



The 2026 Legislative Session: Focus on PEEHIP Funding

BY NEAH M. SCOTT, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

The 2026 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature began on January 13, 2026, and will end on or before April 27, 2026. The Legislature is more than halfway through the allotted thirty legislative days of session.

Funding for the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Plan (PEEHIP) has been a central issue this session. PEEHIP has requested an additional \$380 million to address sustained healthcare cost growth affecting the plan.

With declining revenues in the Education Trust Fund and competing priority of providing a pay raise for active education employees, fully funding this request will be challenging. Governor Ivey included an additional \$210 million of funding for PEEHIP in her budget. Greater clarity

on the Legislature's funding intent will emerge when the Education Trust Fund budget begins moving through the committee process, which is expected in early March.

Two return-to-work bills have been filed that, as substituted, would make changes to the temporary return-to-work exception that allows retirees to draw their retirement benefit and to earn up to \$52,000 annually if they return to work as school resource officers, correctional officers, fire medics, or university police. Retirees returning to work in other classifications for RSA-participating employers are limited to \$40,000 for calendar year 2026.

SB28, by Sen. Elliott, and HB138, by Rep. Paschal, would add various law

enforcement classifications to the exception. The bills would add a years of service requirement to be able to utilize the exception. Finally, the bills would allow retirees who retired prior to January 1, 2026, or have drawn a benefit for twelve consecutive months to work full-time as bus drivers, as retirees currently are restricted to part-time and must drive less routes than full-time bus drivers.

RSA provides weekly legislative updates and maintains a bill tracking chart on its website at rsa-al.gov/about-rsa/legislation/. Additionally, make sure you stay engaged with your employee and retiree associations. They are always there to advocate on your behalf and to ensure your benefits are protected! ●

RTJ Golf Trail at Magnolia Grove

RTJGOLF.COM

Experience championship golf at its finest at **Magnolia Grove**, home to two stunningly renovated courses on Alabama's renowned Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Thoughtfully upgraded to enhance playability while honoring Robert Trent Jones' original vision, Magnolia Grove delivers a premier golf experience for players of all skill levels. As the southernmost stop on the Trail, it has earned national acclaim, including recognition as one of *Golf World's Top 50 Public Courses*.

Set amid scenic creeks, marshland, and shimmering lakes, Magnolia Grove features 54 unforgettable holes carved through towering hardwoods and pines. The **Crossings Course**, a proven

championship venue that has hosted both the LPGA Tour and the Korn Ferry Tour Championship, offers an inviting park-



land-style layout. Strategic water features, striking crushed oyster shell waste areas, and pristine Mini Verde UltraDwarf

greens create a visually stunning and rewarding challenge on every hole.

The **Falls Course**, the only par-71 layout on the Trail, delivers a bold and distinctive experience. Completely refreshed, it showcases expansive, beautifully contoured Mini Verde greens, dramatic cloverleaf bunkers, and several fully-redesigned holes that give the course a fresh, modern identity.

Rounding out the experience is Magnolia Grove's acclaimed **Short Course**, named by *Golf Digest* as the **best par-3 course in America**. Recently renovated with Champion UltraDwarf Bermuda

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RTJ Golf Trail at Magnolia Grove

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greens, this exceptional collection of one-shot holes rivals those found on the world's great championship courses.

