

Meet ALISON, the Alabama Legislature's Website

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For those of you who are new to municipal office, legislative advocacy is a primary function of your Alabama League of Municipalities. In fact, it's so important that the League staff relies heavily on our members to be an active part of the process. That being said, we make sure you have all the necessary information to be an effective advocate throughout the legislative session. You will receive weekly reports from our office during each legislative session via our legislative e-newsletter, the *State House Advocate*, a critical part of our advocacy process that reviews the actions taken by the Legislature the previous week and outlines what we expect to take place during the upcoming week. Often times we will ask you to personally advocate on behalf of your municipality during the session to enhance our lobbying efforts. The *State House Advocate* will provide you with key information as well as important contact information and online resources to help you with those efforts. Of particular importance is ALISON, the website for the Alabama Legislature.

ALISON – A Valuable Advocacy Resource

Please familiarize yourself with ALISON, the Alabama Legislature's website and legislative tracking system: www.legislature.state.al.us. Not only is ALISON the resource we will direct you to most often for information the League is tracking, you may also find that you want to independently research a legislative action, read a bill or know how your local representatives voted on certain legislative actions. ALISON provides a wealth of information, including an overview of the legislative process, House and Senate Rules, contact information for the House and Senate, session information (House and Senate Special Order Calendars, prefiled bills, bills, resolutions, confirmation, committees, etc.), meetings and announcements as well as links to other resources.

ALISON's web address, www.legislature.state.al.us, will take you to their opening page. There you will see a banner across the top with the following tabs: Home, House of Representatives, Senate, Session Info, Meetings & Announcements, Find My Legislator, Resources and Contact Us (see Figure 1).

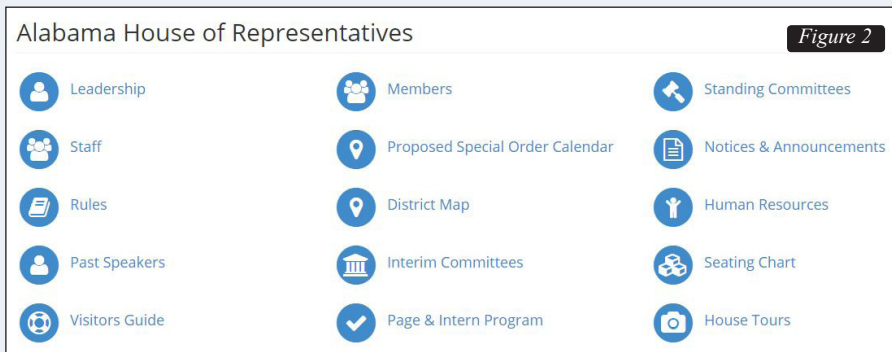


Who are my legislators and what committees do they serve on?

To quickly reach your legislators, click on the "House of Representatives" or "Senate" tab at the top of the opening page. Scroll down the page and you will find an assortment of buttons (see Figure 2) that will link you to information about your legislators. The "Members" and "Standing Committees" buttons are the most important for this purpose as they will allow you to quickly see who serves on which committee and then circle back to their contact information. These links will be particularly important when you are asked by the League to reach out to a committee to advocate for or against a bill being debated by that committee.

Session Info

Another important resource via ALISON, is the "Session Info" tab on the homepage, which will link you to a variety of options regarding the



legislative session. Click on “Regular Session 2017” located in the black box along the top left side of the page (see Figure 3).

This will take you to a page allowing you to quickly access several important categories via the “Quick Links” box along the right-hand side of the page (see Figure 4). For instance, you can “Search Text of a Bill,” view the Special Order Calendars, find the “Status of an Instrument (bill),” visit the “Code of Alabama” or view “Prefiled Bills.” Several House and Senate bills have already been pre-filed for consideration.

Finding the Status of a Bill (Instrument)

Under the Quick Links from the page described above, select “Find Status of an Instrument” (“instrument” is the same as “bill”) and then click on the SB (Senate Bill) or HB (House Bill) button and enter the bill number you’re seeking in the “Instrument Number” box near the top. This will link you to the bill and provide you the names of sponsors and committee assignment (see Figure 5).

Legislative Day

The “Legislative Day” tab along the top the ALISON website will provide you with House and Senate First Readings, Special Order Calendars (as they are adopted), Current Matter before the bodies and Legislative Audio/Video (see Figure 6).

Conclusion

While ALISON can be somewhat counterintuitive, it is the *best* resource for staying current during the legislative session. The League will absolutely need your participation throughout the 2017 Regular Session to promote our legislative priorities and to stop any bills that threaten local government. As mentioned above, your weekly *State House Advocate* will review the session week by week and will ask for specific engagement. A link to ALISON is always prominently displayed along the right-hand side of the e-newsletter – and you will most likely find yourself visiting ALISON often during the legislative session so please take some time to become comfortable navigating the site. As always, we appreciate your engagement and thank you for your support! ■

