

2003 2nd Special Session - Final Report

The 2nd Special Session of 2003 adjourned sine die on September 26. The session was called by Governor Riley for the purpose of adopting the General Fund Budget and the Education Budget and various appropriation bills for the new fiscal year which begins on October 1. The Legislature enacted a \$1,204,370,187 General Fund Budget and a \$4,238,839,660 Education Budget. This Final Report lists those bills of interest to municipalities that were enacted during the special session.

General Bills Passed

The following is a brief summary of each of the general bills enacted during the special session that impact cities and towns.

General Fund Budget (HB1, Act 2003-437). This bill provides appropriations for ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative and judicial departments. This bill contains a League-supported appropriation of \$568,598 to the Water Pollution Control Authority to continue the State Revolving Fund for Wastewater Treatment.

Pardons and Paroles/Restoration of Voting Rights (HB3, Act 2003-415). To amend the law relating to the board of pardons and paroles by providing for four special board members to serve for three years, by allowing the board to sit in panels of three for the purpose of determining pardons, remission of fines and forfeitures, paroles and the restoration of rights of convicted felons and by providing a procedure for the restoration of eligibility to register to vote of former probationers, parolees, and inmates who have satisfactorily completed conditions of their sentence, including probation, parole, incarceration, and community corrections as determined by the board of pardons and paroles based on court records, records of the department of corrections, and the board of pardons and paroles; to create a legislative oversight committee for the board of pardons and paroles; and to provide for an effective date.

Education Budget (SB8, Act 2003-438). This bill provides appropriations for the support, maintenance, and development of public education.

Alabama Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Trust Fund (SB10, Act 2003-483). To amend Sections 22-35-4 to 22-35-7, inclusive, and Section 22-35-9, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Trust Fund, to provide for the future, long-term protection of the soils and waters of the State of Alabama from releases from certain underground and aboveground storage tanks; to place time limits on the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's review, approval, and disapproval of plans for investigation, free product removal, risk assessment, corrective actions, and other plans

requested by the department; to eliminate the Alabama Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Trust Fund Advisory Board and replace it with a nine-member board to manage the trust fund, to be called the Alabama Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Trust Fund Management Board.

Utility Service Vehicles (SB22, Act 2003-478). To amend Section 32-9A-2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to commercial motor vehicles and the application in this state of U.S. Department of Transportation motor carrier safety regulations; to provide certain exceptions for utility service vehicles and other motor vehicles engaged solely in intrastate commerce, to vehicles responding to emergency situations, and under certain other conditions.

Driver's License – Notification of Suspension, Cancellation or Revocation (SB39, Act 2003-430). This bill amends Section 32-6-17 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to repeal the provision requiring the Department of Public Safety to notify by certified mail any person whose driver's license has been suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

HB14, Act 2003-408 – Economic & Industrial Development powers for Etowah County & municipalities located therein

HB28, Act 2003-409 – Economic & Industrial Development powers for Baldwin County & municipalities located therein

SB1, Act 2003-414 – Elected officials of Mobile County allowed to participate in Employees' Retirement System

SB9, Act 2003-433 – Greene County bingo

SB38, Act 2003-413 – Tom Bevill Reservoir Management Area Authority

Local Bills

HB27, Act 2003-425 – Baldwin County tobacco taxes

HB50, Act 2003-469 – Mobile County Judge of Probate

HB52, Act 2003-470 – Escambia County Commission compensation

HB70, Act 2003-481 – Talladega County subdivision regulation

HB79, Act 2003-532 – Authorizes wet-dry referendums in Monroe County municipalities of 5,000 or more inhabitants

HB85, Act 2003-527 – Bibb County Sheriff – Service of Process Fund

HB86, Act 2003-435 – Prattville Sales and Use Tax distribution in Elmore County portion of city

HB87, Act 2003-467 – Butler County Commission single-member districts

HB89, Act 2003-431 – Madison County – Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages

SB3, Act 2003-439 – Dallas County Board of Registrars compensation

SB 7, Act 2003-466 – Dallas County Judge of Probate compensation

SB12, Act 2003-530 – Authorizes wet-dry referendums in Clarke County municipalities of 5,000 or more inhabitants

SB13, Act 2003-531 – Authorizes wet-dry referendums in Monroe County municipalities of 5,000 or more inhabitants

Annexation Bills

HB41, Act 2003-423 – Daleville

HB53, Act 2003-427 – Atmore

HB74, Act 2003-429 – Lincoln

SB14, Act 2003-426 – Atmore