

The Rundown


⚡ The Alabama Legislature convened Tuesday, April 11th, for the eighth day of the regular session. The legislature met three days this week in the chamber and committees. Sen. Larry Stutts and Rep. Ernie Yarbrough introduced the PRICE Act, the first two school choice bills for the 2023 legislative session, in both chambers on Wednesday. [SB202](#) and [HB295](#) would deduct \$6,900 per participant from our local community schools and deposit the funding in education savings accounts (ESAs) for parents to enroll their child in a private school, church-based school, homeschool, or a public school outside the district where they are zoned. In addition to the BILLIONS of dollars this would cost our public schools, the legislation would also take \$2 million dollars from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to fund the administration of the PRICE Act. Contact your legislator and let them know you are opposed to SB202 AND HB295 – sending public tax dollars to fund privatized education!! **THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!!**


⚡ The ETF budget has yet to surface in the Finance and Taxation Education Committee. It is rumored to appear around the first or second week in May. AEA is working behind the scenes to advocate for our budget priorities, including Education Support Professional (ESP), School Nurse, and Retiree pay increases! Contact your legislator to help us advocate!


Moving This Week


⚡ [SB37](#), by **Sen. Sam Givhan**, would amend the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act to extend professional license reciprocity to spouses of United States Department of Defense civil servants. SB37 passed out of the Senate and has now been referred to the House.


⚡ [SB52](#), by **Sen. Arthur Orr**, would amend the Alabama Safe at Schools Act to include adrenal insufficiency as a condition for which the State Board of Education is required to develop guidelines to train school employees. It would also authorize certain school employees to administer injectable medications to students with adrenal insufficiency and to require local boards of education to ensure that students with adrenal insufficiency have their medical needs met and are not excluded from certain activities. SB52 passed out of the Senate on March 23rd and the House Education Policy Committee on Wednesday.


 **SB176**, by **Sen. Arthur Orr**, would create the Students Right to Know Act of 2023. This bill would require the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to collect data and create an interactive online tool for students for use in making informed decisions relating to education and professions; and to require the commission and Workforce Division of the Department of Commerce to share data and information as necessary to comply with this act. SB176 passed out of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee on Tuesday.


 **HB30**, by **Rep. A.J. McCampbell**, would change the designation of a failing school to the lowest sixth percent school and the designation of a nonfailing school to the highest 94th percent school. Additionally, this bill would require the State Board of Education to reflect those changes in terminology when amending or adopting rules. HB30 passed out of the House Education Policy on Wednesday.

 **HB7**, by **Rep. Ed Oliver**, would prohibit the promotion, endorsement, and affirmation of divisive concepts in certain public settings; and establishes penalties if violated. AEA has worked with the bill sponsor to ensure that educators' rights are protected. HB7 passed out of the House State Government Committee on Wednesday.


 **HB34**, by **Rep. Tracy Estes**, would provide that it is unlawful to discharge a firearm on school property. It is currently unlawful to discharge a firearm into an occupied or unoccupied school building. HB34 passed the House on Tuesday and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.


 **HB45**, by **Rep. Jeremy Gray**, would create the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act requiring the state Board of Education to adopt certain guidelines and information sheets regarding sudden cardiac arrest and distribute those information sheets to students, parents, and coaches. Also, it would require coaches to undergo training related to sudden cardiac arrest and to remove students who exhibit symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest from play. HB45 passed the House Children & Senior Advocacy Committee on Wednesday. AEA's legislative and legal teams worked with the legislator and committee to amend this legislation to ensure our members were protected from legal recourse if an unfortunate event outside of their control occurred.


 **HB123**, by **Rep. Barbara Drummond**, would provide a criminal penalty for a parent or legal guardian who fails to reasonably secure their firearm resulting in their minor possessing the firearm on the premises of a public school. HB123 passed the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.


 **HB186**, by **Rep. Chip Brown**, would allow a parent to opt his or her child out of any school policy requiring students to wear a face covering at school, at a school function, on a school bus, or at a school bus stop. HB186 passed out of the House Health Committee on Wednesday.

Newly Introduced

 **[HB280](#)**, by Rep. Phillip Rigsby, would extend the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act professional license reciprocity to spouses of United States Department of Defense civil servants.

 **[HB308](#)**, by Rep. Chris Sells, would allow a retiree to draw their retirement while returning to work as long as they do not make over 75 percent of their annual retirement benefit for each calendar year. However, the individual would have to sit out at least twelve consecutive months before returning to compensated work for a participating employer.

 Thus far, 542 bills have been introduced by the Legislature. AEA staff continues to read each bill and monitors them daily to ensure they will positively affect public education.

 The Alabama Legislature will reconvene on Tuesday, April 18th, for the eleventh day of the Regular Legislative Session. Your next Pulse will arrive Friday, April 21st.

While you're busy serving our state's students, we've got your back in the Alabama Legislature.