

FINE GEDDIE

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

THE FINE GEDDIE REPORT 2021 REGULAR SESSION · WEEK THREE FEBRUARY 19, 2021

LAWMAKERS TO RESUME AGGRESSIVE WORKLOAD

The Alabama Legislature began the annual session at a fast clip, and legislators are expected to maintain their momentum when they return to Montgomery on Tuesday, February 23, after a one-week recess. Two 3-day work weeks are anticipated for the end of February and beginning of March, followed by two normal (2-day) work weeks and then a week-long recess for the last full week of March.

On Tuesday, the full **Senate** is expected to continue debating the comprehensive **gambling proposal** from Sen. Del Marsh (R—Anniston). **SB214** proposes a constitutional amendment, which, if ratified by voters, would establish a lottery, allow casino-style games and electronic bingo at certain locations and allow sports wagering online and at certain locations. The proposal includes negotiation of a compact with the **Poarch Creek Indians**, and it directs the state's gaming proceeds to benefit new and existing public services, ranging from college scholarships to agricultural grants to healthcare and broadband expansion.

Meanwhile, the **House of Representatives** has a full working agenda on Tuesday, featuring two **procurement** measures:

- **HB187** by Rep. Terri Collins (R—Decatur) exempts from competitive bid laws certain **leases and lease/purchases of goods and services** by city and county boards of education or other state and local governmental entities made through national or regional cooperative purchasing agreements. It received one amendment in committee.
- **HB162** by Rep. Kyle South (R—Fayette) provides a **lease tax exemption** on the gross proceeds of many motor vehicle lease transactions with government agencies. The bill also removes the current prohibition against passing lease tax of tangible personal property on to state or local governments.

OTHER ISSUES TO WATCH

HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Nurses in residential community health settings** would be authorized to **delegate certain tasks to unlicensed healthcare workers** in accordance with rules from the Alabama Board of Nursing under **SB183** by Sen. Vivian Figures (D—Mobile). The bill is scheduled for consideration in the House Health Committee Wednesday morning.

- **Transgender treatment for minors** would be criminalized by HB1 by Rep. Wes Allen (R—Troy). After a lengthy public hearing before the recess, the House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to vote on the bill Wednesday afternoon.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE MARKETPLACE

- **Home delivery of beer, wine and spirits** would be legalized under SB126 by Sen. Jabo Waggoner (R—Vestavia Hills), and the bill is scheduled for consideration in the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

INSURANCE

- SB24 by Sen. Shay Shelnett (R—Trussville) would make Alabama's law regulating reinsurers and the credit an insurer may apply against its otherwise required reserves substantially similar to the current version of the **Credit for Reinsurance Model Law** developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. It is scheduled for consideration in the House Insurance Committee Tuesday morning.

LOCAL LEGISLATION OF GENERAL INTEREST

- The House Shelby County Legislation Committee has scheduled a public hearing Tuesday on SB74 by Sen. Jabo Waggoner (R—Vestavia Hills). If passed, it would set up a referendum on whether **privately owned sewer systems** in Shelby County using public rights-of-way would be subject to **regulation by the Public Service Commission**. The legislation would likely result in higher sewer rates for residents.