared. The temporary waiver does not permit waiver of additional requirements or the payment of any taxes. This law also requires reporting of certain rental transactions of tangible personal property classified as Class II or Class IV property. Effective May 14, 2019.

Transaction Fees for Manufactured Home Certificate of Title R Act 2019-239 by Rep. Jamie Kiel

This act clarifies that transaction fees assessed by the Alabama Department of Revenue for titling manufactured homes shall be based on each unit of a manufactured home required to be titled and provides that only manufactured home units designated as a 2000 or later year model are required to be titled under Alabama law. The new law will not directly affect state or local funding. Effective January 1, 2020.

Motor Fuel Allocations, Disbursements & Distributions R Act 2019-247 by Rep. Brett Easterbrook

Under this new law, all allocations, disbursements and distributions for taxes and fees related to the motor fuel excise tax, the lubricating oil tax, the International Fuel Tax Agreement, the highway gas tax and supplemental excise taxes, and the diesel excise tax will be handled by the Department of Revenue instead of the State Treasurer's Office. The Department is currently responsible for collecting the same taxes and fees. Effective October 1, 2021.



— TAXES, EXEMPTIONS & ABATEMENTS —

Financial Institution Excise Tax Reform Act

Act 2019-284 by Rep. Kyle South

Over the past decade, much of the Financial Institution Excise Tax (FIET) receipts have shifted to the state because of the rise in out-of-state internet banking. The FIET Reform Act of 2019 institutes an estimated, quarterly pre-payment system for the FIET dollars distributed to local governments. The act mirrors the current distribution of the proceeds among the state, counties and municipalities, but the new approach will ensure each county receives some portion of the funding. The Legislative Fiscal Office expects this transition will result in a one-time increase for the fiscal year 2020 FIET receipts, with an estimated \$3.34 million being distributed to county governments.

Effective January 1, 2020, for tax years beginning after December 31, 2019.

Verification of Homestead Exemptions 🕡

Act 2019-320 by Rep. David Faulkner

This law allows any person qualifying for the regular homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes to initially claim the exemption in person or by a form affidavit provided by the Alabama Department of Revenue. It further permits any person who qualifies for the exemption as a result of being over the age of 65 or retired due to permanent and total disability to claim the exemption in person. Effective January 1, 2020.

Lodging Tax Exemptions for Recreational Rental Spaces R

Act 2019-387 by Sen. Gerald Allen

This act provides that for transactions entered into on or after October 1, 2019, the lodgings tax shall not apply to marine slips, tent camping places or spaces, or places or spaces provided for motor homes, travel trailers, self-propelled campers or house cars, truck campers, or similar recreational vehicles when the spaces or places are rented for a period of 90 continuous days. Effective June 5, 2019.

Lodging Tax Exemption for Meeting Rooms R

Act 2019-487 by Sen. Garlan Gudger

This act codifies the existing Alabama Department of Revenue rule exempting meeting rooms, banquet halls, wedding chapels, and similar rooms or spaces not intended or suitable for overnight sleeping purposes from payment of lodging taxes, provided the charges for the room or space rental are separately stated by the renting facility and the room or space is used exclusively for a meeting, conference, seminar, club meeting, private party or similar activity. Effective September 1, 2019.





— COURTS & LAW ENFORCEMENT —

Feminine Hygiene Products for Inmates S

Act 2019-306 by Rep. Rolanda Hollis

This law requires the Alabama Department of Corrections to provide female prisoners with feminine hygiene products at the expense of the Department as soon as practicable upon request by the prisoner and requires the county sheriff to provide female prisoners feminine hygiene products at the expense of the county as soon as is practicable upon request by the prisoner. Effective May 29, 2019.

Changes to the Board of Pardons & Paroles S

Act 2019-393 by Rep. Connie Rowe

This act provides for the Governor to fill vacancies on the Board of Pardons and Paroles — under the advice and consent of the State Senate — based on a list of five candidates submitted by the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. It also authorizes the Governor to appoint the Director of Pardons and Paroles and provides for the responsibilities of the Director. At least one member of the Board must be a current or former law enforcement officer with at least 10 years of experience under this new law, and it further establishes a schedule by which the Board must set prisoners' initial parole consideration date. Where the victim has not registered to receive notice of an inmate's parole, this act requires the appropriate District Attorney's Office to collaborate with the Board and Attorney General's Office to locate victims and their immediate families in advance of parole actions. Effective September 1, 2019.

Reinstatement of Pistol Permit S

Act 2019-440 by Rep. Connie Rowe

The amended law provides that upon a successful appeal of a pistol permit revocation, the county sheriff must issue or reinstate a person's permit no later than the close of business on the fifth day following receipt of the district court's order. Effective September 1, 2019.

Escaped Inmate Notification

Act 2019-485 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

Alabama law mandates that the Alabama Department of Corrections or other agency with custody of a prisoner notify the Governor, certain law enforcement officials and agencies, and media outlets of the escape of an inmate. This act expands these notification requirements to require the Department or other agency having custody of a probationer or parolee who escapes from a residential facility to provide such notification if the probationer or parolee has a prior conviction for a Class A felony or a crime in which the victim was a child less than 12 years of age or is serving a life sentence. These notification requirements will apply to persons held in the county jail or any county residential facility. Effective September 1, 2019.



- COURTS & LAW ENFORCEMENT -

Asset Property Seizure (S)

Act 2019-505 by Sen. Arthur Orr

This act requires state, county, or municipal law enforcement agencies seizing property in connection with a criminal event to report the seizure to the uniform crime reporting system operated by the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency on behalf of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center Commission pursuant to rules adopted as required by this act. The new law requires any funds or monies derived from the liquidation of civil asset forfeiture funds to be separately itemized in the budget and only be deposited into an account audited as other public funds. Additionally, the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center Commission must submit an annual report to the Legislature summarizing seizure and forfeiture activity in the state. Reporting requirements effective June 10, 2019. Remainder of law effective October 1, 2019.

Aggravating Circumstance if Victim is Law Enforcement or First Responder S

Act 2019-514 by Rep. Chris Sells

The murder of a first responder operating in an official capacity will soon be a capital offense under this new law. It further provides that a capital offense committed against a first responder or certain law enforcement officers — including sheriffs, deputies and jail guards — will be considered an aggravating circumstance for purposes of sentencing. The law defines a "first responder" as emergency services personnel licensed by the Alabama Department of Public Health, firefighters and volunteer firefighters. Effective September 1, 2019.

Retired Veteran Pistol Permit Fee Exemptions (1) (S)



Act 2019-525 by Rep. Dickie Drake

Current law authorizes certain retired veterans to obtain a pistol permit or permit renewal without paying the pistol permit fee. This act amends the existing law to provide that the sheriff may revoke a retired veteran's pistol permit in the event he or she has been charged with or convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude or domestic violence in the first or second degree. Effective September 1, 2019.





— VEHICLE REGULATION —

Master Regulatory Dealers License P R T

Act 2019-244 by Rep. Randy Wood

This law creates a master regulatory motor vehicle dealer license and places the responsibility for issuing and administering this new license with the Alabama Department of Revenue (DOR). The law provides for these licenses, along with dealer licenses – which are currently issued by county licensing officials – to be issued and administered by the DOR. The law includes future fee increases of both the master dealer license and dealer license and replaces the current transit license plates with temporary 7-day dealer transit license plates. Additionally, the law provides for the DOR to retain all fees collected from the issuance of these licenses to offset the additional administration costs it will incur. Fee schedule for master dealer licenses effective August 1, 2019. Remainder of law effective October 1, 2020.

