

FINE GEDDIE

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

THE FINE GEDDIE REPORT 2019 REGULAR SESSION · WEEK ONE

GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Last night, Governor Kay Ivey called the Alabama Legislature into a Special Session focused on transportation infrastructure, and lawmakers convened at 9:30 a.m. today. The governor's proclamation specified three issues for consideration:

- Increasing fuel taxes to fund maintenance and improvements to state and local roads and bridges, as well as the Alabama State Port Authority which will be used to match federal funds that has been secured to deepen the Port of Mobile. This legislation will also establish the registration fee schedule for electric vehicles which will be directed toward general infrastructure as well as be invested in infrastructure specifically for electric vehicles.
- Adjusting legislative oversight of the Alabama Department of Transportation
- Issuing bonds to improve the Alabama State Docks and the Mobile Bay ship channel.

Governor Ivey's move accomplishes two things that could be beneficial for the infrastructure package, known as Rebuild Alabama. It removes a critical procedural hurdle and largely isolates these bills from other legislative issues in the mix during the Regular Session. Despite these advantages and unified support from Governor Ivey and fellow Republicans in legislative leadership, there are significant barriers that must be overcome if the initiative is to succeed. Time is tight, since special sessions are limited to 12 meeting days. The annual Regular Session began yesterday and is on hold until March 19.

The House and Senate convened today to file legislation. They will reconvene tomorrow for committee meetings and second readings, if any bills are approved in committee.