





The Rundown


 The Alabama Legislature convened Wednesday, March 8th, for day one of the first special session called by Governor Ivey. The legislature is tasked with allocating approximately \$1 billion of American Rescue Plan Act funding the state received from the federal government. ARPA funds are to be distributed on expenditures such as assisting hospitals and nursing homes, building out water and sewer infrastructure, and expanding broadband internet, which is primarily covered under the purview of the General Fund Budget. Although the bills that are currently being considered in the special session are not germane to education, AEA staff is in full-force tracking legislation and working with legislators to ensure that all allocations are in the best interest of public education.


Watch These Bills


 **[HB7](#)**, by Rep. Ed Oliver, would provide prohibitions on 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.


 **[HB15](#)**, by Rep. Chris England, would authorize municipalities to reduce or eliminate their local sales and use taxes on food.


 **[HB28](#)**, by Rep. Chris England, would further provide for the unlawful possession of a firearm on the premises of a public school and remove the exemption for persons with pistol permits.


 **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.


 **HB31**, by Rep. A.J. McCampbell, would change the designation of a failing school to a fully supported school and the designation of a nonfailing school to a non-fully supported school.


 **HB34**, by Rep. Tracy Estes, would provide that it is unlawful to discharge a firearm on school property. Currently, it is unlawful to discharge a firearm into an occupied or unoccupied school building.


 **HB35**, by Rep. Tracy Estes, would provide that local boards of education shall allow any student or students who are leading a prayer pursuant to this section to use school property, such as a microphone or public address system, to facilitate the prayer and communicate the prayer to those in attendance.

 **HB41**, by Rep. Rex Reynolds, would temporarily revise the allowance a retiree may earn from \$30,000 plus Consumer Price Index adjustments after 2017 to \$52,000 for performing duties with an employer participating in the system.


 **HB42**, by Rep. Pebblin Warren, would provide for comprehensive school emergency operations plans. Additionally, it would require the participation of school resource officers and law enforcement agencies in regularly scheduled lockdown drills and designate the days on which lockdown drills are conducted as school safety and awareness days.


 **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.


 **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.


 **HB46**, by Rep. Allen Treadaway, would permit any individuals who retired under the Employees' Retirement System and were previously classified as a law enforcement officer to


perform duties as a school resource officer without suspension of his or her retirement allowance.


 **[HB73](#)**, by **Rep. Danny Garrett**, would require each local board of education and public charter school to create and adopt an intradistrict enrollment policy and an interdistrict enrollment policy addressing open enrollment; and to require the policies, and any amendments, to be posted on the website of the local education agency or public charter school and reported to the State Department of Education.


 **[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.


 **[HB103](#)**, by **Rep. Alan Baker and Rep. Terri Collins.**, would authorize the use of up to eight weeks of sick leave for attending to an ill child for whom a petition for adoption has been filed and for attending to an adopted child.


 **[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.


 **[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.

 **[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.

 **[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.

 **[SB61](#)**, by **Sen. Sam Givhan**, would temporarily revise the allowance a retiree may earn from \$30,000 plus Consumer Price Index adjustments after 2017 to \$52,000 for performing duties with an employer participating in the system.

 Thus far, 174 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, March 21, for the second day of the Regular Legislative Session. Your next Pulse will arrive Friday, March 24.

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