Bonding Requirement for Sale of Abandoned Motor Vehicle R

Act 2019-245 by Rep. Randy Wood

Upon receiving notice of an unclaimed motor vehicle, the Alabama Department of Revenue (DOR) is currently required to place a 45 calendar-day hold on the title record. This act increases the hold to 60 calendar days and provides that the purchaser of an abandoned motor vehicle is entitled to receive a bill of sale in a form prescribed by the DOR if the vehicle is purchased from an unbonded agent. The law further requires the purchaser to post a surety bond in order to obtain title for any sale after January 1, 2020; and if the purchaser fails to apply for a certificate of title within one year from the date of sale, he or she may be subject to posting a bond at the DOR's determination. Effective January 1, 2020.

Distinctive License Plates for Emergency Medical Service Providers P





This law creates a new distinctive license plate for emergency medical services providers (EMSP) for professional identification purposes. The act specifically defines such providers as paramedics, emergency medical technicians - intermediate, advanced emergency medical technicians, or emergency medical technicians currently licensed with the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Only active, unexpired EMSPs are permitted to obtain the distinctive plate. Further, the distinctive plate should only be placed on personally owned, private passenger vehicles registered in the name of the EMSP making application for the plate. Effective January 1, 2020.

Tow Truck Weight Limit Exemption [3]

Act 2019-473 by Sen. Greg Reed

This act authorizes the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to establish rules for issuing permits to allow tow trucks to tow disabled, damaged, abandoned or wrecked commercial vehicles — which, when combined, exceed the statutory maximum weight, width, length or height limits for use on public roads. ALDOT may establish a fee for such permits, authorize exceptions to the requirement of a permit, and waive a permit under emergency, exigent or other extraordinary conditions. Effective September 1, 2019.



— VEHICLE REGULATION —

Non-Renewal of Vehicle Registration for Non-Payment of Toll Fees P





Act 2019-501 by Sen. David Sessions

Existing law allows for the electronic collection of information for the payment of tolls, which includes notice from the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority; the Alabama Department of Transportation; and private toll entities to owners of vehicles owing toll and administrative fees. This act amends the enforcement provisions of the law to allow the prohibition of a vehicle's registration renewal in the event toll and administrative fees have not been paid upon proper notice. This new law also provides a process for appeal and provides for reciprocal agreements with other states regarding collection and enforcement of toll fees. Under this amendatory act, local license issuing officials will receive 10 percent of fees collected by a private toll entity through enforcement of a registration renewal hold. Monies must be paid into the county general fund and earmarked for operational expenses of the office of the local license issuing official. Effective January 1, 2024.





— ELECTIONS & VOTING —

Revisions to Election Notice Requirements

Act 2019-318 by Rep. Rhett Marques

This act moves the primary election date in non-presidential preference primary years from the first Tuesday in June to the last Tuesday in May and changes the date of all runoff primary elections from the sixth Tuesday after the primary to the fourth Tuesday after the primary. It also reduces the timeframe for publishing notice of elections by the probate judge from 30 to 14 days and alters the timeframe for delivering runoff primary ballots to the absentee election manager from 7 to 14 days after the first primary. Effective May 29, 2019.

Voter Registration in Municipal Elections

Act 2019-358 by Rep. Jim Hill

This act alters the deadline for individuals to register for a municipal election, requiring them to register within the same timeframe provided for county and state elections. Prior law allowed individuals to register for municipal elections within 10 days of a municipal election. Effective September 1, 2019.

Absentee Ballots for Disabled Voters

Act 2019-359 by Rep. Victor Gaston

This act authorizes the Secretary of State to establish procedures to allow a voter with a permanent disability to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list. This change will allow such voters to automatically be mailed an absentee ballot before each election without having to make application prior to each election. Effective September 1, 2019.

Compensation for Absentee Election Managers P

Act 2019-415 by Rep. Bob Fincher

Under existing law, an absentee election manager is compensated for his or her duties with respect to absentee ballots during the 45-day period before an election and on election day. This act amends current law to provide that an absentee election manager may be compensated for duties performed during a 55-day period, which includes activities before an election, the day of an election and the 7-day period after an election during which overseas ballots may be returned. However, in line with existing law, compensation cannot exceed payment for a total of 46 days and, as such, should not increase costs to county government. Effective September 1, 2019.



— ELECTIONS & VOTING —

Absentee Election Ballots P

Act 2019-507 by Sen. Rodger Smitherman

This act makes several important changes to the absentee ballot election process, including: (1) allowing for absentee ballots to be postmarked no later than election day and received no later than noon on the seventh day after the election; (2) providing applicants provisional ballots if proper identification is not on an application made after the eighth day prior to the election; (3) allowing a family member caregiver to vote absentee if the family member is confined to his or her home; (4) allowing an incarcerated person to vote absentee provided he or she has not been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude; (5) allowing a person to vote by emergency absentee ballot if he or she is a caregiver of a person who requires emergency medical treatment, there is a death in the family, or unforeseen employment circumstances making a person unavailable to vote at the polls occur within five days before an election; and (6) prohibiting a candidate from witnessing or notarizing an absentee ballot unless he or she is running unopposed. Additionally, this law eliminates the requirement for a daily posting of the list of absentee ballot applications prior to the election. It also requires the list remain confidential until the day following the election and requires unused absentee ballot materials to be sent to the sheriff in the respective county instead of the Secretary of State. Effective August 1, 2019.





— COUNTY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION —

Unemployment Benefits

Act 2019-204 by Sen. Arthur Orr

This act decreases the maximum amount of time individuals may receive unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 14 weeks. This law links the time period for unemployment benefits to the state's average unemployment rate, which is currently at record lows. Unemployment benefits are limited to 14 weeks under this law if the state's unemployment rate is 6.5 percent or lower. As the state unemployment rate increases in increments of .5 percent, an additional week will be added to the benefit time period up to a maximum of 20 weeks. However, the act provides that unemployment benefits can be extended for an additional five weeks if unemployed individuals participate in a Department of Labor-approved job training program, and it also increases the maximum weekly benefit from \$265 to \$275. Effective January 1, 2020.

Designation of Retirement Benefits (9) (3) (1) (2) (3) (1)









Act 2019-221 by Sen. Cam Ward

Members of the Retirement System of Alabama (RSA) may soon designate a portion of their retirement benefits be paid to the beneficiary of a special needs trust under this new law. The act permits the RSA to pay the allowance directly to the trust on the written direction of the member or, if the member is deceased, the written direction of the designated beneficiary — or his or her legal representative if the beneficiary is a minor or incapacitated. Effective August 1, 2019.

Age Requirements for Commercial Driver's Licenses

Act 2019-249 by Rep. Dexter Grimsley

Alabama law currently prohibits anyone under the age of 21 from obtaining a Class A commercial driver's license (CDL). Championed as a workforce development tool for the state, this new law permits qualified persons between the ages of 18 and 21 to seek a Class A CDL. The law specifically prohibits such persons from obtaining a hazardous materials or passenger endorsement, as well as from operating oversize or specifically configured loads that require permitting by the Alabama Department of Transportation. Depending on the number of licenses issued under this new law, the probate judges or licensing officials that receive a portion of the CDL permitting and licensing fees will see an increase in receipts. Effective February 7, 2020.

Statewide Building Code 🖪 🔃

Act 2019-482 by Sen. Sam Givhan

This act expands the duties of the Homebuilders Licensure Board to promote and expend funds for education within the construction industry. The new law also authorizes the Board to adopt a statewide residential building code; however, it clearly provides that such codes would not supersede or otherwise exempt home builders from local building laws or codes. Effective September 1, 2019.



