

*At its Nov. 15th meeting, the Alabama Retail Association board of directors approved this legislative agenda for the 2013 regular session of the Alabama Legislature. During the session, which begins Tuesday, Feb. 5, and will end by Monday, May 20, ARA will monitor all bills with the potential to impact retailers.*



Your ARA Governmental Affairs Team

**THE ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS:**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

☛ legislation to **SIMPLIFY AND STREAMLINE** the current **BUSINESS LICENSE SYSTEM**.

**WORKERS'/UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**

- ☛ legislation designed to **REDUCE FRAUD** in **WORKERS' COMPENSATION** and **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**.
- ☛ finding solutions to medical cost issues, including consideration of **CHANGES TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULE** and evaluation of the **NEED FOR AN OUTPATIENT SURGERY FEE SCHEDULE**.

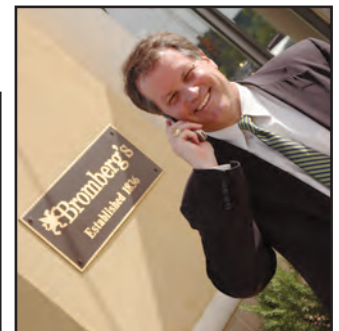
**TAX**

☛ legislation to **LEVELIZE SALES/USE TAX** collection and remittal between **BRICK-AND-MORTAR RETAILERS** and those that are **INTERNET** and/or **CATALOG-BASED**.

☛ creation of the **ALABAMA TAX APPEALS COMMISSION** as an independent state tax agency headed by a judge with specific training in the area of state and local taxation. This legislation should also abolish the Administrative Law Division of the Alabama Department of Revenue.

☛ the **ALABAMA TAXPAYERS' BILL OF RIGHTS II**, an updated expansion of landmark legislation first enacted in 1992, which extends the appeal deadlines for taxpayers.

*ARA supports ending the unfair tax advantage Internet and catalog retailers have over hometown, brick-and-mortar retailers.*



**2013 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

*The Alabama Legislature meets each year for 30 days within 105 calendar days. In a typical week, our Legislature usually convenes Tuesdays and Thursdays for "legislative days," reserving Wednesdays for committee meetings.*

**Tuesday, February 5th:** 2013 Regular Session Begins

**March 25-29:** Legislative Spring Break (Alabama Legislature recesses.)

**Monday, May 20th:** Sine Die (Last possible day the Legislature can meet in regular session. It may adjourn earlier.)

**TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE**

**WRITE:** Alabama State House, 11 S. Union St., Montgomery, AL 36130  
**CALL:** HOUSE: (334) 242-7600 SENATE: (334) 242-7800  
**ONLINE:** [alabamaretail.org/FindYourLawmaker/](http://alabamaretail.org/FindYourLawmaker/)

*If you wish to visit with your lawmakers at the Alabama State House, please call ahead for an appointment.*

# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

For more on these issues, Alabama Retail members can go to [Issue Briefs](#) in the [Political Affairs](#) section of [www.alabamaretail.org](http://www.alabamaretail.org)

## ALABAMA RETAIL OPPOSES:

### GENERAL BUSINESS

#### EXPANSION OF STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS

that result in increased taxes on Alabama business.

“CUSTODIAL TAKING” legislation that pushes unused gift-card balances to the state treasury when those balances go unclaimed.



ARA opposes “custodial taking” of unused gift card balances.

Restrictions on the normal USE OF CUSTOMER INFORMATION obtained in the regular course of business.

MANDATORY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND WAGES.

TAXING OR BANNING PLASTIC BAGS.

### LEGAL

legislation to eliminate or restrict CONTRACTUAL ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS.

any changes to the current ELECTION PROCESS FOR APPELLATE JUDGES.

INFRINGEMENT ON AN EMPLOYER’S RIGHT TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORKPLACE by restricting unauthorized firearm possession on company property and/or creating any new causes of action against employers because of such policies.

### WORKERS’/UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

any ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN Alabama’s status as a RIGHT-TO-WORK STATE.

### TAX

BAND-AID or QUICK-FIX TAX SCHEMES or singling out one particular industry or segment of business for punitive tax increases. ARA vehemently opposes any patchwork tax efforts.

required UNITARY COMBINED REPORTING for corporate taxpayers.

### PHARMACY/HEALTH

making PSEUDOEPHEDRINE available by PRESCRIPTION ONLY.

MANDATORY HEALTHCARE BENEFITS that can further increase the price of healthcare coverage.

MANDATES ON THE PRICE for which retailers can SELL PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

RESTRICTIONS ON the SUBSTITUTION OF GENERIC or BIOSIMILAR DRUGS and PRODUCTS.

## ALABAMA RETAIL WILL MONITOR AND/OR AMEND:

### ANY LEGISLATION ON THESE SUBJECTS

changes to the workers’ compensation statute.

electronics (E-waste) recycling.

changes to Alabama’s price-gouging statute.

alterations to taxes paid on groceries.

proposals to move Medicaid to a managed care system.

changes to pharmacy payments by Medicaid.

campaign finance reform proposals.

restrictions to the sale of any products, especially:

- tobacco
- alcohol
- printed or recorded materials
- video games



ALABAMA **RETAIL**  
ASSOCIATION

You can view this agenda online under [Legislative Agenda](#) in the [Political Affairs](#) section of [www.alabamaretail.org](http://www.alabamaretail.org)