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Cherokee County Commission & Association of County Commissions of Alabama honor Rep. Richard Lindsey *Legislator Applauded for Efforts to Improve County Government Administration*

MONTGOMERY – Oct. 13, 2015 –The Cherokee County Commission and the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA) honored Rep. Richard Lindsey today for his work to modernize the administration of county government.

“Rep. Lindsey was committed to passing this ‘county modernization’ legislation, and we wanted to thank him for his hard work this session,” said Cherokee County Commission Chairman Kirk Day. “He worked closely with the ACCA staff and county commissioners across the state to make sure we, as local officials, have the tools we need to effectively serve the citizens of Cherokee County.”

A resolution of appreciation was presented to the legislator during the commission’s October meeting. During his time in the Alabama Legislature, Rep. Lindsey has sponsored and passed two other versions of the ‘county modernization’ legislation.

“It is critically important for state officials and county officials to work well together, and this is a perfect example of how those relationships can benefit all 67 counties,” said ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield. “The commitment of Rep. Lindsey to be connected with and responsive to county government is especially gratifying for the Association.”

The new law, known as Act 2015-53, was signed into law by Governor Robert Bentley and went into effect on July 1. Act 2015-53 revised several outdated sections of Alabama law, and clarified existing language related to the administration of county government.

Specifically, the new law made the following changes to previous statutory language:

- **Allows counties general authority to contract with municipalities**
 - The old law only allowed counties to contract with federal, state, and other county governments. The new law also allows counties general contracting authority with municipalities in the state.
- **Clarifies Alabama's law related to county commissioner conflicts of interest**
 - The new law clarifies when conflicts exist for county commissioners, making it consistent with other conflict provisions in Alabama law.
- **Authorizes counties to create a self-funded property insurance program**
 - Previously, two or more counties could only enter agreements to self-fund liability and workers' compensation insurance. The new law authorizes counties to also enter into agreements to self-fund property insurance.
- **Clarifies bonding requirements for 9-1-1 Board members and employees**
 - The new law clarifies which 9-1-1 employees and officials are required to be bonded, and provides guidance on the bond amount.
- **Prevents annexing of county-maintained roads along emergency evacuation routes**
 - The new law provides that certain county-maintained roads or bridges used for emergency evacuation routes may not be annexed without an agreement between the county and municipality.

Legislators across the state unanimously supported this bill. The bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 32-0, and in the House by a vote of 100-0.

The Association of County Commissions of Alabama is a statewide organization speaking for all 67 counties with ONE voice. It promotes improved county government services in Alabama, offers educational programs for county officials and their staff members, administers insurance programs for county governments and employees, offers legal advice, and represents the interests of county government before state and federal organizations and agencies.

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From L to R: Commissioners Randy Jones, Kimball Parker, Rep. Richard Lindsey, Judge Kirk Day, Commissioners Marcie Foster, Carlton Teague)

Photo credit: Terry Dean, Cherokee County Herald