— COUNTY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION —

Leash Law Exemption for Agricultural & Hunting Dogs

Act 2019-486 by Sen. Tom Whatley

This act provides that any dog trained and actually used to herd or protect livestock or to otherwise assist in agricultural work and any dog trained to hunt wild game with a handler is exempt from any local law that requires a dog to be kept on a leash or otherwise restrained at any time while the dog is engaged in agricultural work or in hunting wild game. Effective September 1, 2019.

Criminal Background Checks for Emergency Medical Services Personnel (9) (M)

Act 2019-493 by Rep. Chris Sells

This law permits the State Board of Health to establish, by rule, a fee for emergency medical services personnel (EMSP) licenses to be valid for a 24-month period. The law also allows the Board to suspend or revoke the license of an EMSP posing a danger to public health or safety. Effective September 1, 2019.

Employment Discrimination Prohibition

Act 2019-519 by Rep. Adline Clarke

This act prohibits any private or government employer from paying any employee wages less than those paid to employees of another sex or race for equal work unless a wage differential is based upon seniority, a merit system, or a system that measures earnings by quantity or quality of production. It requires each employer to keep wage records in accordance with the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. The act provides that a civil action may be brought within two years after the act of discrimination giving rise to the cause of action and that where there is recovery in both state and federal court, the employee shall only be entitled to one recovery, whichever is the higher amount paid. Effective September 1, 2019.





— PROBATE COURT —

Changes to Marriage License Process P

Act 2019-340 by Sen. Greg Albritton

This new law abolishes all current requirements to obtain a marriage license in Alabama. Instead, persons desiring to marry in the state will now submit the specified affidavits, forms and data to the probate judge for recording. All required documents must be submitted within 30 days of signing for the marriage to be legally recognized. The law requires the probate judge to file all marriage-related documents in the county's permanent records and to forward all marriages filed to the Office of Vital Statistics each month. Parties to the marriage may amend the marriage filings in the event of a vital records error. Effective August 29, 2019.

Renewal of Involuntary Commitment Order

Act 2019-398 by Sen. Garlan Gudger

Current law provides for mentally ill persons to be involuntarily committed to outpatient treatment but does not provide a mechanism for recommitment of patients in need of further care after expiration of the initial outpatient commitment order. This law authorizes a probate court to renew an outpatient commitment order upon petition of the director of a designated mental health facility or his or her designee filed at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current commitment order. A hearing on the petition must be held within 30 days of the petition's filing, and any renewal may not exceed a period of one year. Effective September 1, 2019.

Act 2019-476 by Sen. Donnie Chesteen

Probate judges are now authorized to appoint up to two high school or college students as unpaid interns at each polling place in the county on election day under this new law. In order to participate in the internship program, students must possess the following qualifications: (1) be recommended by a principal, school official or the person responsible for the student's home instruction program; (2) be at least 16 years of age at the time of the appointment; (3) be a resident of the county or municipality where the appointment is made and (4) be enrolled at a public high school, accredited private high school or home instruction program, and be classified as a junior or senior or enrolled in a two-year or four-year college or university. The law prohibits student interns from determining a citizen's qualification to vote or from operating and maintaining any voting equipment. The law also requires student interns to attend all required training for poll workers and be under the supervision of poll managers while performing election day duties. Effective September 1, 2019.

Medicaid Notice of Probate Proceedings

Act 2019-489 by Sen. Arthur Orr

This act requires a personal representative or person filing an estate proceeding in probate court to give notice of the proceeding to the Alabama Medicaid Agency and bars payments of priority claims and summary distributions until proof of the notice has been filed and Medicaid has had time to respond. The act also allows Medicaid to petition to open a Medicaid recipient's estate by filing to appoint a third-party administrator and issue letters of administration pursuant to procedures set out in the law. Effective September 1, 2019.



— ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT —

Exemption for Economic Development Professionals

Act 2019-52 by Rep. Alan Baker

This law provides that an individual acting as an economic development professional is not a lobbyist unless and until he or she seeks incentives through legislative action in the Legislature that are above and beyond, or in addition to, those available under existing statutory or constitutional provisions. The exemption in this law does not apply to any person that is otherwise required to register as a lobbyist. Effective April 19, 2019.

Alabama Incentives Modernization Act

Act 2019-392 by Rep. Bill Poole

In the final hours of the session, the Alabama Legislature passed the Alabama Incentives Modernization Act to improve industry recruitment in rural counties, recruit high-tech companies to the state and expand Alabama's Opportunity Zone program. The new law also enhances the Growing Alabama tax credit to provide an additional funding mechanism for local economic development organizations — like county governments — to seek funding for improvements to inland ports, worker and student retention programs, research and industrial parks, and large agricultural centers. This act opens the door for county governments across the state to be actively involved in the state's economic development efforts. The Association staff will provide county leaders with more information about the specifics of this act in the coming weeks. Effective August 5, 2019.





— TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE —

Broadband Using Electric Easement Act

Act 2019-326 by Rep. Randall Shedd

This act opens the door for broadband carriers to work with electricity providers to use their easements and infrastructure for purposes of broadband expansion, and it grants electric providers a great deal of authority in the process. The new authorities granted to electric providers under the law include but are not limited to the right to own, operate and maintain broadband systems on their electric easements; to provide broadband services for wholesale or retail support services; and to acquire rights-of-way and easements by condemnation for advanced communication capabilities as provided for in the law. Effective August 1, 2019.

Expansion of ADECA Broadband Grant Program 🕞



This law expands the 2018 Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act to further encourage the expansion of broadband services in rural Alabama. Specifically, it expands the definition of an "unserved area" under the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' grant program to ensure more projects meet the eligibility criteria for funding, and it increases the percentage of project costs that are eligible for grant funding to the lesser of 35 percent of the total project costs or \$1.5 million for projects capable of transmitting broadband signals at or above the minimum service threshold. The Association staff will provide county leaders with more information about the specifics of this act in the coming weeks. Effective May 30, 2019.

Passenger Seatbelt Requirements

Act 2019-386 by Sen. David Burkette

This act requires all occupants in a passenger vehicle to use seatbelts. Effective September 1, 2019.

Updates to One-Call Notification System 📵

Act 2019-407 by Sen. Dan Roberts

This act amends the One-Call Notification System to, among other things: (1) eliminate in-house programs and require all operators to use the One-Call Notification System; (2) provide liability protection against damage to persons who comply with the notification requirements in the law; (3) provide civil penalties for violations paid into the Underground Damage Prevention Fund and (4) establish the Underground Damage Prevention Authority to review and enforce provisions of the law. Authority membership shall include a representative of county engineers appointed by the Governor. Effective January 1, 2020.

Regulation of Shared Micromobility Device Systems

Act 2019-437 by Sen. Rodger Smitherman

This act allows for the operation of "shared micromobility device systems" whereby certain transportation devices — such as a bicycle, tricycle, scooter, hoverboard, skateboard, pedal car or similar device — can be available for short-term rentals are available for travel on public roads and sidewalks, but only if authorized by the county or municipal governing body and only pursuant to regulations established by the governing body and as set out in the act. Effective September 1, 2019.



- MISCELLANEOUS -

Abortion as Felony Offense with Limited Exceptions

Act 2019-189 by Rep. Terri Collins

This act provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally perform or attempt to perform an abortion in Alabama except where an attending physician licensed in Alabama determines an abortion is necessary in order to prevent a serious health risk to the mother. Violation of the law is a felony; however, no woman upon whom an abortion is performed or attempted to be performed shall be criminally or civilly liable. Effective November 1, 2019.

