

# STATE HOUSE ADVOCATE



## THIS WEEK IN LEAGUE ADVOCACY

The State House Advocate is a service of the Alabama League of Municipalities

March 17, 2023

### At a Glance:

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### Legislative Update – Lawmakers Suspend Regular Session and Begin Special Session

As mentioned previously, Governor Kay Ivey, during her state of the state address, called the Alabama Legislature in to a special session to allocate the remaining \$1.1 billion from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). Lawmakers suspended the regular session on Tuesday, March 7, and began a special session on Wednesday, March 8. Lawmakers met this week and approved a plan to spend the second tranche of state ARPA funds. The legislation passed has been signed by Governor Ivey and includes the following allocations:

- \$339 million for health care
- \$260 million for broadband
- \$400 million for water and sewer projects
- Up to \$195 million for high-need projects
- Up to \$100 million that includes wastewater and must include a factor for needs of growing communities
- Up to \$100 million that includes wastewater, includes a factor for needs of growing communities and requires at least a 35% match
- Up to \$5 million for septic systems in the Black Belt
- \$55 million for negative economic impacts of the public health emergency
- \$5 million to reimburse the Alabama Department of Labor
- \$1 million to reimburse administration, auditing and reporting requirements

As opportunities become available for municipalities to collaborate with state agencies to maximize their funds for the purposes of municipal use, the League's Advocacy Team will

update its membership.

During the special session, lawmakers also passed legislation that will pay off the remaining debt of nearly \$60 million owed to the Alabama Trust Fund (ATF). The funding used to pay off the ATF is from the state's General Fund, not the ARPA funding. This has been signed by Governor Ivey.

**[Lawmakers will return to Montgomery next Tuesday, March 21, to resume the 2023 Regular Legislative Session.](#)**

As a side note, throughout the legislative session, the League will host leaders at our headquarters from both parties in the House and Senate to discuss our priority legislation as well as ways we can continue to collaborate together to ensure our municipalities are receiving the resources they need to thrive. These meetings are extremely valuable toward our advocacy efforts. As lawmakers return home to their districts each week, we encourage our members to reach out and set up meetings to discuss the issues listed below that will impact municipal government.

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## **Legislation Needing Immediate Attention/Action**

**To find out who your lawmakers are click [here](#). To find contact information for your state representative click [here](#) and your state senator click [here](#).**

**SB65 by Sen. Andrew Jones** would incrementally reduce any occupational tax levied by a municipality greater than one percent based on an annual reduction in the percent of the tax until the tax would be one percent. SB65 would provide that any occupational tax levied by a municipality would not apply to any person performing an occupation in the police jurisdiction of the municipality or any property annexed into the municipality after January 1, 2023. Additionally, it would provide a referendum under certain conditions in any county in which two or more municipalities levied an occupational license tax greater than one percent on January 1, 2023, and would prohibit any municipality from levying a new occupational license tax or increasing any existing occupational license tax. **To review, click [here](#). The League is OPPOSED to SB65. SB65 will be before the Senate Committee on County and Municipal Government NEXT WEEK on Tuesday, March 21, and we do expect the bill to be voted on during that time. The committee meeting will be held in room 825 of the State House at 1 p.m.**

**It is critical that our members contact their lawmakers and the Senate Committee on County and Municipal Government to voice their opposition to this legislation. To find contact information for the Senate Committee, click [here](#).**

**HB86 by Rep. Debbie Wood and SB33 by Sen. Livingston** would provide that municipalities may not set speed limits on county-maintained streets within its corporate limits. It would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style. **HB86 will be up for a vote next Tuesday, March 21, when the House Committee on Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure meets. We**

encourage our members to review this legislation and provide feedback of any impact it could have on their community. To review, click [here](#).

**SB40 by Sen. Chris Elliot** would provide that a municipal or county governing body, or any agency thereof, may not directly or indirectly adopt or enforce any ordinance, rule, bylaw, order, or local building code provision that would require, in the construction of a residential structure, certain latent features, including wiring, plumbing, gas tubing, or framing, which features would not be operational at the time of completion. **SB40 will be up for a vote next Tuesday, March 21, when the Senate Committee on County and Municipal Government meets. We encourage our members to review this legislation and provide feedback of any impact it could have on their community. To review, click [here](#).**

**HB15 by Rep. Chris England** would authorize the governing body of a municipality to reduce or eliminate its local sales and use tax rate on food. **The League is monitoring HB15. We encourage our members to review this legislation and provide any necessary feedback to its advocacy team. To review, click [here](#).**

**HB10 by Rep. Jim Hill** would allow municipalities to use census tracts to make the required description in the ordinance in order to redraw districts, and it would apply retroactively to validate districts and wards already redrawn using census tracts. Additionally, it would make nonsubstantive changes by eliminating duplicative language and updating antiquated language and terminology. **The League supports this legislation and encourages its members to reach out to their lawmakers and members of the House Committee on County and Municipal Government to ask for their support of HB45. To find contact information for the House Committee, click [here](#). To review, click [here](#).**

**HB13 by Rep. Chris England** would provide that any municipality may authorize a law enforcement officer to issue a summons and complaint in lieu of a custodial arrest for certain criminal offenses. **The League does not have any objection to this legislation; however, we encourage our members to review this legislation and provide any necessary feedback to its advocacy team. To review, click [here](#).**

For a complete list of bills the League is tracking during the Regular Session, click [here](#).

***\*To view a previous State House Advocate, visit the League's website [here](#).***

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**Engagement Opportunities with ALM**

# CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DINNERS

## ALABAMA DELEGATION

NLC CONGRESSIONAL CITY CONFERENCE

MARCH 26 - 28, 2023 ★ Washington, D.C.

The 2023 Congressional City Conference is quickly approaching. We hope you will join us for our district dinners with Alabama's U.S. representatives and a breakfast with U.S. Sen. Katie Britt. **Registration for the ALM events closes on March 20, 2023. Click [HERE](#) to Register!** For more information about the conference, visit [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

JOIN US!

MAY 10 - 13

BIRMINGHAM  
JEFFERSON  
CONVENTION  
COMPLEX



Convention registration **INCREASES** on April 15, 2023.

Visit [almonline.org/AnnualConvention](http://almonline.org/AnnualConvention) to register now!

## 2023 CMO Regional Training

### Strengthen Your Core:

Fundamentals of Municipal Government

The League's Legal Team will lead five one-day training events around the state on fundamental topics in municipal government

Click [HERE](#) for more information



Join other elected officials and municipal personnel for the 2023 CMO Regional Trainings. This year, the League's Legal Team will lead five one-day trainings on fundamental topics in municipal government, a legislative update and additional presentations. **To view the agenda and to register for one of the four remaining dates/locations offered around the state please click [here](#).**





# The League recognizes our Strategic Partners, Community Partners and League Programs



ALM offers several partnership levels designed specifically for organizations and companies that share the same mission and vision as the Alabama League of Municipalities.

Strategic partnerships with ALM provide unique and intentional collaboration opportunities to foster vibrant communities where businesses want to invest and where citizens want to live, work, play and prosper. Based on the investment from your company/organization, you will have access to several event opportunities as well as inclusion in all printed materials as it relates to sponsored meetings and conferences.

You will also be listed on ALM's website as a valued strategic partner.

For more information on how to become a strategic partner, click [here](#).

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**GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY LINKS**

- [League Legislative Page](#)
- [Grassroots Advocacy](#)
- [ALISON - State Legislature Website](#)
- [Governor's Office](#)
- [Contacts for the Alabama House of Representatives](#)
- [Contacts for the Alabama Senate](#)

## ALM Advocacy Team



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