

## Summary of action in Alabama Legislature

*The Associated Press*

*Published: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 7:39 p.m.*

A summary of action in the Alabama Legislature on Tuesday, the 14th meeting day of the regular session:

### HOUSE:

- Approved a bill to make looting a crime in Alabama. Goes to Senate.
- Passed two bills that would alter the organizational structure of the Alabama Department of Transportation to allow the director to appoint three deputy directors and a chief engineer. Go to Senate.
- Approved a resolution mourning the death of Ricky Wyatt. He was the plaintiff in a long running lawsuit against the Alabama Department of Mental Health.
- Voted for a bill to reimburse Mobile County for extra expenses caused by a presidential primary in 2008 that wa on the same day as the county's Mardi Gras Day. Goes to Senate.
- Passed a bill to make it a crime to impersonate a local official or a law enforcement officer. Goes to Senate.
- Debated at length a bill to establish minimum qualifications for sheriffs in Alabama, but did not vote on it.

### SENATE:

- Gave final approval to a bill that gives tax credits to businesses that hire unemployed veterans who were recently deployed. Goes to governor for signing into law.
- Gave final approval to a bill that changes the name of the state's industry recruiting office from the Alabama Development Office to the Department of Commerce. Goes to governor for signing into law.

### COMMITTEES:

- Senate Finance and Taxation-General Fund Committee voted to provide an extra \$45.3 million to the prison system to protect it against budget cuts and nearly \$119,000 to a Carrollton woman who was wrongfully jailed on a capital murder charge. Goes to Senate.

**AGENDA:**

-House and Senate honor Academy Award-winning actress Octavia Spencer at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the House chamber.

-Senate Confirmations Committee meets at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday in room 304 of the Statehouse to consider appointees to state boards.

-House Ways and Means Education Committee holds public hearing at 9 a.m. Wednesday in room 617 to discuss bill to authorize charter schools in Alabama.

-House Constitution, Campaigns and Elections Committee meets at 9 a.m. in room 123 to consider a bill concerning compensation for legislators.

-Senate Finance and Taxation-Education Committee meets at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in room 727 to consider tax incentives for the movie industry.

-Senate Finance and Taxation-General Fund Committee meets at 10 a.m. Wednesday in room 727 to consider state retirement benefits legislation.

-Senate Judiciary Committee meets at 1 p.m. Wednesday in room 325 to consider legislation creating a covenant marriage.

-House Economic Development and Tourism Committee meets at 1:30 p.m. in room 418 to consider a bill that would allow restaurant patrons to put the cork back in an unfinished bottle of wine and take it home.

-Senate Constitution and Elections Committee meets at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in room 325 to consider bills affecting the Legislature's compensation.

-House meets at 9 a.m. and Senate at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Copyright © 2012 GadsdenTimes.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.