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After weeks of intense negotiation with the Alabama Trial Lawyers over the rewrite of the statute of repose, agreement was reached and HB132 took its first step toward the Governor's desk when it came out of committee on Wednesday.

The measure has a seven (7) year statute of repose and a two (2) year statute of limitations. While this is not where we started and not what we would have preferred, it is certainly better than what we have now which is a 15 year total. As Ken Upchurch III, who attended the committee meeting said, "this is good for business, our industry and for our association."

Special thanks go to our sponsor Greg Canfield who worked closely with both sides to broker a compromise on this bill and to the committee members who unanimously voted for the measure: Richard Baughn, David Colston, Barry Moore, Kurt Wallace and Jack Williams.

Although this week's action was a good beginning, we have a long way to go. The bill must clear committee in the Senate and be voted on by both Houses. We expect the Trial Lawyers to stand by their agreement but they are worthy opponents and still have a lot of clout in the State House. That, along with the new leaderships desire to end the session early, means we must keep our legislation moving.

You can help by telling any legislator you know or have influence with to support and vote for HB132 and SB59. You can also email the members of the Commerce and Small Business Committee. Tell them who you are, identify your company and the fact you are an AGC member, and thank them for being present and voting for HB132.

Greg Canfield	gcanfield@bellsouth.net
Richard Baughn	rgbups@yahoo.com
David Colston	asthp20@yahoo.com
Barry Moore	barry@barrymooreindustries.com
Kurt Wallace	representativewallace@gmail.com
Jack Williams	jack@jackwilliams.org

There is much more going on in Montgomery than just our statute of repose and AGC is working on several other issues but for now it is important to keep the momentum going for this legislation.

Until next time.

Chris Williams
Director, Governmental Relations

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