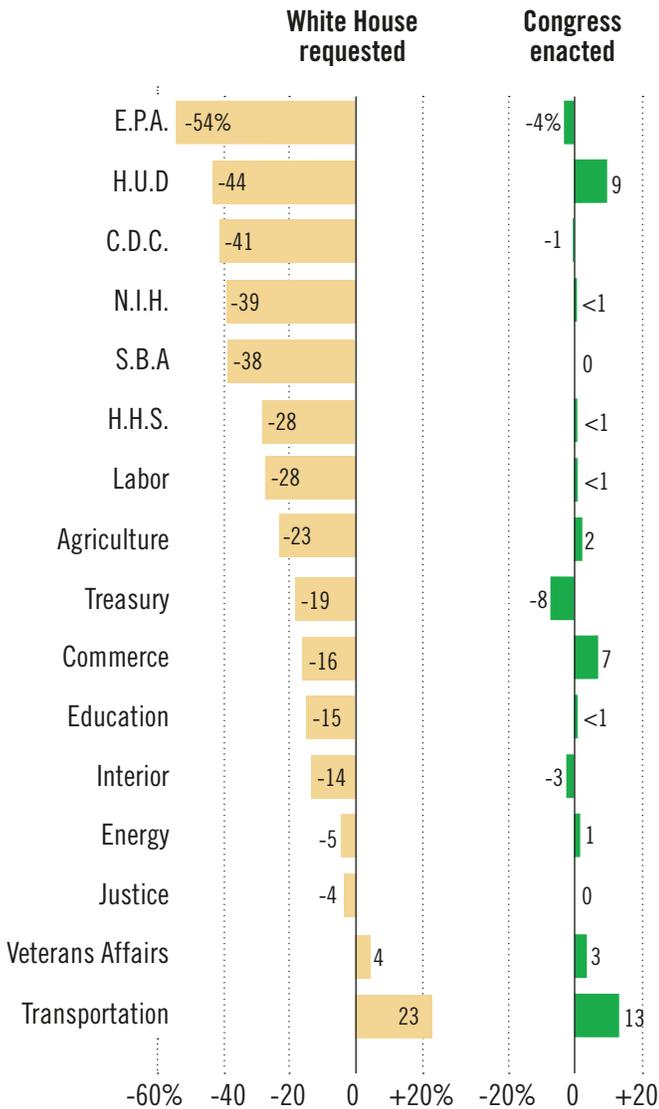
Discover why Magnolia Grove is celebrated as one of *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play," recognized among *America's*

Top 50 Affordable Courses, and regarded as a must-play destination for golfers everywhere. ●

The Cuts Trump Did and Didn't Get

THE NEW YORK TIMES

While the White House requested sizable spending reductions for U.S. agencies, Congress, in most cases, enacted slight cuts or increases to the 2026 budget.



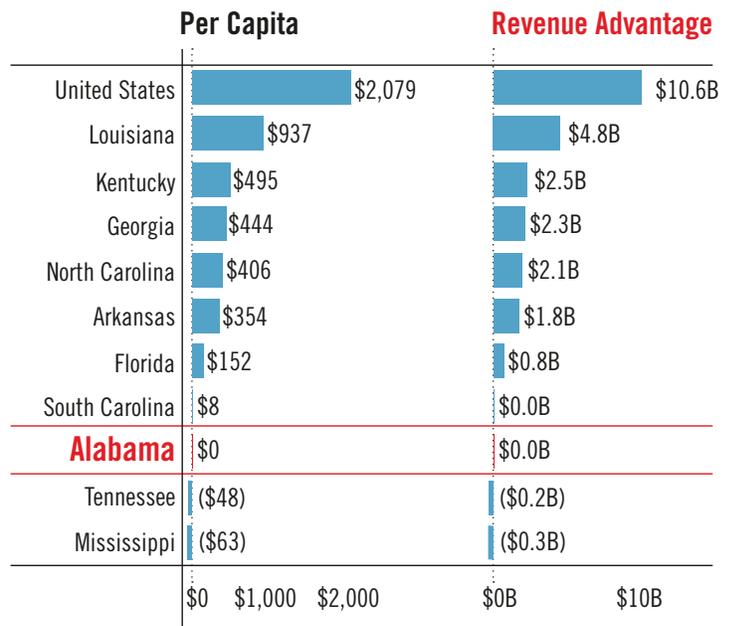
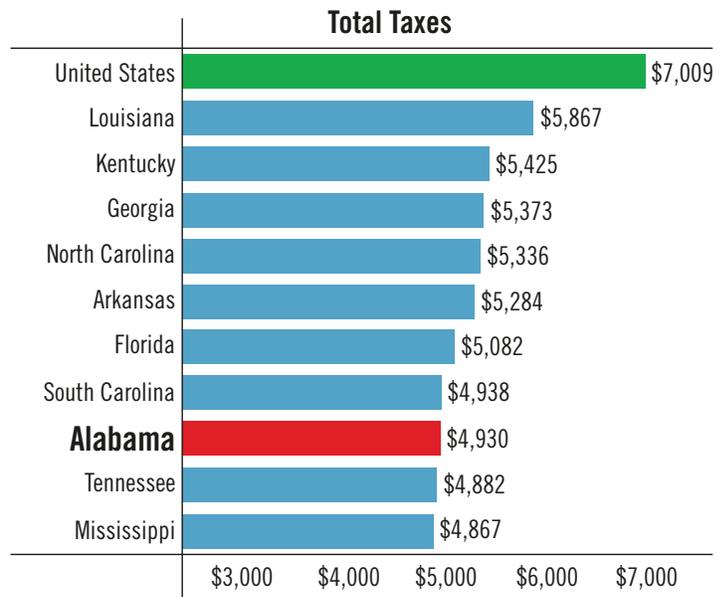
Note: Where possible, the preliminary totals are adjusted to include disaster funding, receipts, and repurposed money. H.H.S. does not include F.D.A. or Indian Health Service. U.S.D.A. does not include forest service. Interior includes Bureau of Reclamation. ●

