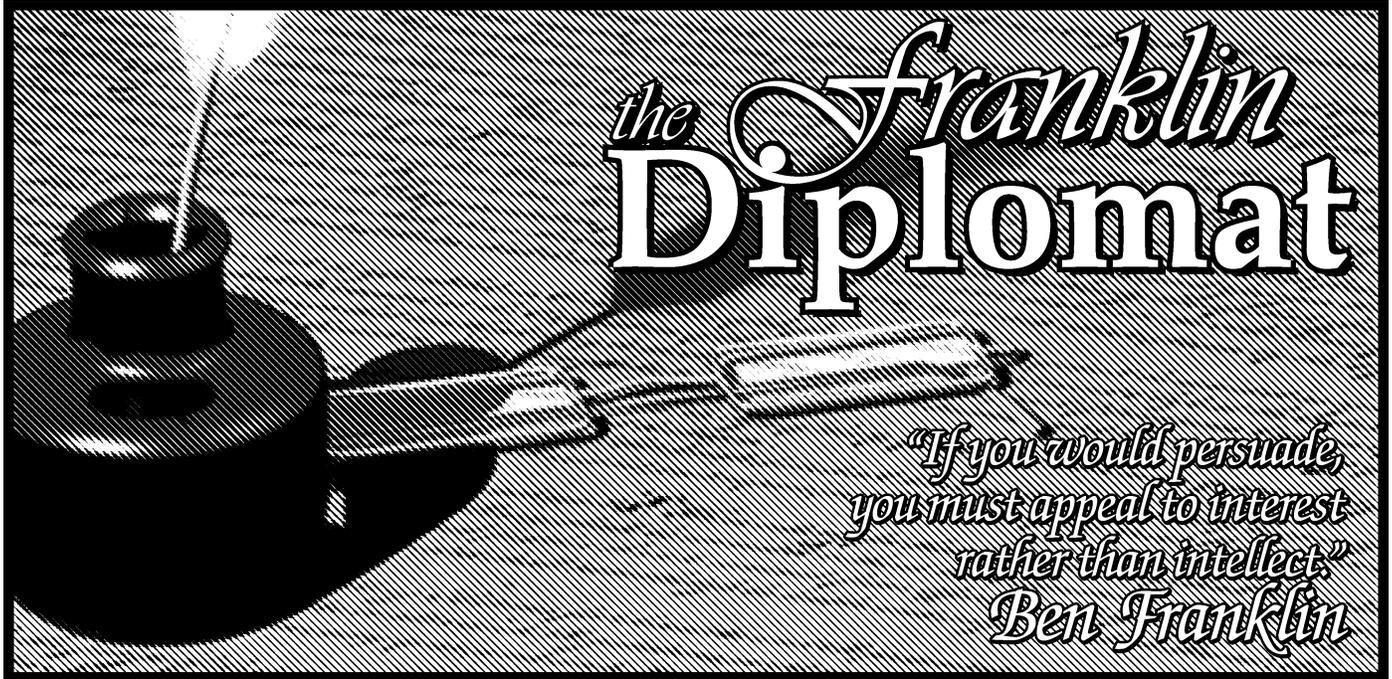


Volume 3 - February 19, 2016



A Publication by the Franklin Resources Group

THE HOUSE

Filibusters & Cloture

THE SENATE

Sunset

IN COMMITTEE

This Week

NEW ADDITION

House District 5

HOUSE RECONVENES
Tuesday, Feb. 23 – 1:30 p.m.

SENATE RECONVENES
Tuesday, Feb. 23 – 2:00 p.m.

VISIT NEW WEBSITE

www.franklinresourcesgroup.com

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THE HOUSE
Filibusters & Cloture

It has not taken long for the House of Representatives to become contentious. Tuesday, House Democrats used stalling tactics to delay a vote on HB174 by Rep. David Faulkner (R-Mountain Brook). This proposed bill prevents municipalities and counties from passing minimum wage laws.

