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When this article went to press, the legislature was exactly half over, with 15 days having elapsed in the legislative session and 15 legislative days remaining. At this time, 1,329 bills have been introduced in the legislature and only nine local bills have found their way into becoming law. The house of representatives passed 179 bills while the senate passed 44. Thirty-two of the senate bills were “Sunset Bills” to continue the existence of an existing agency or board.

The following Law Institute bills passed the house of representatives, been considered by a senate committee and now need only one day to be considered by the senate before obtaining final passage. These are:

- HB-19: Redemption from Ad Valorem Taxes
Representative Mike Hill and Senator Wendell Mitchell
- HB-131: Uniform Revised Limited Partnership Act
Representative Cam Ward and Senator Roger Bedford
- HB-8: Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act
Representative Richard Lindsey and Senator Tom Butler
- HB-39: Uniform Parentage Act
Representative Demetrius Newton and Senator Kim Benefield
- HB-476: Uniform Anatomical Gift Act
Representative Robert Bentley and Senator Ted Little
- Uniform Satisfaction of Residential Mortgage Act (HB-111, SB-32) is still pending in committee—Representative James Buskey and Senator Myron Penn

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

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Other legislation:

Budgets

The governor's 2009 General Budget is below the current 2008 budget and back to the 2007 budgeted amount. His Education Budget for 2009 is also \$400 million below the current budget. Much of the last half of the session will be spent considering these two budgets.

Immigration

Immigration has been a hot topic in Alabama, as well as in other states. This is not an easy issue. Congress was unable to come to an agreement on immigration law, so states are left to devise their own ways of dealing with illegal aliens.

Gambling

A proposal has been introduced to allow gambling at dog tracks and to tax them to help raise revenue to meet the short fall in the budgets. It is expected that this item will be addressed several times by the legislature.

Workers' Compensation

Both the business community and the trial lawyers have introduced bills dealing with various aspects of the workers' compensation law. With this being a complex matter, it is unlikely that a major overhaul will be accomplished this year.

Sunset bills

Each year the legislature reviews approximately one-fourth of the agencies that have licensing boards. This year the review began in the senate where the 32 Sunset bills were first reviewed. Next year these bills will originate in the house. Unless a bill is passed to continue these bills, they will automatically terminate at the end of the fiscal year. All 32 bills have been recommended to be continued.

Local legislation

A great deal of the second half of the session is generally dedicated to considering bills that only affect one

county. Of all the bills that ultimately will pass, between one-third and one-half of the bills will affect just one county. This is due to Alabama's very limited Home Rule.

Institute Fellow

John Tanner, formerly chief, Voting Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Justice Department, Washington, D.C., will be spending the next year on sabbatical with the Alabama Law Institute as a visiting Fellow. He will be writing a handbook on "pre-clearance" issues, teaching election law at both the University of Alabama and Cumberland School of Law and lecturing to lawyers and various governmental groups.

Annual Meeting

The Institute's annual meeting will be held during the annual meeting of the Alabama State Bar at Sandestin. This year's Institute meeting will be Friday, July 11 at 10:15 a.m.

Institute President Demetrius Newton will preside over a program that will include:

- 2008 Legislation of Interest to Lawyers Panel:
 - Senator Roger Bedford
 - Senator Zeb Little
 - Representative Marcel Black
 - Representative Cam Ward
- Business & Non-Profit Entities Code
 - Professor Howard Walthall
- Pre-Clearance Election Issues under the Voting Rights Act
 - John Tanner, Institute Fellow (see above)

Check out the revised Law Institute Web site at www.ali.state.al.us, where you one can find Institute legislation, both the official bill and the ALI draft with Comments, as well as a list of legislators and all bills pending in the legislature. ▲▼▲