

## The Rundown


After a week-long spring break, the Alabama Legislature convened Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, for the fifth day of the regular session. The legislature met for three days this week, both in chamber and in committees. Although the rumor mill is stirring, we have yet to see any school choice bills introduced in the House or Senate. Two grocery tax removal bills have been introduced this week and it is rumored that several more will be coming down the line. There are no fiscal notes attached to these bills.


It seems as if the Governor's recommended supplemental budget was dead on arrival in the Senate. Currently, legislators are proposing alternative plans on how to spend the surplus in the budget. However, we have yet to see the budget so stay tuned for what is to come next week.


## Moving This Week


**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 passed out of the Senate and has been referred to the House Education Policy committee.


**HB109**, by **Rep. Terri Collins**, would establish the Alabama Credential Quality and Transparency Act, the Alabama Workforce Council Committee on Credential Quality and Transparency, the Alabama Terminal on Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on Career Pathways Act, and the Alabama College and Career Readiness Act. HB109 passed the House Thursday and has 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 Senate and has been referred to House Education Policy committee.

 **[HB152](#)**, by **Rep. Allen Treadaway**, would authorize public institutions of higher education that employ campus police officers to also employ reserve police officers; and to specify the qualifications and duties of reserve campus police officers. HB152 passed out of committee and can now be taken up on the House floor.


 **[HB164](#)**, by **Rep. Andy Whitt**, would require students to complete a course on personal financial literacy and money management standards before graduation. Additionally, it will create a financial literacy examination and require the reporting of a summary of examination results to the State Department of Education. HB164 received a favorable report in the House Education Policy Committee and can now be taken up on the House floor.


 **[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 received a favorable report in the House Education Policy Committee and can now be taken up on the House floor.


 **[HB115](#)** by **Rep. Danny Garrett**, would phase in a reduction in the top individual income tax rate from five percent to four and ninety-five hundredths percent.


 **[HB116](#)** by **Rep. Danny Garrett**, would eliminate the two percent tax rate on the first five hundred dollars (\$500) of taxable income for single persons, heads of families, and married persons filing separate returns and would also eliminate the two percent tax rate on the first one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of taxable income for married persons filing a joint return.


### **Newly Introduced**

 **[SB177](#)**, by **Sen. Arthur Orr** and **[HB250](#)**, by **Rep. Danny Garrett**, would define "food" for purposes of sales and use taxes and begin phasing-out the state sales and use tax on food on September 1, 2023. Future rate reductions would be contingent upon certain growth requirements in the Education Trust Fund.

 [\*\*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.

 [\*\*HB269\*\*](#), by **Rep. Terri Collins**, would provide a uniform statewide system of procedural due process protections relating to the suspension and expulsion of public-school students for violating the student code of conduct or state law.

 Thus far, 471 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 11<sup>th</sup>, for the eighth day of the Regular Legislative Session. Your next Pulse will arrive Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

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