



TO SEE A LIST OF BILLS TRACKED BY AASB
DURING THE 2026 REGULAR SESSION,
CLICK ON BILL TRACKER BELOW:



Governor's Options

All bills passed by the Legislature on the final day are transmitted to the Governor. The risk for every bill transmitted on the last day of a session is that lawmakers have no recourse to override a gubernatorial veto. The governor will now decide whether to sign a bill into law or let it die by her inaction which is called a "pocket veto." She has 10 days to act—April 18.

Enactments

Look for the **2026 AASB Enactments** publication once all bills have been finalized. The Enactments provide Act numbers and a summary of all education-related general bills, local bills and resolutions.

When is the Next Session?

The next regular session begins Feb. 2, 2027. It will be the first year of a new quadrennium and the first year in the newly-built State House.

Legislative Session Recap Webinar

Join AASB's governmental relations team **Wed. May 6** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a free webinar recapping the session.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Legislative Session Adjourned Sine Die

Sine Die: 2026 Session is Over and Out

The House concurred with Senate changes and sent the Education Trust Fund (ETF) budget package to the governor without issue Tuesday. In what seemed like a mad dash, lawmakers spent the final three days pushing a flurry of bills through as they wrapped up the session's remaining business and adjourned the 2026 Regular Session Thursday. The Senate slowed their pace to a crawl on the last day, however, over controversial election-related issues, giving final passage to just five bills.

Tax Credit Tally

With more than \$570 million in ETF tax cuts proposed this session, just twelve of these bills received final passage, but **with a combined annual cost to the ETF of more than \$106 million.** The largest of these is a combined tax credit and tax cut bill, (**H.527 Lomax**), which will annually reduce education revenues by an estimated \$83.4 million. A top priority for House leadership, this bill will create a new overtime income tax exemption up to \$1,000 per qualified taxpayer, and adds a new 60-day state sales tax holiday on groceries from May 1 - June 30. Another \$10 million tax credit, **H.517 (Lomax)**, was created as part of a bill package promoting career and technical education (CTE), also a priority for legislative leadership. *See back page for more information on these two bills.*

Public Records Protection Passes

It was down to the wire, but an **AASB priority bill** that will protect public records requested from local school boards from being misused for wire fraud or solicitation received final passage Wednesday. **S.272** sponsored by **Senate Finance and Taxation Education Chair Sen. Arthur Orr** makes two targeted updates to the state's open records law. It will now allow any public entity to redact sensitive personally identifying information when responding to a public records

request when that information could be misused to fraudulently initiate a financial transaction. The bill also will enable school boards to require requestors submit a written certification that records will not be used for solicitation or resale. Penalties for knowingly misusing school board records for solicitation are up to \$500 per violation, enforced by the Attorney General. **AASB thanks Sen. Arthur Orr and Rep. Frances Holk-Jones for carrying this bill!**

Gone to Governor

These education-related bills received final passage in this last week:

- **H.8 (Gidley) Campus Chaplains** - would authorize local school boards to vote on allowing volunteer chaplains in schools. This bill received final passage after being filed three previous sessions.
- **H.75 (Robertson) High School Signing Day** - would require high schools to excuse students from class who participate in organized National Signing Day activities.
- **H.178 (Garrett) City BOE Consolidation** - would create a process for the consolidation of two or more contiguous city school systems and allow for the merger of school boards.
- **H.329 (Faulkner) Computer Science Courses** - would require all public school students complete an approved high school or college-level computer science course, beginning with the graduating class of 2032.
- **H.380 (Collins) County BOE Consolidation [C/A]** - if approved by voters, would amend Alabama's Constitution to allow two or more contiguous county boards of education to consolidate.
- **H.420 (Butler) Discharging Firearm** - would increase the penalty for discharging a firearm into an occupied school bus or school building to a Class A felony.
- **H.511 (Ingram) Pledge and Prayer [C/A]** - if approved by voters, would amend Ala-

bama’s Constitution to require each local school board to adopt policy mandating the daily, voluntary recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance and permitting voluntary student-led, student-initiated prayer.

➤ **H.517 (Lomax) TRAIN Act** - would create the Talent Readiness and Industry Needs (TRAIN) Act allowing schools to partner directly with businesses for Career and Technical Education (CTE) instruction, and for participating businesses and community development foundations to receive a tax credit, capped at \$10 million annually.