Source: Senate Appropriations Committee

How Alabama Taxes Compare, 2025

SOURCE | PARCA

Each year, the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of State and Local Finances to compare Alabama's tax collections to the other 49 states. The most recent data comes from the 2023 Fiscal Year.



Alabama Success Story

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI)

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) was awarded \$6.4 million from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for six projects through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems.

The RFSI program provides states with funding to support projects that expand processing capacity, improve storage and distribution, and create more direct market opportunities for farmers. By focusing on these critical “middle of the supply chain” needs, RFSI helps build stronger, more reliable food systems that benefit both agricultural producers and consumers.

Miller Family Dairy received \$1.9 million through the RFSI funds. The new Miller Family Dairy facility will be able to offer local communities fresh and nutritious milk, cheese, and butter. Miller Family Dairy, a first-generation farm in Colbert County, opened in 2020 and is



expanding from eight cows to a long-term goal of 100 head. Owner Jennilee Miller says the grant “changed everything,” giving them the ability to grow and support

other Alabama dairy farmers at a time when only 12 remain statewide. The project will boost local production capacity, create jobs, and strengthen Alabama’s dairy industry through community and educational opportunities.

The Alabama State Association of Cooperatives (ASAC) was awarded nearly \$1.2 million to partner with the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension (TUCE), the Deep South Food Alliance, and multiple grower cooperatives across the Alabama Black Belt. The funding will support upgrades to cold-chain and processing infrastructure, including renovations to two aggregation and processing facilities and construction of a new packing house in Bullock County. The cooperatives primarily grow greens, cabbage, field peas, and other vegetables.

Anderson Farms was awarded around \$1.3 million to build a produce processing facility that will aggregate products from an additional 10 farms. The facility will also store and distribute seven new value-added products of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables to supply local school systems. Their primary crops include summer and winter squash, sweet corn, cantaloupe, okra, peas, and green beans.

Boozer Farms was awarded around \$719,000 and J. Durbin Farms received around \$644,000. They are taking innovative steps to reduce waste and promote sustainability in Alabama agriculture. The farms plan to enhance the handling and preservation of “Section 2” fruits, which is produce that may not meet cosmetic standards but remains good for consumption. Through infrastructure improvements

and new processing opportunities, Boozer Farms and J. Durbin Farms will transform surplus or imperfect fruits into value-added products. This initiative not only



prevents waste but also strengthens the resilience and sustainability of Alabama’s farming community.

Extreme Green Farms, a family-owned hydroponic operation in Auburn, received \$165,000 to improve storage and speed up delivery of fresh produce to retailers and schools statewide. Founded by Ralf and Missy du Toit in 2012, the farm uses advanced hydroponic systems to grow pesticide-free tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, microgreens, and a variety of lettuces year-round. The grant will help them expand their storage and distribution capacity and continue supplying high-quality produce to Alabama communities.

The RFSI program is a critical step forward in continuing to build Alabama’s food supply chain. ADAI is proud of these six projects and the impact they have achieved and will continue to make.

This is a series of articles about Alabama Success Stories. Please let us know if you have a similar success story you would like to share with the RSA membership. You may contact us at communication.correspondences@rsa-al.gov. ●

How to Get Your 1099-R for Tax Season

If you received a payment or requested a rollover from an RSA-managed plan during 2025, you will receive a **1099-R tax form** for filing your taxes.

Online access (fastest option): 1099-R forms are available through **Member Online Services (MOS)** at the Retirement Systems of Alabama website. Simply visit the site and click the green “**Member Log In**” button.

- Retirees who chose **electronic delivery** received an email on **January 7, 2026**,

notifying them that their 1099-R was available.

- After logging in, you can find your form through the **Secure Message Center** or by navigating to the **Tax Information** page under *My Account* or the *Retiree Services* section.

Paper copies are available by mail: If you selected **mailed delivery**, your 1099-R was sent on **January 22, 2026**, to the address RSA had on file as of January 7.