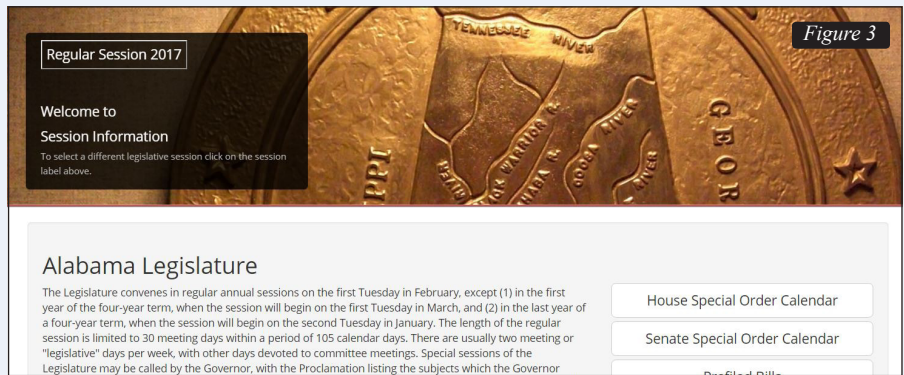


Figure 3

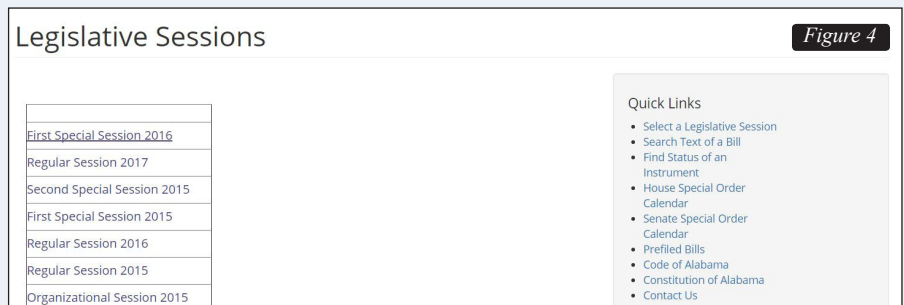


Figure 4

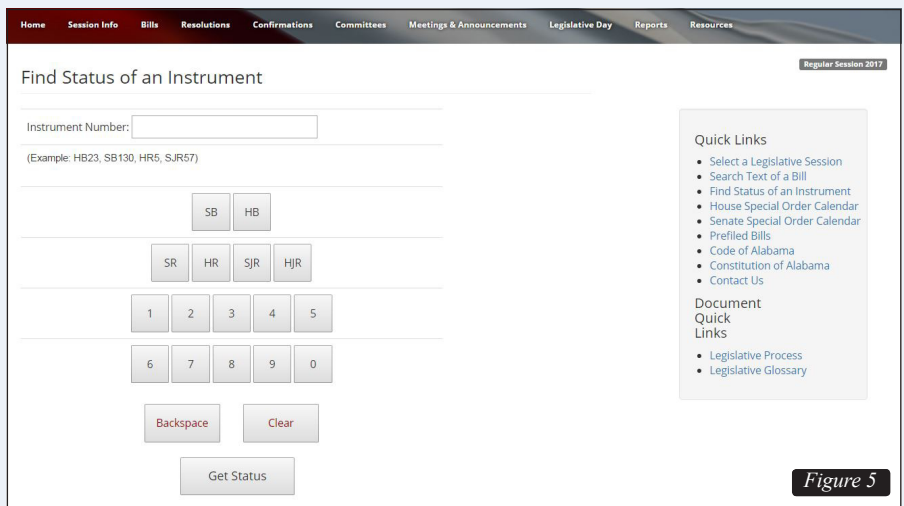


Figure 5

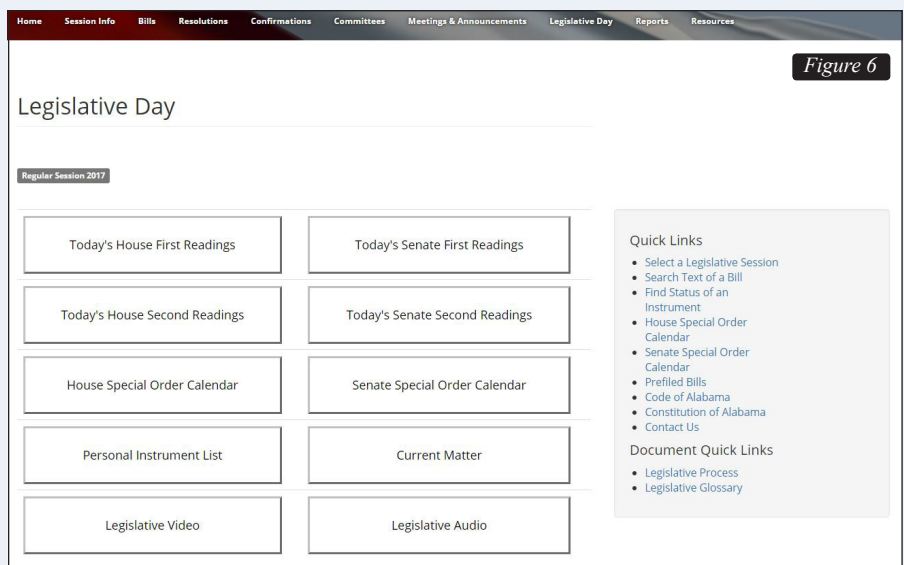


Figure 6