

Legislative Update for May 5-8, 2020

House Bill 23 (Authorizes the Examiners to charge fees to provide Sunset reports to the Sunset Committee)

Sponsor: Representative *Pringle*

Committee: State Government

This bill would authorize the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts to charge an agency under Sunset review (the AHC is under Sunset Review) a reasonable fee for Sunset reports furnished to the Sunset Committee and would authorize the Sunset Committee to adjust or waive the fee.

Updated 2/28: Bill passed out of committee on 2/27 favorably and had its 2nd reading in the House. It now awaits a 3rd reading.

No Update this week

House Bill 152 (General Fund)

Sponsors: Representatives *Clouse & McCutcheon*

Committee: Ways and Means General Fund

The AHC's General Fund appropriation is \$3,844,993, included in this amount is \$1,000,000 for continued work on the Clotilda, with line item appropriations of \$600,000 for the Alabama Veterans Museum and \$55,000 for each of the following historical sites: Brierfield, Blakeley, Fendall Hall, St. Stephens, Tannehill, Historic Holman House and Fort Morgan. Helen Keller & Rosa Parks monuments are line-itemed to receive \$100,000. In addition to the above appropriations the AHC also was appropriated \$1,000,000 for one-time capital expenditures for our historic sites.

No Update this week

The Senate Companion Bill for the General Fund is SB 157. This bill was substituted for HB 152

The AHC's General Fund appropriation is \$3,269,993, included in this amount is \$1,000,000 for continued work on the Clotilda, with line item appropriations of \$50,000 for the Alabama Veterans Museum and \$50,000 for each of the following historical sites: Brierfield, Blakeley, Fendall Hall, St. Stephens, Tannehill, Historic Holman House, Museum of East Alabama and Fort Morgan. \$30,000 each for Rock School and Eufaula Heritage. In addition to the above appropriations the AHC also was appropriated \$1,000,000 for one-time capital expenditures for our historic sites.

Update: SB 157 passed the Senate 3rd reading on May 5 and sent to the House on 5/7. The bill passed in the House and was sent to the Governor at 9:01 p.m. on 5/7.

House Bill 187 (Education Trust Fund Budget)

Sponsor: *Representative Poole*

Committees: House Ways and Means Education

The AHC is included in the Education Trust Fund Budget with an appropriation of \$2,042,038. \$900,000 is for grants to other entities.

Update: Bill received a 3rd reading in the House and sent on to the Senate on May 7. There are no changes in appropriations for the Commission.

Senate Bill 127 (Memorial Preservation Act)

Sponsor: *Senator Allen*

Committee: Governmental Affairs

The Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017 prohibits architecturally significant buildings, memorial buildings, memorial streets, or monuments that are located on public property, and have been so situated for 40 or more years, from being relocated, removed, altered, renamed, or otherwise disturbed and provides for penalties.

This bill includes architecturally significant buildings, memorial buildings, memorial streets, or monuments, that have been so situated for 40 or more years, under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Alabama Monument Protection. It creates rebuttable presumption to the senate bill concerning monuments. It also revises the penalties from \$25,000 to \$10,000 for each day the violation continues.

Updated 2/28: This bill was heard in committee on 2/11, however, no vote was taken. It was heard in committee on 2/25 at 1:00 p.m. The bill was substituted in committee and changed drastically. It now requires any controlling governmental entity that replaces a memorial building to maintain the original name or erect a marker memorializing the name; to provide that a petition for waiver is deemed denied if the Committee on Alabama Monument Protection fails to act on an application for waiver within 90 days.

Update this week: This bill reached the floor for a 3rd reading. There was much spirited debate on the bill. The bill was held over at the call of the Chair.

No Update this week

Senate Bill 159 (Cost of Living)

Sponsor: Senator Albritton

Committees: Finance and Taxation General Fund

This bill grants State employees, a 2% cost-of-living increase for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020.

The House Companion Bill for the COLA is HB 229. This bill is the same as SB 159.

Update: There is no appropriation in the General Fund (SB 157) to support the COLA

Senate Bill 218 (Longevity bonus for retired employees)

Sponsor: *Senator Waggoner*

Committee: Finance and Taxation General Fund

This bill provides for a longevity bonus for retired State employees at \$3 per month of service or \$300 whichever is greater.

No Update this week

House Joint Resolution 71 (Old Federal Road)

Sponsor: *Representatives McClammy & McCutcheon*

Committees: Rules

This resolution creates a task force to study all aspects of how to identify and promote the Old Federal Road in Alabama. Also, how to best access the state and federal support in maintenance and signage and to present its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on or before the 10th legislative day of each regular legislative session. The AHC Director or designee is designated as one of the members of the task force.

No Update this week

***Senate Joint Resolution 58 (Semiquincentennial Commission)** Sponsor: *Senator Arthur Orr and Others*
Committees: Rules

There is created the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission. The principal purpose of the commission shall be to plan, promote, and implement where appropriate public celebrations and commemorations of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, and of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. The Historical Commission may be asked to serve on an advisory committee.

This SJR was introduced on May 4 and passed with a favorable vote out of the Senate. It was sent to the House on May 5.

*New to our list this week.