

STATE HOUSE ADVOCATE



THIS WEEK IN LEAGUE ADVOCACY

The State House Advocate is a service of the Alabama League of Municipalities

October 4, 2021

First Special Session of 2021 Concludes

At a Glance:

- 2021 First Special Session Overview
- Prison Construction Plan
- Criminal-Justice Reform

Legislative Update

On Friday, October 1, the Alabama Legislature adjourned Sine Die and concluded the First Special Session of 2021. The special session call by Governor Ivey dealt specifically with Prison Infrastructure and Criminal Justice Reform. The bills proposed by the Governor passed in the minimum amount of time, five days. The proposal called for a phase one infrastructure that would build two new prisons. The funding mechanism will be a bond issue of \$785 million and \$400 million from the American Rescue Plan Act that was issued to the state by the federal government. Additionally, more than \$150 million appropriated from the State General Fund budget will be set aside for existing prison updates and maintenance.

The Criminal Justice Reform bills that the Governor included in the special session call allow for those sentenced under the Habitual Felony Offender Act prior to October 1, 2013, to be eligible for resentencing and addressed issues around the release of inmates.

The ALM Advocacy Team worked with lawmakers, staff and other officials to stay advised of the special session beforehand and during the proceedings. We do expect another special session addressing the 2020 census redistricting requirements, later this fall. We will continue to keep track of legislation as it arises and will update you of any legislative issues.

Prison Construction Plan

HB4 – by Rep. Clouse addresses the finance, construction and renovation of prisons. The bill authorizes the Alabama Corrections Institution Finance Authority to issue bonds up to \$785 million to implement a prison modernization plan which would build two new 4,000-bed men’s prisons (one in Elmore County and the other in Escambia County) as well as a new women’s prison (Elmore County). The plan also provides for the renovation of certain facilities, the creation of the Correctional Facilities Maintenance Fund and the creation the Department of Corrections Correctional Capital Improvement Fund. Click [here](#) for ACT #2021-546.

HB5 – by Rep. Clouse allocated \$400 million from the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Revenue Replacement Fund to the Department of Corrections – Correctional Capital Improvement Fund. Click [here](#) for ACT #2021-547.

HB6 – by Rep. Clouse makes a supplemental appropriation of \$135 million from the unanticipated and unappropriated beginning balance in the State General Fund budget for the fiscal year 2022 to the Department of Corrections - Correctional Capital Improvement Fund. Additionally, the bill makes a supplemental appropriation of \$19 million to the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles for the purchase and renovation of the Perry County Correctional Facility. Click [here](#) for ACT #2021-548.

Criminal-Justice Reform

HB1 – by Rep. Hill allows for currently incarcerated individuals who committed nonviolent felonies and who were sentenced pursuant to the statutory sentencing range or the Habitual Felony Offender Act prior to October 1, 2013, to be eligible to be resentenced pursuant to the presumptive sentencing standards currently in effect. HB1 was given a favorable report by a House committee but was not given final passage by the full body.

HB2 – by Rep. Hill addresses mandatory supervised release of inmates. The legislation creates new sentencing provisions, requires electronic monitoring for certain released inmates and for the Department of Corrections to provide an inmate with a nondriver ID card prior to release. Click [here](#) for ACT #2021-549.

Engagement Opportunities With ALM

The League’s Municipal Leadership Institute (MLI) will be held November 1-3, in Montgomery at the Performing Arts Center and features the top legal and administrative authorities on municipal government in Alabama.

This year’s Institute focuses on Building a Strong Community and Workforce Through Education. Panel discussions include:

- Preparing Students to be Active, Energized Citizens
- Workforce Development for a Better Future
- Building a Workforce in Your Community with Skills on Wheels

MLI also provides additional sessions dedicated to the American Rescue Plan emphasizing how to leverage rescue dollars for your community and understanding reporting and compliance requirements.

[A room block with a special rate has been secured and closes THIS FRIDAY!](#)

Click [here](#) to view the agenda and register. You do not want to miss this great networking opportunity!

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY LINKS

- [League Legislative Page](#)
- [Grassroots Advocacy](#)
- [ALISON](#)
- [Governor's Office](#)
- [Contacts for the House](#)
- [Contacts for the Senate](#)





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