

CountDown to the End Today is the Last Day



WHAT HAPPENED OVER THE WEEKEND?

ATTORNEY GENERAL CONTINGENCY FEES

State law requires that all bills must receive their 3rd Reading/ Final Passage by 6:00 p.m. on the 82nd calendar day (Friday, June 18th) of the session, unless approved by 2/3 vote of both houses. The House of Representatives had begun discussion of SB 731 on Friday well before that deadline; however had to utilize that 2/3 approval to continue discussion and finally vote well past 6:00 p.m. SB 731 allows the Attorney General to hire attorneys on a contingency fee basis only in the BP Deepwater Horizon case(s). Four amendments were adopted by the House that add diversity requirements in the hiring of attorney's for the BP case (s); will require that the state be fully compensated for state expenditures related to the BP lawsuit(s); limits attorney's fees on those outside contracts & clarifies elected officials contract restrictions. **The House passed the bill Friday night 71 to 23. Then on Sunday evening, the Senate rejected the House amendments & sent the bill to conference.**

LA GRAD ACT HAS PASSED

Speaker Tucker's HB 1171 (the LaGRAD Act) was returned to the calendar in the Senate several times throughout the day Friday and required 2/3 vote of both houses for the Senate to finally vote on the bill well past 8:00 p.m. Senator Ben Nevers pleaded with senators to pass this legislation as a "basic necessity for the state" in order to improve higher education.

The bill finally passed the Senate at 9:00 p.m. Friday by a vote of 26 to 13. The House agreed to the Senate amendments Sunday night sending the bill to the Governor for his signature.

**THE LEGISLATURE
FINALLY APPROVED
THE STATE BUDGET
SUNDAY NIGHT.
HB 1 IS NOW ON ITS
WAY TO THE
GOVERNOR!**

IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 2—Capital Outlay sent to Conference Sunday night; both houses waiting to vote on results...
SB 1 & SB 2—Buget Stabilization Fund changes sent to Conference Sunday night & awaiting results
SB 731—Contingency Fee bill also sent to Conference Sunday night & waiting for outcome before final votes by both houses.

ACTION TODAY WILL FOCUS ON CONFERENCE COMMITTEE VOTES