Fantasy Contests Act

Act 2019-343 by Rep. Kyle South

This new law establishes regulations for the operation of fantasy sports contests in the state and exempts such contests from criminal penalty by clarifying that they are games of skill and, therefore, not considered "gambling" as prohibited by the Alabama Constitution. A Senate floor amendment increased the state regulatory assessment on fantasy contest operators' annual gross revenues from 8 percent to 10.5 percent, which should result in a significant increase to the state general fund's receipts. Effective May 31, 2019.

Law Enforcement & Firefighters Killed in the Line of Duty (S)

Act 2019-445 by Rep. Matt Fridy

In the 2018 regular session, the Alabama Legislature made several amendments to the provisions of law governing the state benefits for surviving spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers or firefighters who die as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty. This new act provides for the retroactive application of such benefits to deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2018. Effective September 1, 2019.

Immunity for Providing Transportation to Healthcare Facilities Act 2019-450 by Rep. K.L. Brown

This amendment to the Good Samaritan law provides that any person who, in good faith, provides transportation to a healthcare facility or provider is not subject to civil liability for negligence by the person who received the transportation. It further adds that the transporter's acceptance of a contribution or donation from the person who received the transportation does not constitute a waiver of immunity under this provision of law. Effective September 1, 2019.

Final Settlement of Ad Valorem Taxes on Motor Vehicle Tags PR Act 2019-458 by Sen. Randy Price



This new law requires local tax officials to make final settlements with the State Comptroller's Office on the collection of ad valorem tax on motor vehicles tags on or before November 1 of each year. It institutes a \$10 per day penalty on the commission due to the official for such collections if the official fails to perform the settlements by November 10 and further charges the Comptroller, county treasurer or county funds custodian to withhold all commissions if the settlements are not made by December 10. Effective September 1, 2019.



MISCELLANEOUS —

Removing Children from Locked Vehicles

Act 2019-475 by Sen. Jimmy Holley

This new law prohibits leaving a child or incapacitated person unattended in a motor vehicle in a manner that creates any risk of injury or harm. It further provides immunity from criminal liability for damage to the vehicle for persons who enter a motor vehicle by force to remove a child or incapacitated person if specified conditions are met, including that a public safety official is contacted before entering the vehicle and that the person entering the vehicle remains with the child or incapacitated person until law enforcement or first responders arrive.

Additionally, the law provides that public safety officials contacted in such circumstances must immediately dispatch a locksmith or towing company with lockout capabilities to the scene and attempt to make contact with the vehicle's registered owner and/or operator. Further, the law specifies that public safety officials acting reasonably in the course of business pursuant to this act are immune from both civil and criminal liability for their actions. Effective September 1, 2019.

Use of Service Animals in Public Places



Act 2019-478 by Rep. Merika Coleman

This act makes a number of amendments to the laws governing the use of service animals by individuals with disabilities in public places. It specifically requires that public accommodations, which includes countyowned buildings, modify their policies and procedures to permit the use of a service animal by individuals with disabilities and also mandates that trainers of service animals be permitted to engage in the training of such animals in areas of public accommodation. The act further includes a provision providing that a political subdivision may not refuse employment to an individual based on a disability alone, unless it is shown that the disability will prevent the "satisfactory" performance of the job.

This new law includes numerous new procedural requirements for the proper implementation of the law as well as and other significant changes to the current law. The Association staff will provide more detailed information on the impact of this act in the coming weeks. In the meantime, county leaders are encouraged to closely review this law and contact the Association office with any questions. Effective September 1, 2019.

Operation of Autonomous Vehicles

Act 2019-496 by Sen. Gerald Allen

This new law authorizes the use of vehicles operated by an automated driving system and commercial motor vehicles operated by a remote driver, i.e. teleoperation systems. The act grants the Alabama Department of Transportation the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over automated commercial motor vehicles and teleoperation systems. As a result, political subdivisions are specifically prohibited from imposing any requirements, taxes or performance standards on such vehicles. In order to lawfully operate in Alabama, the vehicles must meet several specified requirements, which includes carrying at least \$2 million in liability insurance coverage. The law further provides for requirements in the event such a vehicle is in an accident. Effective June 10, 2019.



— MISCELLANEOUS —

Creation of Medical Cannabis Study Commission

Act 2019-511 by Sen. Tim Melson

This act establishes the Medical Cannabis Study Commission to make recommendations on future legislation to legalize medicinal marijuana. As originally introduced, the bill allowed patients with certain medical conditions to purchase medical marijuana with a doctor's approval and granted local governments the authority to levy a local 2.1 percent sales tax on the sale of medical cannabis. While the Alabama Senate approved the initiative, it faced strong opposition in the House, and the commission was created as a compromise. This new law also extends Carly's Law, the current law allowing certain patients to access CBD oil through a study at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Effective June 10, 2019.

Increased Penalties for Violation of Move Over Act

Act 2019-520 by Rep. Chris Sells

The Alabama Move Over Act specifies the conditions under which a driver must move over or slow down when approaching certain vehicles on or along the road. Specifically, it requires drivers to vacate the lane closest to law enforcement, emergency, utility and other specified vehicles when such vehicles are displaying flashing lights. This act amends the current law to increase the violation penalties to \$100 for the first violation, \$150 for the second violation, and \$200 for the third and any subsequent violation(s). Effective September 1, 2019.

Additional Penalties for Littering

Act 2019-530 by Rep. Margie Wilcox

This new law makes several amendments to the laws against littering, including expanding the definition of litter to plastic, cigarettes, cigars, containers of urine, food containers and rubber tires. It further increases the criminal penalty for littering to a Class B misdemeanor and permits the court to impose fines up to \$500 for the first conviction, which is double the current amount. Any subsequent convictions are punishable by a fine of \$1,000 and up to 100 hours of community services or a fine between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Additionally, the law provides that 50 percent of the fines for such violations shall be distributed to the state general fund and 50 percent to the city or county or both, following a determination by the court of whose law enforcement department participated in the arrest. The law requires local governing bodies to spend these monies on litter enforcement purposes, including anti-littering education and advertising. Effective September 1, 2019.



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AWAITING PUBLIC VOTE

Reforms to State Judicial System (2)

Act 2019-187 by Sen. Arthur Orr

This proposed constitutional amendment would, if ratified, make numerous changes to constitutional provisions governing the state's judicial system. Under this proposal, the Supreme Court would be responsible for appointing an Administrative Director of Courts, a responsibility that currently rests solely with the Chief Justice. The measure also proposes to increase the membership of the Judicial Inquiry Commission (JIC) from nine members to 11 – one of which must be a probate judge appointed by the Probate Judges' Association. It would further remove the ability of the Legislature to impeach judges, leaving judicial removal in the hands of the JIC and the Court of Judiciary, which rules on judicial complaints. If ratified, suspension of judges would only take place if two-thirds of the JIC agrees that the judge is physically or mentally incapable of carrying out judicial duties or poses a threat of harm to the public or the administration of justice.

This constitutional measure contains many other substantive changes to the state judicial system, which include allowing the procedure of filling judicial vacancies to be changed by local constitutional amendment and requiring the Alabama Legislature to consider state supreme court recommendations before changing the number of circuit or district court judges or judicial district boundaries. All probate judges and county officials with an interest in the court system are encouraged to review this proposed amendment closely. Set to appear on the statewide ballot for the primary election held March 3, 2020.