➤ **H.520 (Paramore) CTE Teacher Certification** - would require the SBOE to establish an expedited certification pathway for CTE teachers relocating to Alabama.

➤ **H.533 (Wilcox) Epinephrine in Schools** - would allow any FDA-approved, single-dose premeasured form of epinephrine (a nasal spray) to be carried and used by students and schools to treat life-threatening allergic reactions.

➤ **S.5 (Allen) Star-Spangled Banner [C/A]** - if approved by voters, would amend Alabama’s Constitution to require local boards to adopt policies ensuring every public K–12 school broadcasts or formally presents the first stanza of “The Star-Spangled Banner” at least once each week during school hours.

➤ **S.62 (Orr) Charter School Finance Authority** - would establish the Alabama Charter School Finance Authority to issue bonds for financing loans for charter school capital projects.

➤ **S.99 (Kelley) Ten Commandments** - would require school boards to display a poster or framed document, no smaller than 11 x 14, of the Ten Commandments and a historical context statement in every fifth through twelfth grade history classroom, and in a common area of a school with grades five and above, subject to private funding. The SDE would be required to identify appropriate resources for school boards to comply free of charge.

➤ **S.158 (Price) ASVAB in High Schools** - would require public high schools to designate time and space for military recruiters to administer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test to students on a voluntary basis.

➤ **S.209 (Shelnett) Sex Education** - would require public K-12 schools teaching sex education to teach sexual risk avoidance instead of comprehensive sex education. It would prohibit sex education curricula from including discussion of how to obtain abortions or contraceptives or demonstration of contraceptive use.

➤ **S.211 (Allen) Sick Leave Donations** - would require the SBOE to adopt a model policy governing sick leave banks, catastrophic leave and direct donations of leave. It removes existing limits on catastrophic sick leave donations and allows education employees to donate sick leave directly to one another, even across systems.

➤ **S.280 (Waggoner) TRS/ERS Service Credit** - would allow teachers and state employees to purchase credit in the Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) or Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) for public service performed for the federal government.

➤ **S.300 (Figures) Helping Schools Tag** - would put into law the exact design to be used for Alabama’s Helping Schools motor vehicles tags.

➤ **S.317 (Orr) Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services** - would recreate the existing commission as a legislative entity. The commission would be able to require state agencies to submit an evaluation plan for each new program and major expansion (more than 25% increase over the prior year) of an existing program receiving a state appropriation. The commission could conduct a preliminary study of any proposed or existing policies or programs, and evaluate any program or line item as directed by the legislature. The bill also would create a Legislative Committee on the Evaluation of Services, led by the budget chairs, to oversee the commission.

➤ **S.337 (Stutts) 16th Section Lands** - would require the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to sell certain school indemnity lands at the local school board’s request and specify how to distribute the proceeds.

➤ **S.342 (Chambliss) CHOOSE Act Athletic Eligibility** - would create enforcement mechanisms for the CHOOSE Act’s athletic eligibility nondiscrimination rules and would allow participating students to seek damages or injunctive relief if an athletic association acts against them solely because of their CHOOSE Act status.

➤ **S.364 (Smitherman) Conflict Resolution** - would require all public school students in grades 6-12 to receive instruction in violence prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation before graduation. It also directs the SDE to develop related instructional standards.

Signed into Law

✓ **Act No: 2026-283 TEAMS Contracts** - Beginning Oct. 1, 2026, teachers in the Teacher Excellence and Accountability for Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) program may receive a contract of up to three years.

✓ **Act No: 2026-286 Retiree Return to Work** - Beginning Oct. 1, 2026 through Dec. 31, 2032, TRS and ERS retirees would be allowed to return to work full-time as school bus drivers, school resource officers and other law enforcement positions without having their retirement benefits suspended.

✓ **Act No: 2026-303 Teacher Loan Assistance** - would rename the Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP) as the Loan Assistance in Support of Educators in Alabama (LASEA) program to provide loan assistance in acute educator shortage programs.

✓ **Act No: 2026-364 Gulf of America** - would rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America and require all state and local entities to implement the name change unless compliance would impose an operational or financial burden on the entity or employees.

✓ **Act No: 2026-376 Religious Release Time** - would require any public school to allow a child to participate in off-site religious instruction during the school day, at their parent’s request, if sponsored by a local church or community-based religious organization.

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Would you like AASB
to present to your
local civic groups?



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