

The Rundown

The Alabama Legislature convened Tuesday, April 18th, for the eleventh day of the regular session. The legislature met three days this week in the chamber and committees.

The PRICE Act, the school choice bills <u>SB202</u> and <u>HB295</u>, did not move this week but is expected to be in the Senate Education Policy Committee next Wednesday! Contact your legislators <u>NOW</u> and tell them you are **opposed** to the dangerous bill!

We are still anticipating the Education Trust Fund Budget to drop the first week or two in May. We will keep you updated as we become aware of further developments.

Watch These Bills

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 the entire body of the House and has now been referred to the Senate Education Policy Committee.

HB43, by Rep. Pebblin Warren, would require a child who becomes six years of age between September 1 and December 31 to complete kindergarten or demonstrate first-grade readiness before entering the first grade. The bill will also provide for circumstances under which a child who is under five years of age on September 1 may be admitted to public kindergarten. HB43 passed the entire body of the House and has now been referred to the Senate Education Policy Committee.

SB56, by Sen. Arthur Orr, would require local boards of education to install, maintain, and operate video cameras in certain self-contained classrooms providing protections for the use of video recordings. SB56 passed out of the House Education Policy Committee on Wednesday and can now be considered by the entire body of the House. AEA has worked to include provisions in this bill to protect students and educators.

HB261, by Rep. Susan DuBose, would prohibit a biological male from participating in an athletic team or sport designated for females and prohibit biological females from participating on an athletic team or sport designated for males. HB261 passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Education Policy Committee.

HB90, by Rep. John Rogers and Rep. Tashina Morris, would provide for certain students with intellectual disabilities to be entitled to certain educational services up to the student's twenty-sixth birthday. There was a public hearing on HB90 in Ways and Means Education, but the bill was not voted on in committee. AEA is opposed to this bill.

SB46, by Sen. Arthur Orr and Sen. Donnie Chesteen, would create the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact to allow licensed teachers to practice among compact states. The bill would also establish the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission and provide for membership, powers, duties, and rulemaking functions of the commission. SB46 passed out of Education Policy on Wednesday and can now be considered by the entire body of the House.

HB164, by Rep. Andy Whitt, would require students to complete a personal financial literacy and money management course before graduation; to provide for the creation and administration of a financial literacy examination; and to require the reporting of a summary of examination results to the State Department of Education. HB164 passed out of the House on Tuesday and has been referred to the Senate Education Policy 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 entire body of the House and has now been referred to the Senate. AEA's legislative and legal teams worked with Rep. Gray and the committee to amend this legislation to ensure our educators were protected from legal recourse if an unfortunate event outside of their control occurred.

SB52, by Sen. Arthur Orr, would amend 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 under the act. 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 has passed the House and the Senate and is awaiting Governor Ivey's signature.

Newly Introduced

HB333, by Rep. Danny Garrett, would establish the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Program, which would allow local boards of education to adopt a modified school calendar and would offset the associated costs with grants awarded through the program. The bill would also require the State Department of Education to administer the program and would create the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Fund and the Alabama Modified School Calendar Administration Fund within the State Treasury.

HB334, by Rep. Danny Garrett, would create the Students with Unique Needs (SUN) Education Scholarship Account Act and Program; to allow parents to use funds in an education scholarship account to provide an individualized education program for their children.

HB342, by Rep. Susan DuBose, would add additional requirements for alternative certifications.

HB354, by Rep. Mack Butler, would prohibit certain instruction regarding gender identity and sexual orientation in Alabama's schools. It would require notification of parents regarding students' mental, emotional, or physical health and give parents the right to opt their child out of certain health services.

HB363, by Rep. Terri Collins, was filed late Thursday afternoon. The bill would change the appointment process for the Alabama Public Charter School Commission, authorize the commission to hire staff, require commissioners to receive annual training, provide additional guidelines for the authorizing and application review process, provide further for the operational and categorical funding of public charter schools in their first year of operation, and clarify the per pupil federal, state, and local funding of conversion public charter schools during their first year of operation.

HB364, by Rep. Steve Hurst, would require a public K-12 school or a local board of education to accept certain forms of payment for admission to certain school-sponsored events

HB371, by Rep. Jamie Kiel, would revise the circumstances in which an individual's pension, annuity, or retirement allowance benefits under the Teachers' Retirement System and the Employees' Retirement System are subject to certain recovery actions.

SB238, by Sen. Gerald Allen, would require local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each K-12 public school to broadcast or sanction the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner at least once per week during school hours.

Thus far, 618 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 25th, for the fourteenth day of the Regular Legislative Session. Your next Pulse will arrive Friday, April 28th.

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