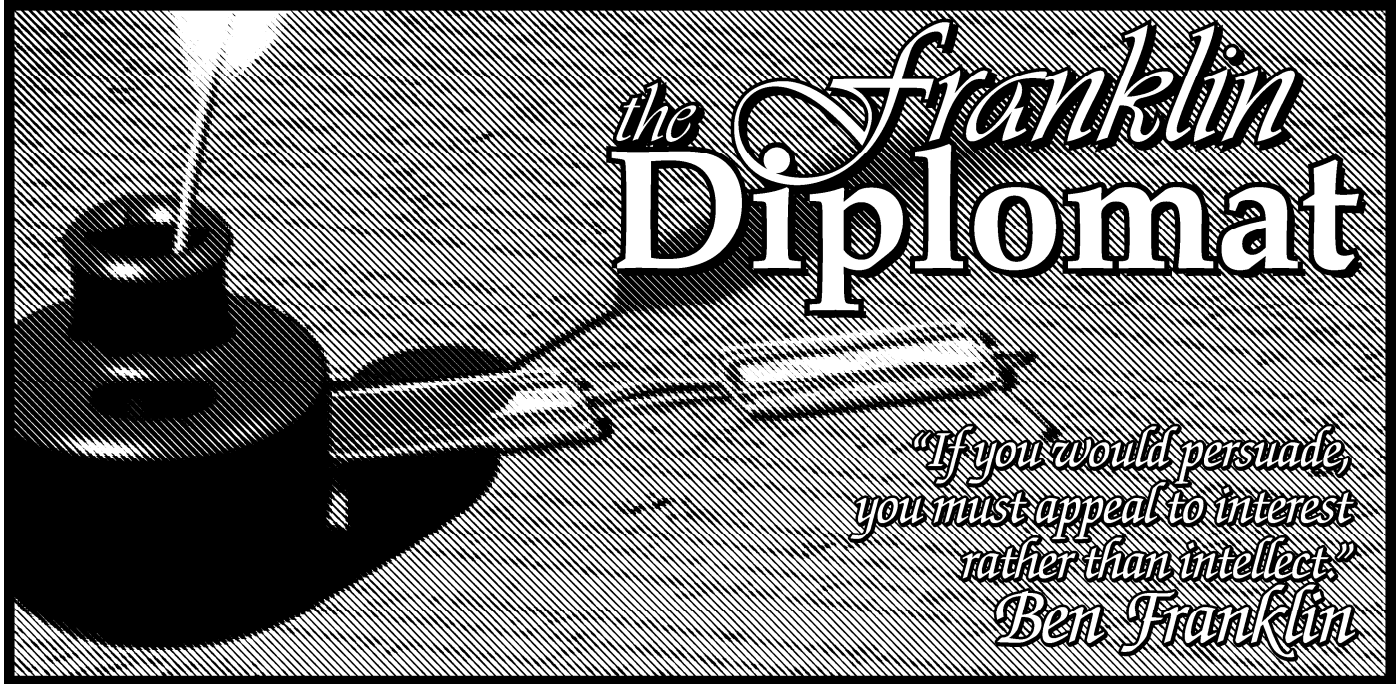


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THE SENATE

THE HOUSE

SINE DIE

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**THE SENATE**  
**Disagreements**

The Senate progressed at a snail's pace Thursday, giving final passage to the remainder of the Republican "Handshake with Alabama" bills, the budgets and redistricting along with these bills;

- HB18 by Rep. Kerry Rich (R-Albertville) - prohibiting a physician from performing an abortion after 20 weeks.
- HB58 by Rep. Mike Ball (R-Madison) - requiring public officials and their spouses to disclose any contracts they have with state agencies.
- HB60 by Rep. Blaine Galliher (R-Gadsden) - a constitutional amendment prohibiting mandatory participation in any health care system.
- HB19 by Rep. Kerry Rich (R-Albertville) - requiring voters to show a government issued photo identification when.
- HB64 by Rep. Kurt Wallace (R-Maplesville) - a constitutional amendment requiring elections by secret ballot on whether workers should be represented by unions.
- HB414 by Rep. Jay Love (R-Montgomery) - requiring teachers, state employees and judges to contribute more to their individual retirement programs.

Productivity in the Senate was stymied even though the Republican leadership controlled the day by using cloture petitions to cut off debate. Senate Republicans ended debate 46 times during this session by voting cloture. Democrats slowed the day by having every bill read at length, often to an empty Senate chamber. Ten hours of the 14-hour day was dominated by the voice of a computer reading legislation, including the last bill passed by the Senate, HB621 by Rep. Jim McClendon (R-Springville) the redistricting plan for the State Board of Education. This bill took over four hours to read.

Jefferson County legislation dictated a very disappointing final day in the Senate. The main culprit was HB650 by Rep. Jack Williams (R-Birmingham), legislation giving the Jefferson County Commission power to raise taxes. The bill was designed to replace the County's occupational tax which was declared unconstitutional. This resulted in a loss to the county of approximately \$65 million. Rules Chairman Scott Beason (R-Gardendale) opposed the solution and refused to allow the bill to come up for a vote. The bill was supported by all other Senators in the Jefferson County delegation.

Without the passage of HB650, Jefferson County Commissioners are expected to layoff about 1,000 of the 3,000 county employees.

There were other key legislative bills left on the table this final day:

- HB478 by Rep. Barry Mask (R-Wetumpka) – providing resurrection of the incentives that were used to attract Mercedes and suppliers in 1993.
- HB485 by Rep. Dan Williams (R-Athens) – extending the time granting authorities can abate certain ad valorem taxes for data processing centers located in the state in an attempt to encourage data processing centers to locate in Alabama.
- SB180 by Sen. Del Marsh (R-Anniston) – changing the name of ADO to the Alabama Department of Commerce and would name the head of the department the Secretary of Commerce.
- HB548 by Rep. Jay Love (R-Montgomery) – closing a tax loophole with foreign corporations that would have generated \$20 million to the General Fund budget.
- HB294 by Rep. Mary Sue McClurkin (R-Pelham) – streamlining the process of contested cases for hospital Certificate of Need (CON) applications.
- HB427 by Rep. Paul DeMarco (R-Homewood) – Taxpayers bill of rights.
- HB102 by Rep. Jim McClendon (R-Springville) – prohibiting texting while driving.
- A package of Sentencing Reform bills, with the exception of two minor-adjustment bills.

## **THE HOUSE**

### **Productive**

While the Senate was busy attempting to get their chamber in order, the House had a productive day approving the budgets and also passing 28 non-controversial bills. Here are a few that passed the House Thursday:

- SB267 by Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) – to further provide for the revocation and suspension of probation; to define an administrative violation, eligible offender, nonviolent offender, and new offense; and to further provide when a successive petition for resentencing may be considered.
- SB47 by Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) – establish a website – database for statewide automated victim notification system of a felon's status
- SB255 by Sen. Gerald Dial (R-Lineville) – giving economic incentives to companies that produce documentaries, soundtracks, mini-series and reality series in the state.

A tradition in the House of Representatives is the presentation of the Shroud Award. This humorous honor is given to the sponsor of the "deadest" bill of the session. Rep. Mac McCutcheon (R-Capshaw) was this year's recipient. His bill to allow home breweries, where you could make beer, mead, cider and wine in you home, was defeated earlier in the session on a 45-28 vote.

**“Senators we are adjourned Sine Die” – Lt. Governor Kay Ivey at Midnight**

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