

ADVOCACY AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



EXECUTIVE BRANCH



Governor Kay Ivey

It all starts with the Governor –

Yearly “State of the State” address to the Legislature
Must submit proposed budgets to the Legislature by the 3rd legislative day



ALABAMA LEGISLATURE

House of Representatives

- 105 Members
- 4-Year Elected Terms (Quadrennium)
- Current Breakdown:
77 Republicans
28 Democrats
- Presided over by the Speaker of the House

Senate

- 35 members
- 4-year Elected Terms (Quadrennium)
- Current Breakdown:
27 Republicans
8 Democrats
- Presided over by the Lt. Governor

Legislative Salary 53,956



HOUSE LEADERSHIP



Speaker of the House
Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter



President Pro Tem
Rep. Chris Pringle



Chair of Rules
Rep. Joe Lovvorn



Majority Leader
Rep. Scott Stadthagen



Minority Leader
Rep. Anthony Daniels



SENATE LEADERSHIP



Lt. Governor
Will Ainsworth



President Pro Tem
Sen. Greg Reed



Chair of Rules
Sen. Jabo Waggoner



Majority Leader
Sen. Clay Scofield



Minority Leader
Sen. Bobby Singleton



HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES

House Ways and Means Education

Rep. Danny Garrett, Chair

Rep. Jamie Kiel/Vice Chair

Rep. Barbara Drummond/Ranking Minority Member

Rep. Alan Baker

Rep. Prince Chestnut

Rep. Terri Collins

Rep. Anthony Daniels

Rep. Corley Ellis

Rep. Kelvin Lawrence

Rep. Joe Lovvorn

Rep. Cynthia Almond

Rep. Debbie Wood

Rep. Troy Stubbs

Rep. Brock Colvin

Rep. David Faulkner

House Education Policy

Rep. Terri Collins, Chair

Rep. Alan Baker/Vice Chair

Rep. Barbara Drummond/Ranking Minority Member

Rep. Jeremy Gray

Rep. Anthony Daniels

Rep. Matt Woods

Rep. Susan DuBose

Rep. Marcus Paramore

Rep. Tracy Estes

Rep. Bob Fincher

Rep. Kenneth Paschal

Rep. Tashina Morris

Rep. Van Smith

Rep. Mark Gidley

Rep. Frances Holk-Jones



SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEES

Senate Finance & Taxation Education

Sen. Arthur Orr, Chair

Gerald Allen, Vice Chair

Greg Albritton

Tom Butler

Donnie Chesteen

Vivian Figures

Garlan Gudger

Kirk Hatcher

Jay Hovey

Tim Melson

Dan Roberts

Clay Scofield

David Sessions

Bobby Singleton

Rodger Smitherman (Ranking Minority Member)

Jabo Waggoner

Senate Education Policy

Sen. Donnie Chesteen, Chair

Shay Shelnett, Vice Chair

Tom Butler

Vivian Figures

Garlan Gudger

Kirk Hatcher

Jay Hovey

Randy Price

Rodger Smitherman (Ranking Minority Member)

Larry Stutts



REGULAR SESSION

The Legislature convenes in regular annual sessions on the first Tuesday in February, except

- In the first year of the four-year term (the new quadrennium), when the session begins on the first Tuesday in March, and
 - In the last year of a quadrennium, when the session will begin on the second Tuesday in January.
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- The length of the regular session is limited to 30 meeting days within a period of 105 calendar days.
 - There are usually two meeting or “legislative” days per week, with one other day (usually Wednesday) devoted to committee meetings.



Legislative Process



FIRST READING

- Bill introduced by legislator(s)
- Bill “read” into the House or Senate Journal (no vote required)
- Bill assigned to committee. Bill assignments are determined by legislative leadership.
 - House: Speaker of the House
 - Senate: Committee on Assignments (President Pro Tempore, the Lieutenant governor, the Senate Majority Leader and two additional members appointed by the Senate Majority Leader)



SECOND READING

- Favorable report from the committee
- Bill is placed directly on the regular order calendar for the consideration of the legislative body. The regular calendar is a list of bills that have been favorably reported from committee and are ready for consideration by the membership of the entire chamber.
- Must be considered in that order unless action is taken to consider a bill out of order (Special Order)
 - Special order calendars are used to determine which bills will be discussed on the floor. Important bills are brought to the top of the calendar by special order calendar or by suspending the rules. Special order calendars are recommended by the Rules Committee.
 - The resolution setting Special Order Calendars must be adopted by a majority of the chamber.
 - As the session progresses, getting bills on the special order calendar becomes more challenging.



THIRD READING

- Third readings happen when a bill moves to the floor for final passage in that chamber.
- A Budget Isolation Resolution (BIR) vote is required before ANY vote on a bill if the budgets have not passed both chambers.
- At this stage, bills are subject to further discussion, debate, and amendments.
- All bills advance if they receive the requisite vote.
 - Constitutional amendments require 3/5 of the membership
 - 63 votes in the House
 - 21 votes in the Senate
 - Other bills require a simple majority of those present.
- Bills that pass are transmitted to the other chamber.



OPPOSITE CHAMBER

- Following successful passage of a bill in its chamber or origin, it becomes “engrossed,” and sent to the opposite chamber.
- Bills advance through the same process of First Reading, Second Reading, and Third Reading.
- If a bill passes the opposite chamber unchanged, it becomes “enrolled” and is sent to the Governor for action.
- If bills are amended in any way, they are returned to the original chamber for additional consideration.



ADVOCACY



CONNECTING WITH LEGISLATORS

Relationships are key

Build relationships at home

- Trust is essential

Connect with legislators in Montgomery

- Anticipate the questions they will have and be ready with the answer
- If you don't know the answer, find it for them. Become their resource.



CONNECTING WITH LEGISLATORS

Find common ground

- What do you have in common?
- What do you agree on?

Focus on the issue

- Remove your personal opinions
- Don't take things personally
- Avoid hot button phrases

Know your audience

- How do they like their info – facts, anecdotes, charts?



EDUCATION IS THE ISSUE

- Stick to education issues only
- Don't criticize other groups
- Tie the issue to your local community
- Take some tips from media training:
 - Avoid jargon (acronyms) and speak plainly. Be prepared to explain complex issues in a simple manner
 - Bridge to what you came to discuss if the conversation is going on a tangent
 - Pivot the conversation to your talking points
 - Use a story from home to illustrate your point and give the legislator something for his back pocket during floor debates



POLICY CREATION AND PRIORITIES

SSA staff collaborate to prepare policy language and budget requests leading up to the Legislative session each year.

- Surveys of members
- Board Discussions
- District meeting discussions

Once policy and budget priorities are approved, SSA staff work directly with the Governor's office, Finance Director, and legislative leadership prior to session to advocate on behalf of our members and the students of Alabama.



STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- School safety expenditures
- Lower the Grades 4-6 Divisor to fund increased staffing needs to meet literacy and numeracy instructional demands in upper elementary grades (FY2023 grade-span divisor: 20.43)
- Fund the full salary and benefits of elementary instructional coaches, both reading and math
- Funding for students of poverty to better reflect the intensive instructional needs of high poverty, high academic need, or both
- In a supplemental appropriation, prioritize funding for school construction projects to offset the rising costs of construction



STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Lower the ADM factor for assistant principal earned units
- Lower the ADM factor for counselor earned units
- Increase funding for school nurses
- Fund transportation at 100%
- Increase the fleet renewal reimbursement to match the average school bus purchase price (\$103,600 in FY2022)
- Increase funding for summer instructional camps required by the Literacy and Numeracy Acts



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