



Robert L. McCurley, Jr.

## 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature Status Report

	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>BILLS INTRODUCED</b>	1397	1237	1431	1382
<b>Senate</b>	549	420	591	511
<b>House</b>	848	817	840	871
<b>BILLS PASSED</b>	317	327	655	12
(Local / one agency)				
<b>General Application</b>	25	6	250	3
<b>Resolutions</b>	1863	1781	1461	1098

*Entire session: 2004, 2005, 2006 • Two-thirds session: 2007*

At the writing of this article, the legislature is two-thirds of the way through the session. A comparison of how this year stacks up against the previous three years is indicated in the chart above.

The house has continued to move in a methodical way, having passed both the General Fund budget and the Special Education Trust Fund budget and granting pay raises to both teachers and state employees. The only items that have been adopted in both houses include HB-68, the Annual Codification Bill that officially places the previous year's acts in the *Code of Alabama*; HB-141, an appropriation to the Enterprise School System to rebuild their schools devastated by the hurricane earlier this year; HB-664 which provides economic incentives to industries that will employ 2,000 employees onsite and who makes a \$2.5 billion investment in Alabama; and, finally, HB-62, permitting firearm sales to nonresidents.

Many of the major items talked about during the election have yet to make it into law. Bills that have passed the house of representatives are a ban on PAC-to-PAC Transfers, permitting Sunday liquor sales in Class 4, 5 and 6 cities, Environmental Covenants Act and Apportionment of Estate Taxes.

Other high visibility items that have not passed either one of the houses include the state bar's merit selection of judges, the chief justice's bill on merit selection of judges for filling vacancies by the governor and non-partisan election of judges.

A supreme court committee has proposed a new "Children's Code" for Alabama but it is yet to be considered by either house. Other more highly visible items, such as prohibition of annual property appraisals, a new Open Records Act, a billion-dollar school bond issue and a moratorium on the death penalty have yet to be acted upon.

Of the 12 lawyers in the house of representatives, six of them are in their first four years, these being Representatives **Paul DeMarco, Tammy Irons, Chris England, Marc Keahey, Benjamin Lewis, and Earl Hilliard**. The senate newcomers are Senators **Arthur Orr, Bobby Singleton and Ben Brooks**. All are making an immediate impact on the legislature.

The following bills have passed one house of the legislature and are on the calendar of the second house, needing only a vote in the second house to become law.

- HB-56 Uniform Estate Tax Apportionment Act;
- HB-59 Ethics Training for public officials;
- HB-60 Banking Department further regulates where banks may be placed in businesses;
- HB-84 Administrative Procedure Rules will be reviewed every five years if they affect small businesses;
- HB-107 Alternate poll workers;
- HB-118 Electioneering Communications and paid political advertising require a disclosure of source of funding;
- HB-120 PAC-to-PAC Transfers
- HB-122 Ethics Law amended to define a lobbyist to include persons attempting to influence no bid contracts;
- HB-139 Change in County Commissioners' terms;
- HB-167 Competitive Bid Limit increased;
- HB-180 Funding appropriated to repair Judicial Building housing the Supreme Court;
- HB-224 Internet solicitation of children made a crime;


- HB-242 Requirement for a professional engineer to be licensed in Alabama before they can testify in court is deleted;
- HB-332 Write-in candidates in elections must register with Judge of Probate or Secretary of State prior to election;
- HB-358 Presidential preference primary Election Date when held on Mardi Gras to allow early voting in Mobile County;
- HB-391 To permit video testimony of child victims of sexual offense;
- HB-542 Revision of Article XII of the Constitution—Private Corporations; and
- HB-543 Revision of Article XIII of the Constitution—Banking.

The annual meeting of the Alabama Law Institute will be held during the Alabama State Bar's Annual Meeting on Friday, July 20, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear. The topic of discussion will be "Alabama Industrial Development Incentives."

For more information, contact Bob McCurley, director, Alabama Law Institute, at P.O. Box 861425, Tuscaloosa 35486-0013 (fax 205-348-8411, phone 205-348-7411, Website [www.ali.state.al.us](http://www.ali.state.al.us)).

**Robert L. McCurley, Jr.**

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