



Alabama State Bar LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On Tuesday, January 9 the Alabama Legislature began its 2018 regular session. The early start signals the fourth year of the quadrennium in which the Alabama Constitution requires the legislature to convene on the second Tuesday of January. This allows legislators to take care of business at the statehouse and get back home to prepare for the election year. Alabama legislators serve four-year terms and all seats are up for election this year. The legislature may meet for up to 30 days during a 105-day period. This week there were 202 bills introduced in the House of Representatives and 171 bills introduced in the Senate.

Budgets are the priority of the legislative session, the education and general fund budgets were introduced on Thursday and it is unusual to see them so early. There is much speculation that this session will be shorter than usual and the introduction of budgets during the first week is an optimistic sign. The Alabama State Bar closely follows the budget process and advocates for adequate funding of the court system. Other bills introduced this week that may be of interest involve juvenile justice reform, domestic violence, municipal bail reforms, Alabama Family Trust updates and an update of Alabama Partnership Law.

The Alabama State Bar encourages all members to be aware of legislation that may affect court costs and fees. Access to justice is a priority. Please be aware of advertisements that may be appearing for local bills and those that may already be filed to use the courts as a fundraiser for non-court entities. Seven bills have been filed this first week that affect court costs. We encourage you to be informed and notify us as well.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

The Alabama State Bar provides legislative status reports concerning pending legislation that may be of interest to our members. These reports divide legislation into the following categories for your convenience: criminal, domestic relations, judicial, court costs, elections ethics and government relations (EEGR), civil/general and tax. To view these reports, click [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The House has adjourned until Tuesday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m.

The Senate has adjourned until Tuesday, January 16 at 2:00 p.m.