Review & Recompilation of Alabama Constitution

Act 2019-271 by Rep. Merika Coleman

This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the Legislature during the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature to rearrange Alabama's Constitution into proper articles, parts and sections removing all racist language, deleting duplicative and repealed provisions, consolidating provisions regarding economic development, and arranging all local amendments by county of application. The draft and arrangement, when approved by a three-fifths vote of each house of the Legislature through joint resolution, shall then be submitted to the voters for ratification.

Set to appear on the statewide ballot for the primary election held March 3, 2020.

State Board of Education Reform

Act 2019-345 by Sen. Del Marsh

This proposed constitutional amendment would, if ratified, eliminate the election of state school board members and provide for their appointment by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Alabama Senate. Membership of the Commission would be from each congressional district and reflect the diversity of the state. Under this proposal, the Superintendent of the Alabama Department of Education would be replaced with a Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, appointed by the Commission subject to confirmation by the Alabama Senate.

Set to appear on the statewide ballot for the primary election held March 3, 2020.



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AWAITING PUBLIC VOTE

U.S. Citizen Right to Vote Clarification P

Act 2019-407 by Sen. Del Marsh

This proposed constitutional amendment would, if ratified, clarify that only United States citizens are permitted to vote in elections in Alabama.

Set to appear on the statewide ballot for the primary election held March 3, 2020.





— AUTAUGA —

Lodgings Tax

Act 2019-211 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

This act provides for the authority of the county commission to levy a lodgings tax. Effective May 22, 2019.

Superintendent of Education

Act 2019-265 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

This act provides for the appointment of the county superintendent of education. Effective May 23, 2019.

— BALDWIN —

Equity Jurisdiction

Act 2019-229 by Sen. Greg Albritton

This proposed local constitutional amendment would allow the judge of probate to exercise equity jurisdiction if the judge of probate is a member of the Alabama State Bar.

Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Property Annexation

Act 2019-287 by Rep. Harry Shiver

This proposed constitutional amendment would prohibit the Rosinton Landmark District from being annexed by local law into any municipality except under certain conditions.

Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Toll Road & Bridge Authority

Act 2019-300 by Rep. Steve McMillan

This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the Legislature by local law to provide for the incorporation, operation, powers, and organization of a toll road and bridge authority as a public corporation in Baldwin County. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Tax Redistribution

Act 2019-338 by Sen. Greg Albritton

This act provides for the redistribution of certain privilege license taxes, leasing and renting taxes, and recording fees. Effective October 1, 2019.

Court Costs & Fees (5)

Act 2019-354 by Rep. Matt Simpson

This act removes the sunset provision for certain court costs and fees associated with the Baldwin County Law Library and Judicial Administration Fund. Effective September 1, 2019.

Bay Minette Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-362 by Rep. Harry Shiver

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the municipality of Bay Minette in Baldwin County. Effective September 1, 2019.



— BALDWIN —

Foley Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-363 by Rep. Steve McMillan

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the municipality of Foley in Baldwin County. Effective June 4, 2019.

City School System Formation

Act 2019-377 by Sen. Chris Elliott

This act authorizes the formation of a school system in Baldwin County under certain circumstances. Effective June 4, 2019.

Gulf Shores Corporate Limits §

Act 2019-413 by Rep. Steve McMillan

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the municipality of Gulf Shores in Baldwin County. Effective September 1, 2019.

Daphne Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-472 by Sen. Chris Elliott

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the municipality of Daphne in Baldwin County. Effective September 1, 2019.

Toll Road & Bridge Authority

Act 2019-518 by Rep. Steve McMillan

This act provides for the incorporation, organization, powers, and operation of a toll road and bridge authority as a public corporation in Baldwin County.

Effective upon ratification of the constitutional amendment proposed in Act 2019-300.

— BARBOUR —

Employees' Retirement System

Act 2019-166 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This proposed constitutional amendment would allow certain elected officials to participate in the retirement system, rather than hold supernumerary positions. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Alcohol Sales 🕞

Act 2019-213 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act would authorize the town of Baker Hill to allow the sale of certain alcoholic beverages in town on Sundays under certain conditions. Effective May 22, 2019.

Baker Hill Corporate Limits §

Act 2019-328 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the municipality of Baker Hill in Barbour County. Effective August 1, 2019.



— BARBOUR —

Service of Process Fee (5)

Act 2019-329 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act redistributes the service of process fee from the county commission to be spent for law enforcement purposes directly to the Sheriff's Fund maintained by the sheriff or designee. Effective June 1, 2019.

Pistol Permit Fees 🜖

Act 2019-336 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act increases the pistol permit fee and deposits the revenue directly into the Sheriff's Fund. Effective May 30, 2019.

Law Enforcement Protective Custody

Act 2019-540 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act authorizes a law enforcement officer to transport an individual believed to have a mental illness to a hospital or other facility for evaluation and treatment. Effective September 1, 2019.

— BIBB —

Sales & Use Taxes

Act 2019-332 by Rep. Ralph Howard

This act authorizes the Bibb County Commission to levy an additional sales and use tax. Effective May 31, 2019.

— BLOUNT —

Lodgings Tax

Act 2019-410 by Rep. Connie Rowe

This act authorizes the Blount County Commission to levy a lodgings tax and provide for the distributions of those taxes. Effective September 1, 2019.

— BULLOCK —

Alcohol Sales (5)

Act 2019-212 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act authorizes the sale of certain alcoholic beverages in Union Springs on Sundays. Effective May 22, 2019.

Alcohol Sales (5)

Act 2019-214 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act authorizes the sale of certain alcoholic beverages in the town of Midway on Sundays. Effective May 22, 2019.



— CALHOUN —

Bingo Games

Act 2019-80 by Rep. Randy Wood

This proposed constitutional amendment would authorize the operation of bingo games for prize money in the county and prohibit any bingo permitee or licensee from operating bingo near any residential area within unincorporated areas of the county. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Alcohol Sales 🜖

Act 2019-209 by Rep. K.L. Brown

This act would authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages in the City of Oxford on Sundays by approval of a referendum. Effective May 21, 2019.

— CHAMBERS —

Board of Registrars

Act 2019-439 by Sen. Randy Price

This act increases the maximum number of working days the Chambers County Board of Registrars may meet each fiscal year to 180 working days. Effective October 1, 2019.

— CHEROKEE —

Coroner Expense Allowance & Salary

Act 2019-210 by Sen. Andrew Jones

This act provides for the expense allowance and salary of the coroner and provides for the appointment of a deputy coroner. Effective May 22, 2019.

— CHILTON —

Sales & Use Taxes

Act 2019-92 by Rep. Jimmy Martin

This act authorizes the Chilton County Commission to levy an additional sales and use tax to be used for the construction and maintenance of hospital facilities. Effective May 1, 2019.

County Jail

Act 2019-161 by Rep. Jimmy Martin

This act authorizes the Chilton County Commission to further expend funds from the county jail trust fund for the maintenance and repair of the county jail. Effective May 14, 2019.

Sales & Use Taxes

Act 2019-170 by Rep. Jimmy Martin

This act authorizes the Chilton County Commission to levy an additional sales and use tax. The tax proceeds shall be deposited into the county general fund and earmarked for infrastructure, public safety and economic development within the county. Effective May 15, 2019.



— CHOCTAW —

Sheriff Qualifications

Act 2019-366 by Rep. Brett Easterbrook

This act provides certain qualifications of the sheriff and additional requirements for continuing education. Effective June 4, 2019.

