

GOAT HILL FINAL REPORT

2023 Special Session on Congressional Reapportionment



Members of the Alabama County Family,

On July 21, the Alabama Legislature concluded its second special session of 2023, as directed by Gov. Kay Ivey, to address reapportionment of Alabama's seven congressional districts. During the special session, support by two-thirds of lawmakers also allowed for the consideration and passage of a piece of priority legislation for Alabama's 67 counties — a proposed constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters in the March 2024 statewide election, will address an ongoing issue related to local legislation and hundreds of recently enacted local laws.

For your reference, a summary of the enacted legislation from the July 2023 Special Session is provided below.

Sincerely,
Your Association Staff

Enacted Legislation from the 2023 Second Special Session

[Act 2023-562 by Sen. Clyde Chambliss & Rep. Jim Carns](#)

This act proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow local bills and local constitutional amendments to be considered by the Alabama Legislature without the adoption of a budget isolation resolution (or BIR) and would ratify all local laws enacted since 2016. **Effective upon approval of voters during Alabama's Primary Election on March 5, 2024.**

Background on ACCA Priority:

In 1984, voters ratified an amendment to the Alabama Constitution requiring that no legislation be considered by the Legislature until both of the state's annual budgets are passed and delivered to the Governor. But the amendment included an exception allowing the House and Senate to consider other legislative matters ahead of the budgets by adopting a resolution (known as the budget isolation resolution or BIR) by a vote "of not less than three-fifths of a quorum present." This BIR voting language has been interpreted in a number of different ways over the years and has, most notably, generated litigation over the requisite vote to consider local legislation in advance of the budgets.

In response to a 2015 lawsuit challenging a Jefferson County local law, the Legislature passed and voters ratified a constitutional amendment confirming all local laws enacted prior to November 2016. However, the 2016 amendment made no changes to the BIR language that remains a source of confusion – and today, there are a handful of lawsuits challenging local laws because of continued disagreement on how this language is to be applied.

With the Legislature's approval of this proposed constitutional amendment during the July special session, the amendment is now set to appear on ballots for the March 2024 Primary. The ACCA staff will provide more details on the important impact of this constitutional amendment during the upcoming Annual Convention.

[Act 2023-563 by Sen. Steve Livingston](#)

This act redraws Alabama's seven U.S. congressional districts. These districts are to be used in upcoming elections, beginning with the 2024 General Election, until reapportionment and redistricting occurs again after the 2030 decennial census. **Effective July 21, 2023.**

[Act 2023-564 by Sen. Arthur Orr](#)

This act allows a retired state policeman to work as a school resource officer or a state correctional officer without suspension of his or her retirement allowance, provided the compensation earned does not exceed \$52,000 per year. **Effective August 1, 2023.**