Need a duplicate copy? You may

request one by calling **Member Services** at **877.517.0020** or emailing **member.services@rsa-al.gov**. Please note that duplicate forms can only be mailed to your address on file. Any address changes must be submitted in writing with a signature before a new copy can be sent.

Planning ahead: To receive your tax information sooner in the future, consider selecting **electronic delivery** of your 1099-R through Member Online Services. ●

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Member Hotel Discounts Webpage

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ENJOY YOUR SPRING A Special Deal FOR RSA MEMBERS

The Battle House, A Renaissance Hotel \$129

- March 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 26-31
- April 1-9, 18-20 • May 9-11, 18-20, 24-29

The Battle House RSA Spa Package \$244

- March 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31
- April 1, 6-8, 20 • May 11, 18-20, 25-27

Riverview Plaza \$119

- March 1-3, 8-10, 22-24, 28-30
- April 3-8, 18-20, 29-30 • May 7-9, 17-22, 24-29

Grand Hotel \$137 (plus a 15% resort fee)

- March 11-12, 16-17, 29-30 • April 1-2, 12-14, 27-28
- May 10-11, 17-18, 26-27

Grand Hotel RSA Golf Package \$209 (plus a 15% resort fee)

- March 11-12, 16-17, 29-30 • April 1-2, 12-14, 27-28
- May 10-11, 17-18, 26-27

Grand Hotel RSA Spa Package \$285 (plus a 15% resort fee)

- March 11-12, 16-17, 29-30 • April 1-2, 12-14, 27-28
- May 10-11, 17-18, 26-27

Renaissance Shoals \$119

- March 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 • April 5-6, 12-13, 19-20
- May 4-5, 10-11, 17-18

Renaissance Shoals RSA Spa Package \$229

- March 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 • April 5-6, 12-13, 19-20
- May 4-5, 10-11, 17-18

Renaissance Ross Bridge* \$129 (plus a 15% resort fee)

- March 1, 5, 8, 15-18, 22-24, 29-31
- April 1-7, 12-15, 19-21, 26
- May 3-6, 10, 13, 17, 25-26, 31

Renaissance Ross Bridge* RSA Spa Package \$260 (plus a 15% resort fee)

- March 16 • April 20-21 • May 4-5

Auburn/Opelika Marriott Resort* \$119 (plus a 10% resort fee)

- March 1-2, 15-18 • April 5-6, 19-22
- May 17-20, 26-27

Auburn/Opelika Marriott Resort* RSA Spa Package \$234 (plus a 10% resort fee)

- March 1-2, 15-18 • April 5-6, 19-22
- May 17-20, 26-27

Prattville Marriott \$109

- March 13-14, 22-23, 29-30 • April 2-5, 19-20
- May 3, 10-11, 16-17, 24-25, 31

Renaissance Montgomery \$129

- March 1-2, 22-23, 29-30 • April 2-5, 25-26
- May 3-4, 8-11

Renaissance Montgomery RSA Spa Package \$244

- March 1-2, 22-23, 29-30 • April 2, 5, 26
- May 3-4, 26-27

Rates available the 1st of the month and are not applicable to groups.

Corporate/Promotional Code: R2A
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Book Online and Save RSA \$4.

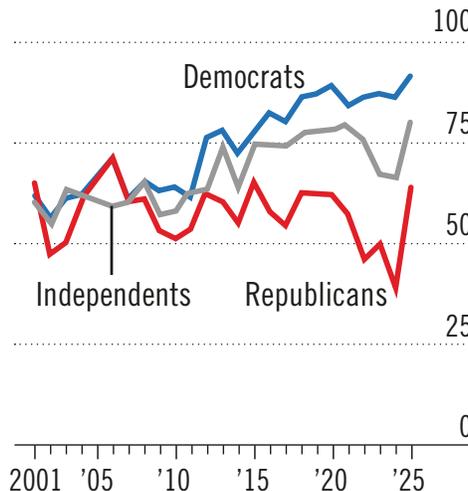
*Visit Member Discounts page for details.

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Immigration

Still open: United States, respondents who think immigration is a good thing for the country, %



Source: Gallup

TRS Board of Control Election Results

Congratulations to Ms. Anita Gibson on her reelection to the Retired Position, No. 2. Additionally, Mr. Jason Davidson (Superintendent Position) ran unopposed and will continue to serve on the TRS Board. Each elected member will begin their three-year term on July 1, 2026. ●



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Jo Moore
Deputy Director – Investments
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Margaret B. Sellars
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Jared H. Morris
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