

# FROM THE FLOOR

The latest news and updates from D.C. to Montgomery and Mobile



**Mobile Chamber**

## Tax Legislation Supporting Small Business Passes; Governor Signs Permitless Carry

The Legislature used three legislative days this week leaving nine days remaining in the session.

On Thursday, both chambers passed legislation that will initially lower the minimum business privilege tax from \$100 to \$50 for the taxable year beginning December 31, 2022. SB 290 by Sen. Tom Butler, R-Huntsville, and HB 391 by Rep. Steve Clouse, R-Ozark, both received overwhelming support from their respective chambers. The legislation would eventually eliminate the minimum business privilege tax and in turn save Alabama small businesses \$23 million a year.

Also on Thursday, the Legislature gave final approval to HB 272 by Rep. Shane Stringer, R-Citronelle, which would eliminate the requirement of a permit to carry a concealed weapon. Last week, the Senate approved an amended version of the bill, but the House chose to non-concur with the Senate's changes on Wednesday sending it to a conference committee. On Thursday, the conference committee approved a compromised version of SB 272 which was quickly passed by both chambers, and the Governor signed it into law.

Other legislative activity this week included:

- The Senate unanimously passed HB 250 by Rep. Kenyatté Hassell, D-Montgomery, which would authorize the Alabama Port Authority to build intermodal and multi-modal facilities in addition to existing authorized facilities. This bill would amend the definition of dock facilities to no longer limit facilities located on navigable rivers, streams, or waterways. The bill now goes to the Governor for approval.
- HB 255 by Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Cullman, passed the Senate unanimously. The bill proposes a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would allow the state, counties and municipalities to grant federal funds for broadband infrastructure directly with private industry instead of going through the public bid process.
- On Wednesday, the Senate Tourism Committee gave a favorable report to two bills dealing with the implementation of a state lottery and casino-style gaming in Alabama. SB 293 by Sen. Greg Albritton, R-Atmore, proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize a state lottery, sports betting, eight full casinos with slots and table games and two smaller gambling sites that could have up to 300 slot machines each.
- According to the bill's fiscal note, the lottery is estimated to produce between \$198 million and \$285 million and the gaming portion is estimated to produce between \$267 million and \$404 million annually from the 20% state tax levied. SB 294 creates the Alabama Education Lottery and Gambling Commission that will provide oversight and be responsible for the issuing of licenses. The bills are now pending action in the Senate. If enacted, the constitutional amendment would appear on the November 2022 general election ballot.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**800**

Number of bills introduced this week

**9**

Number of legislative days remaining in the 2022 session



## LAYTON LITTLE JOINS ADVOCACY TEAM

Layton Little is joining the Mobile Chamber as the director of government affairs. Layton comes to Mobile from Washington, D.C. where he worked at Deloitte and Touché as an auditor with clients primarily focused on aerospace and defense, technology, retail and the restaurant industries. He is an alumnus of Mississippi State University, where he graduated with dual degrees in accountancy and finance. He is also a graduate of Royal Holloway, the University of London where he obtained a master's degree in International Public Policy. We are excited to welcome Layton to the Chamber! He can be reached at [LLittle@mobilechamber.com](mailto:LLittle@mobilechamber.com).



The next GAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21 at 12:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Rep. Chris Pringle, co-chairman of the Alabama Legislature's Redistricting Committee. Due to social distancing requirements, in-person seats are limited, and the meeting will be available on Zoom. Email Carolyn Wilson at [cwilson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cwilson@mobilechamber.com) to reserve your seat or receive the link.