Coroner Expense Allowance

Act 2019-434 by Rep. Brett Easterbrook

This act provides for an expense allowance for the county coroner. Effective June 6, 2019.

— CLAY —

Community Corrections Program

Act 2019-159 by Rep. Steve Hurst

This act provides that the director and employees of the community corrections program have the powers of law enforcement and are authorized to make certain arrests. Effective May 13, 2019.

— CLEBURNE —

Alcohol Sales

Act 2019-209 by Rep. K.L. Brown

This act would authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages in the City of Oxford on Sundays by approval of referendum. Effective May 21, 2019.

— COFFEE —

Alcohol Sales 🜖

Act 2019-160 by Rep. Rhett Marques

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Enterprise to provide for the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sundays upon the approval of referendum. Effective May 14, 2019.

Lodgings Tax

Act 2019-171 by Rep. Rhett Marques

This act authorizes the county commission to levy a lodgings tax with the proceeds to be distributed to the municipalities and county. Effective August 1, 2019.

Sheriff Expense Allowance

Act 2019-331 by Rep. Rhett Marques

This act provides an expense allowance for the sheriff. Effective May 31, 2019.

— COLBERT —

Service of Process Fee (S)



This act increases the fee for service of process for locally originated documents and establishes a fee for service of process for out-of-state documents. Effective September 1, 2019.



- COOSA -

Probate Judge Fees (5)

Act 2019-228 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

This act authorizes the judge of probate to collect fees for the remote access of records maintained in the office of the probate judge. Effective August 1, 2019.

Severance Tax

Act 2019-231 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

This act provides for a severance tax on graphite severed from the soil of the county. Effective May 23, 2019.

— CULLMAN —

Sales & Use Taxes

Act 2019-411 by Rep. Randall Shedd

This act redistributes portions of the 1981 sales and use tax to the Cullman County Fire Association Training Center and rural volunteer fire departments. Effective September 1, 2019.

Historical Board

Act 2019-435 by Rep. Randall Shedd

This act provides for the establishment of the Joppa Historical Board, provides membership of the Board and authorizes the Board to accept title to the former Joppa School property. Effective June 6, 2019.

— DALE —

Alcohol Sales (5)

Act 2019-160 by Rep. Rhett Marques

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Enterprise to provide for the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sundays upon the approval of referendum. Effective May 14, 2019.

Law Enforcement Protective Custody

Act 2019-534 by Rep. Steve Clouse

This act authorizes a law enforcement officer to transport an individual believed to have a mental illness to a hospital or other facility for evaluation and treatment. Effective September 1, 2019.

— DEKALB —

City Council Elections (5)

Act 2019-206 by Sen. Steve Livingston

This act provides certain procedures for the election of the City of Fort Payne city council and further election processes for filling vacancies. Effective May 21, 2019.

Pistol Permit Fee

Act 2019-207 by Sen. Steve Livingston

This act reduces the pistol permit fee and creates a reduced pistol permit fee for active duty first responders and persons ages 62 or older. Effective May 21, 2019.



— DEKALB —

City Council Elections

Act 2019-246 by Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter

This act provides certain procedures for the election of the City of Fort Payne city council and further election processes for filling vacancies. Effective May 23, 2019.

Pistol Permit Fee

Act 2019-248 by Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter

This act reduces the pistol permit fee and creates a reduced pistol permit fee for active duty first responders and persons ages 62 or older. Effective May 23, 2019.

— ELMORE —

Engineer Employment

Act 2019-90 by Rep. Reed Ingram

This act provides for the employment of the county engineer or chief engineer and authorizes the county commission to assign additional duties to that position, including the authority to employ, supervise, and direct deputies and assistants to perform certain duties. Effective April 30, 2019.

Engineer Employment

Act 2019-205 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

This act provides for the employment of the county engineer or chief engineer and authorizes the county commission to assign additional duties to that position, including the authority to employ, supervise, and direct deputies and assistants to perform certain duties. Effective May 21, 2019.

— ESCAMBIA —

Landmark District

Act 2019-63 by Rep. Alan Baker

This proposed constitutional amendment would define the Canoe Landmark District within the county and prohibit the annexation by local law of any property within the district into any municipality except under certain conditions. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.



— ETOWAH —

County Jail Feeding Account

Act 2019-165 by Sen. Andrew Jones

This proposed constitutional amendment would provide that all allowances received by the sheriff for feeding of prisoners would be deposited in a special account and used for feeding of prisoners in the county jail. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Coroner Expense Allowance & Salary

Act 2019-219 by Sen. Andrew Jones

This act provides for the expense allowance and salary of the coroner and provides for the appointment of a deputy coroner. Effective May 22, 2019.

Sheriff Expense Allowance

Act 2019-401 by Sen. Andrew Jones

This act authorizes the Etowah County Commission to provide an additional expense allowance to the sheriff. Effective June 6, 2019.

— FRANKLIN —

Deadly Physical Force

Act 2019-194 by Rep. Jamie Kiel

This proposed constitutional amendment would further provide for the justification for a person to use deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

— GENEVA —

Probate Judge Recording Fee

Act 2019-333 by Rep. Jeff Sorrells

This act provides for an additional special recording fee for each document or instrument filed for record in the office of the judge of probate and provides for the distribution of the fees. Effective May 31, 2019.

— GREENE —

Alcohol Sales 🚱

Act 2019-367 by Rep. Ralph Howard

This act authorizes the sale of certain alcoholic beverages in the City of Eutaw on Sundays under certain conditions. Effective June 4, 2019.

Alcohol Sales §

HB627 by Rep. Ralph Howard

This bill aimed to authorize the sale of draft or keg beer or malt beverages by properly licensed retail licensees of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Although this bill did not become law, it is eligible for reimbursement for advertising.



— HALE —

Akron Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-26 by Sen. Bobby Singleton

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the municipality of Akron in Hale County. Effective July 1, 2019.

Alcohol Sales (5)

Act 2019-402 by Sen. Bobby Singleton

This act authorizes the city council of Moundville to provide by local ordinance for the sale of draft or keg beer or malt beverages within the corporate limits of the city by licensed retail licensees of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Effective June 6, 2019.

— HOUSTON —

Sales & Use Taxes

Act 2019-168 by Rep. Paul Lee

This act eliminates the sunset provision for certain county taxes. Effective August 1, 2019.

Transaction Fee

Act 2019-169 by Rep. Steve Clouse

This act authorizes the county commission to levy an additional transaction fee on certain probate transactions in the county and provides for the distribution of the proceeds. Effective May 15, 2019.

Probate Judge Attorney License

Act 2019-190 by Rep. Paul Lee

This proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the judge of probate of Houston County be required to be an attorney licensed in the State of Alabama. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Law Enforcement Protective Custody

Act 2019-535 by Rep. Paul Lee

This act authorizes a law enforcement officer to transport an individual believed to have a mental illness to a hospital or other facility for evaluation and treatment. Effective September 1, 2019.

— JACKSON —

Woodville Corporate Limits §

Act 2019-25 by Sen. Steve Livingston

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the municipality of the Town of Woodville in Jackson County. Effective July 1, 2019.

Expenditures & Receipts Publication

Act 2019-34 by Sen. Steve Livingston

This act repeals the requirement of semi-annual publication requirements by the Jackson County Commission showing receipts, expenditures and indebtedness of the county. Effective April 17, 2019.



— JACKSON —

Court Costs (5)

Act 2019-215 by Sen. Steve Livingston

This act provides for additional court costs in civil and criminal cases in the circuit and district courts and provides for the distribution of the proceeds to the Jackson County Judicial Employees Fund. Effective August 1, 2019.

