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It was a wild and crazy week in the Alabama Legislature. On Tuesday the House took up the Education Budget. Debate went on for over eleven hours and when the clock passed midnight into Wednesday the fourteenth legislative day was in the book. The Senate was not in session at the time and having other business scheduled, did not meet as a body on Wednesday. When both Houses adjourned on Thursday the fifteenth legislative day was gone and the half-way mark of the session had been passed.

HB132 (repose) was scheduled to come out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday afternoon. On Tuesday the Rules Committee had placed the Senate version of the repose bill (SB59) on the Special Order Calendar for Thursday. Had the House bill (HB132) been reported out of committee our sponsor, Senator Cam Ward was going to bring up the Senate bill and substitute the House bill and pass it, thereby not having to have the legislation considered by either House twice. Unfortunately, there was no quorum and HB132 did not get out of committee. Still the Senate version of the Repose bill stayed on the Calendar and was to get its third reading in the upper house. That would have left us with the option of taking either of the bills through the other House. However, the best laid plans of mice and men do often go astray.

The constitution requires that sunset legislation must be taken up no later than one hour after convening on the fifteenth legislative day. As a result of Wednesday being a legislative day because of the House going past midnight on Tuesday, the Senate had to deal with the sunset bills on Thursday. That killed the Special Order Calendar that had SB59. So, because of factors beyond anyone's control your repose bill did not have any action taken on it this week. All is not lost. The bill is still in good position and we know of no opposition. Everyone who negotiated on the bill has stood by their agreements. Our biggest enemy is time. With the new Republican leadership planning on wrapping up the Session in early May, we may have only two or three weeks to get the bill to final passage.

Although your repose legislation did not move any this week other issues that we are involved with did. HB399, the Tax at the Rack bill cleared committee on Tuesday and your Licensing Board's sunset bill passed the Senate on Thursday. And almost every day there is some sort of change made to the Senate bill (SB256) while the House bill (HB56) has yet to be received by the Senate. It still seems that the two versions are headed for a collision before the session is over.

Until next time. . . . .

**Chris Williams**  
Director, Governmental Relations

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