Currently, Alabama does not have a minimum wage law, so employers follow the federal law, which is \$7.25 per hour. Last year, the city of Birmingham voted a two-step increase of the cities minimum wage to \$8.50 beginning March 1 2016 and increasing to \$10.10 in 2017. If passed, Rep. Faulkner's legislation would prevent Birmingham from implementing the increase. This legislation passed the House, 71-31., after a cloture motion was evoked cutting off debate.

Wednesday evening, the House passed HB37 by Rep. Arnold Mooney (R-Birmingham), which would enshrine in Alabama's 1901 Constitution, the status as a Right-to-Work state. This constitution amendment will have to be approved by the voters of Alabama. Also passing was HB45 by Rep. April Weaver (R-Brierfield), banning the sale of fetal body parts, mirroring an already existing federal law..

All three bills are part of the House GOP agenda "Right For Alabama" and now go to the Senate for consideration.

Thursday, the House debated and passed HB43 by Alan Boothe (R-Troy), which would allow the hunting of deer and feral swine by means of bait on private property. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

THE SENATE
Sunset

Tuesday, the Senate began where they left off last Thursday passing another ten sunset bills. Each year certain executive branch agencies, commissions, and boards are reviewed by the Legislature for a 4-year cyclical performance evaluation, and if not reauthorized by the Legislature they are "sunsetting." By the end of this three-day legislative week, all 28 sunset bills were approved by the Senate and now are on their way to the House for consideration.

The Senate passed several economic development bills including SB75 by Sen. Gerald Dial (R- Linville) known as the "Veterans Employment Act" and SB90 by Sen. Arthur Orr (R- Decatur) known as the "Apprenticeship Tax Credit Act".

The Senate also passed a handful of non-controversial bills including SB184 by Sen. Billy Beasley (D-Clayton) designating Lane Cake as the official state dessert.

IN COMMITTEE**This Week**

- **SB13** by Sen. Gerald Allen (R-Tuscaloosa) passed the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee 5-2, which would prohibit the removal of historical monuments placed on public property.
- **SB14** by Sen. Gerald Allen (R-Tuscaloosa) would authorize a person to carry a pistol without a license in his or her vehicle, place of abode, their place of business or a vehicle owned by someone else with their consent. The legislation is opposed by law enforcement.
- **SB108** by Sen. Tom Whatley (R-Auburn) changes the threshold age of a youthful offender to under 23 or 25, if a full-time student if the crime doesn't involve moral turpitude or subject to a sentence of a year or more. The bill passed out of Senate Judiciary 9-2 and is in position to be debated by the whole Senate.
- **SB15** by Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) passed out of the Senate General Fund Committee Wednesday. The bill would un earmark about \$370 million in tax revenues, including \$153 million currently earmarked for Department of Human Resources. Sen. Ward said the Legislature needs more flexibility to set spending priorities. Ward said about 92 percent of the state budget is earmarked, a higher percentage than in any other state. It now goes to the full Senate for consideration.
- **HB22** by Rep. Mike Holmes (R-Wetumpka) would strengthen penalties for youthful drivers and their parents if a violation of the graduated driver license regulations was committed. HB22 passed easily out of the House Public Safety & Homeland Committee.
- **SB23** by Senator Chambliss (R-Prattville) and its companion **HB8** by Rep. Beckman (R-Millbrook). These bills were both approved by the Judiciary Committee to address the crime of aggravated child abuse of a child under the age of 6. This changes the penalties to a Class A felony. Both bills are ready for a vote by the full House.

NEW ADDITION**House District 5**

Republican Danny Crawford won a special election on Tuesday to replace Rep. Dan Williams (R-Athens), who passed away last July. With 59 % of the vote, Rep. Crawford defeated former Democratic Legislator Henry White. Rep. Crawford (R-Athens) is a former state director of the Farm Service Agency and currently is an independent crop insurance contractor.

We at Franklin Resources Group congratulate Rep. Crawford and welcome him to the Alabama Legislature.

the franklin
Diplomat

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