Fuel Taxes

Act 2019-226 by Sen. Steve Livingston

This act provides for the use of the proceeds of the county tax on gasoline and motor fuels to be used exclusively for materials and equipment used for the repair, maintenance and construction of public roads and bridges. Effective May 21, 2019.

— JEFFERSON —

Ad Valorem Tax (5)

Act 2019-202 by Sen. Jabo Waggoner

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Hoover in Jefferson County and Shelby County to increase the rate of ad valorem tax levied on all taxable property in the city. Effective May 21, 2019.

Ad Valorem Tax (5)

Act 2019-203 by Sen. Jabo Waggoner

This act authorizes the governing body of the City of Mountain Brook to increase the ad valorem tax rate on all taxable property situated within the city. Effective May 21, 2019.

Alcohol Sales (5)

Act 2019-217 by Sen. Jabo Waggoner

This act authorizes the city council to authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages in the corporate limits of the city of Mountain Brook for on-premise consumption on Sunday commencing at 10 a.m. Effective May 22, 2019.

County Retirement System

Act 2019-243 by Rep. Jim Carns

This act makes numerous amendments to the General Retirement System for Employees of Jefferson County. Effective August 1, 2019.

Alcohol Sales (5)

Act 2019-299 by Sen. Jabo Waggoner

This act authorizes the city council of Hoover to authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages in the corporate limits of the city for on-premises consumption on Sunday commencing at 10 a.m. Effective May 30, 2019.

Trussville Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-309 by Rep. Danny Garrett

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the City of Trussville in Jefferson County. Effective August 1, 2019.



— JEFFERSON —

District Attorney Office

Act 2019-323 by Rep. Allen Farley

This act provides for the appointment of two additional assistant district attorneys related to the Office of the District Attorney of the Tenth Judicial Circuit. Effective August 1, 2019.

County Board of Equalization

Act 2019-452 by Rep. Louise Alexander

This act provides an increase in the compensation for each associate member of the county board of equalization in Jefferson County. Effective September 1, 2019.

Public Utilities Management (5)

HB608 by Rep. Louise Alexander

Under existing law, the mayor of municipalities formed under Chapter 43D, Title 11 of the Code of Alabama 1975, manages the municipal public utilities. Although this bill, which aimed to remove the mayor from managing the public utilities, did not become law, it is still eligible for reimbursement for advertising.

— LAMAR —

Probate Judge Salary & Fees

Act 2019-191 by Rep. Kyle South

This proposed constitutional amendment would authorize the Legislature to place the judge of probate on a salary and provide for the fees, commissions, allowances, and percentages collected by the judge of probate to be deposited in the county treasury. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

— LAUDERDALE —

County Judicial Commission

Act 2019-192 by Rep. Andrew Sorrell

This proposed constitutional amendment would repeal certain amendments related to the Lauderdale County Judicial Commission, which was created for the purpose of nominating to the Governor persons for appointment to fill a vacancy in the office of the judge of the circuit court or district court.

Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Deadly Physical Force

Act 2019-193 by Rep. Lynn Greer

This proposed constitutional amendment would further provide for the justification for a person to use deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Alcohol Sales

Act 2019-250 by Rep. Lynn Greer

This act authorizes the sale of alcoholic beverages and draft beer in the town limits and police jurisdiction of the town of Lexington each day of the week except Sundays by properly licensed clubs and retail licensees of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Effective May 23, 2019.



— LAUDERDALE —

Sheriff Compensation

Act 2019-263 by Rep. Phillip Pettus

This act increases the compensation of the sheriff of Lauderdale County. Effective October 1, 2019.

Local Board of Health

Act 2019-420 by Rep. Phillip Pettus

This act provides that the county health department shall perform site evaluation tests before the repair of an existing conventional septic system. Effective June 6, 2019.

— LEE —

Solicitation Prohibition (5)

Act 2019-201 by Sen. Tom Whatley

This act prohibits the solicitation by a person at a four-way stop and imposes a civil penalty for such violation. Effective August 1, 2019.

— LIMESTONE —

Ad Valorem Tax 🜖

Act 2019-264 by Rep. Andy Whitt

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Huntsville to levy, by equalization, the ad valorem tax collected for public school purposes throughout the city. Effective May 23, 2019.

Tennessee Valley Authority In-Lieu-of-Taxes Payments

Act 2019-266 by Sen. Tom Butler

This act amends the distribution of Tennessee Valley Authority in-lieu-of-taxes payments to volunteer fire departments when a volunteer fire department is decertified. Effective May 23, 2019.

Solicitor's Fee 🔇

Act 2019-324 by Rep. Danny Crawford

This act provides for the assessment and collection of a solicitor's fee payable to the Solicitor's Fund in Limestone County. Effective May 29, 2019.

— LOWNDES —

Sanitary Sewage Systems

Act 2019-95 by Rep. Kelvin Lawrence

This act authorizes the county commission to require properties to connect to the public sanitary sewage systems under certain conditions. Effective May 1, 2019.



— MACON —

Sales & Use Tax

Act 2019-337 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act authorizes the county commission to levy a temporary additional sales and use tax and for the proceeds of the tax to fund only ambulance services for the citizens of the county. Effective May 31, 2019.

Occupational Privilege License Fee

Act 2019-467 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act amends the current application of the occupational privilege license fee. Effective June 9, 2019.

— MADISON —

Ad Valorem Tax (5)

Act 2019-51 by Rep. Mike Ball

This act authorizes the town council of the town of Triana to increase the rate of the town's general ad valorem tax on all taxable property. Effective April 19, 2019.

Ad Valorem Tax (S)

Act 2019-88 by Rep. Mike Ball

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Madison to increase the rate of the city general ad valorem tax levied and collected on all taxable property. Effective April 30, 2019.

Ad Valorem Tax (5)

Act 2019-264 by Rep. Andy Whitt

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Huntsville to levy, by equalization, the ad valorem tax collected for public school purposes throughout the city. Effective May 23, 2019.

Owens Cross Roads Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-365 by Rep. Mike Ball

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the town of Owens Cross Roads in Madison County. Effective September 1, 2019.

Ad Valorem Tax

Act 2019-372 by Sen. Sam Givhan

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Huntsville to levy, by equalization, the ad valorem tax collected for public school purposes throughout the city. Effective June 4, 2019.

— MARION — Alcohol Sales

Act 2019-391 by Rep. Tracy Estes

This act authorizes the sale of draft or keg beer or malt beverages by retail licensees of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board upon the adoption of an ordinance by the Guin City Council. Effective June 6, 2019.



— MARSHALL —

County Jail Feeding Account

Act 2019-232 by Rep. Kerry Rich

This proposed constitutional amendment provides that allowances received by the sheriff for feeding prisoners be deposited in a special account and used for feeding of prisoners in the county jail. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Sheriff's Department Education

Act 2019-313 by Rep. Kerry Rich

This act requires completion of continuing education by all Marshall County Sheriff's Department employees and requires the county commission to fund the continuing education expenses. Effective August 1, 2019.

Sheriff Expenditures

Act 2019-314 by Rep. Kerry Rich

This act provides for the expenditures of the sheriff during the last year of any term of office. Effective May 29, 2019.

Sheriff Expense Allowance

Act 2019-334 by Rep. Kerry Rich

This act provides for an additional expense allowance for the sheriff to be paid by the county general fund. Effective August 1, 2019.

