



Alabama State Bar **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Week six was the most productive week of the 2018 Legislative Session. Both the education and general fund budgets got a lot of attention plus a hectic committee day on Wednesday. On Tuesday, the education budget was debated and passed out of the House and is now headed to the Senate. The education budget contains crucial money for the juvenile probation officers, who are employees of the court system. On Wednesday, the general fund budget was presented in senate committee. The Unified Judicial System received an increase in funding from last year to help relieve the pressure on local funds being used to compensate UJS employees that occurred several years ago when court funding was cut and these positions were at risk. A statewide rideshare bill (UBER/Lyft) has passed out of the legislature and is headed to the Governor's Office for signature. On Thursday, the House stayed late after filibusters and extended debates from the Jefferson County delegation as to local issues as well as legislation that would extend the "stand your ground" law to churches.

Other bills of interest moving this week include more ignition interlock bills (requiring the device in pretrial diversion situations), pay day lending, an expungement bill for juveniles, a public hearing on the civil asset forfeiture bill, the ALI Uniform Condominium bill and the Attorney General's data breach bill. A bill expanding the ability to use a private judge, a bill involving the admissibility of evidence in certain tax appeals were also in action. There was also legislation in committee limiting the ability of legislative members to perform certain consulting services as well as more changes to the evictions process, changes to the right of redemption laws and more legislation affecting municipal courts.

So far, 321 bills have been introduced in the Senate and 430 bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives.

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.

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, February 20 at 1:00 p.m.

The Senate has adjourned until Tuesday, February 20 at 2:00 p.m.