Sheriff Salary

Act 2019-335 by Rep. Kerry Rich

This act provides for the annual salary of the sheriff effective the next term of office and retroactively ratifies and confirms certain salary adjustments granted to the sheriff prior to the effective date of this act. Effective August 1, 2019.

- MOBILE -

Tobacco Taxes

Act 2019-150 by Rep. Chip Brown

This act provides for the local collection and enforcement of all county privilege, license, or excise taxes on the sale, distribution, storage, use or other consumption of tobacco products in the county. Effective October 1, 2019.

Volunteer Fire Department

Act 2019-152 by Rep. Napoleon Bracy

This act amends the current local law authorizing the Mobile County Commission to create a North Mobile County Volunteer Fire Department Board. Effective May 13, 2019.

Probate Judge Duties

Act 2019-157 by Rep. Chris Pringle

This act transfers the duties in regards to the sale of land sold for failure to pay taxes from the judge of probate to the revenue commissioner to be applied retroactively. Effective May 13, 2019.



— MOBILE —

Road Construction Regulation

Act 2019-307 by Rep. Chip Brown

This act creates a procedure for the Mobile County Commission to provide for the acceptance, maintenance and regulation of the construction of certain unimproved roads. Effective May 29, 2019.

- MONTGOMERY -

Rental Tax

Act 2019-91 by Rep. Thad McClammy

This act authorizes the Montgomery County Commission to levy and collect a rental tax against the lessees or renters of tangible personal property. Effective May 1, 2019.

Rental Tax

Act 2019-218 by Sen. David Burkette

This act authorizes the Montgomery County Commission to levy and collect a rental tax against the lessees or renters of tangible personal property. Effective May 22, 2019.

Sheriff Expense Allowance & Compensation

Act 2019-235 by Rep. Reed Ingram

This act provides for an increase in the compensation and expense allowance of the sheriff. Effective August 1, 2019.

Commission Expense Allowance & Salary

Act 2019-262 by Rep. Kelvin Lawrence

This act provides for an increase in the compensation and expense allowance for the members of the Montgomery County Commission. Effective May 24, 2019.

— MORGAN —

Ad Valorem Tax (5)

Act 2019-264 by Rep. Andy Whitt

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Huntsville to levy, by equalization, the ad valorem tax collected for public school purposes throughout the city. Effective May 23, 2019.

Simplified Sellers Use Tax

Act 2019-272 by Sen. Arthur Orr

This act redistributes the county's share of the proceeds from the simplified sellers use tax to the local boards of education and to volunteer fire departments in the county. Effective August 1, 2019.

Tennessee Valley Authority

Act 2019-436 by Sen. Arthur Orr

This act provides for the allocation and expenditure of money received from the Tennessee Valley Authority. Effective June 6, 2019.



— PIKE —

Mental Illness Emergency Treatment

Act 2019-536 by Rep. Wes Allen

This act authorizes an attending physician, nurse practitioner or physical assistant at a hospital licensed by the state to detain and provide emergency treatment to an individual with a mental illness for up to 72 hours under certain conditions. Effective September 1, 2019.

— RUSSELL —

Board of Education

Act 2019-151 by Rep. Chris Blackshear

This act provides for the election process and procedures for the Phenix City Board of Education. Effective May 13, 2019.

Alcohol Sales (5)

Act 2019-216 by Sen. Billy Beasley

This act authorizes the sale of certain alcoholic beverages in the town of Hurtsboro on Sundays under certain conditions. Effective May 22, 2019.

— ST. CLAIR — Ad Valorem Tax §

Act 2019-64 by Rep. Jim Hill

This proposed constitutional amendment would authorize the county commission to levy and collect a special school district ad valorem tax in each school district subject to an election in the school district. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Sheriff Expense Allowance

Act 2019-135 by Rep. Jim Hill

This act provides for an additional expense allowance for the sheriff. Effective July 1, 2019.

Trussville Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-309 by Rep. Danny Garrett

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the City of Trussville in St. Clair County. Effective August 1, 2019.

Springville Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-311 by Rep. Jim Hill

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the City of Springville in St. Clair County. Effective August 1, 2019.

Pell City Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-378 by Sen. Jim McClendon

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the City of Pell City in St. Clair County. Effective September 1, 2019.



— ST. CLAIR —

Judicial Division Requirements

Act 2019-419 by Rep. Jim Hill

This act abolishes the requirement that criminal detainees be confined in the jail of the judicial division in which the offense was committed. Effective September 1, 2019.

— SHELBY —

Ad Valorem Tax (5)

Act 2019-202 by Sen. Jabo Waggoner

This act authorizes the city council of the City of Hoover in Jefferson County and Shelby County to increase the rate of ad valorem tax levied on all taxable property in the city. Effective May 21, 2019.

Probate Court Recording Fees (5)

Act 2019-438 by Sen. Cam Ward

This act provides for a special recording fee on real property and personal property instruments and for the distribution of the additional fee. Effective September 1, 2019.

— TALLADEGA —

Volunteer Fire Departments

Act 2019-153 by Rep. Ron Johnson

This act requires volunteer fire departments and any association of volunteers in the county receiving public funds to have an annual audit. Effective May 13, 2019.

Volunteer Fire Departments

Act 2019-154 by Rep. Ron Johnson

This act requires each certified fire department and any association of volunteer fire departments receiving state or local funds to file a monthly financial statement with the county commission. Effective May 13, 2019.

Volunteer Fire Departments

Act 2019-155 by Rep. Ron Johnson

This act requires each certified volunteer fire department and any association of volunteer fire departments in the county to have a board of directors. Effective May 13, 2019.

Sales & Use Tax Distribution

Act 2019-156 by Rep. Ron Johnson

This act provides for the distribution of a portion of a special county sales and use tax to volunteer fire departments. Effective May 13, 2019.

Alcohol Sales (5)

Act 2019-209 by Rep. K.L. Brown

This act would authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages in the City of Oxford on Sundays by approval of referendum. Effective May 21, 2019.



— TALLADEGA —

Grove Hill Corporate Limits §

Act 2019-237 by Rep. Ron Johnson

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of the town of Grove Hill in Talladega County. Effective May 22, 2019.

— TALLAPOOSA —

Road Maintenance District

Act 2019-167 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

This proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature by local law to provide for the establishment of a road maintenance district as a public corporation in the Willow Point Estates. Effective upon approval of a local referendum.

Alexander City Corporate Limits (5)

Act 2019-208 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

This act alters, rearranges, and extends the boundary lines and corporate limits of Alexander City in Tallapoosa County. Effective August 1, 2019.

Road Maintenance District

Act 2019-220 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss

This act authorizes the formation of the Willow Point Estates Road Maintenance District for the maintenance, repair, and construction of roads and bridges.

Effective upon ratification of the constitutional amendment proposed in Act 2019-167.

— TUSCALOOSA —

Alcohol Sales

HB306 by Rep. Rodney Sullivan

This bill aimed to authorize the sale of certain alcoholic beverages in the town of Coker on Sundays. Although this bill did not become law, it is still eligible for reimbursement for advertising.

Sales & Use Tax (5)

SB18 by Sen. Gerald Allen

This bill aimed to prohibit the levying of any additional sales or use taxes by any municipality within Tuscaloosa County without a majority vote of the qualified electors of the municipality. Although this bill did not become law, it is still eligible for reimbursement for advertising.

— WASHINGTON —

Probate Judge Fund (5)

Act 2019-531 by Rep. Brett Easterbrook

This act provides for the deposit of mail order fees in the judge of probate's fund. Effective June 10, 2019.



