
ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION

The Alabama Retail Association Supports:

- the concept of a **back-to-school sales tax holiday**.
- legislation to require the **reporting of local ordinances** to a central location for public viewing.
- legislation to regulate **professional employment organizations**, or PEOs.
- legislation to make **organized retail theft** a crime with **stiffer penalties**, including a higher crime class for a number of thefts attempted within a certain time frame.
- the concept of a **sales tax holiday for energy-efficient products**.
- **amendment-by-amendment constitutional reform** in order to streamline Alabama's constitution, remove archaic and offensive language, and to provide avenues by which the Alabama Legislature can enact comprehensive and meaningful tax reform.
- efforts to achieve **comprehensive tax reform** including opposing any patchwork or Band-Aids tax fixes, or any unduly burdensome or punitive tax schemes.

“The benefit to (the back-to-school sales income families to help their dollar go further because they usually see more sales.”

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- the **streamlined sales tax initiative** that levels the playing field for in-state and out-of-state retailers. This will provide a simplified sales tax system that makes the collection of sales taxes more manageable for businesses.
 - the Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee (ACJRC) in **tort reform** efforts including previously introduced bills concerning post-judgment interest, mental anguish and product liability.

The Alabama Retail Association Opposes:

- legislation requiring mandatory **country of origin labeling**, or COOL, by retailers or restaurateurs.
- **Band-Aid or quick fix tax schemes** or singling out one particular industry or segment of business for punitive tax increases. ARA has continually **supported comprehensive tax reform** and will vehemently oppose any patchwork tax efforts.
- legislation to eliminate or restrict **contractual arbitration agreements**.
- legislation to change the current **election process for judges**.
- **mandatory health-care benefits** that can further increase the price of health-care coverage.
- **mandates of the price** for which retailers can sell **prescription drugs**.
- legislation restricting **expiration dates on gift cards or certificates**.
- legislation to restrict the **normal use of customer information** obtained in the regular course of business.

2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

■ a three-day accident reporting requirement for workers' compensation injuries. The current requirement is 90 days.

tax holiday) is it will help lower further. It also helps the merchants

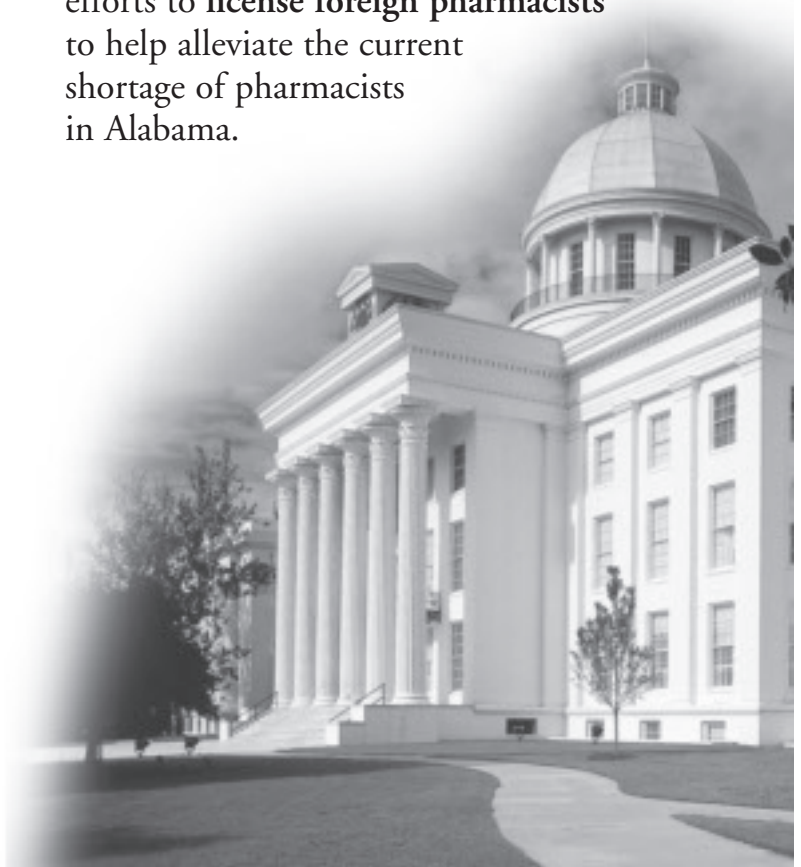
Rep. Mac Gipson, R-Prattville
Prattville Progress, Jan. 11, 2006

■ legislation designed to reduce fraud in workers' compensation and unemployment compensation.

■ the Business License Reform Coalition in its efforts to simplify municipal and county/state business license application procedures.

■ legislation to provide that a gift given from a retailer's inventory to a qualified charity is not a sale and is not subject to the state sales tax.

■ the Alabama Board of Pharmacy in its efforts to license foreign pharmacists to help alleviate the current shortage of pharmacists in Alabama.



ARA 2006 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Alabama Retail Association Supports:

■ voluntary country of origin labeling with repeal of current mandatory statutes.

■ the Interstate Tax Simplification Act, designed to address several tax and revenue problems related to interstate commerce including the nexus standard.

■ permanently repealing the death tax.

■ efforts to limit the interchange fees charged by credit card companies.

■ efforts to negotiate and implement free trade agreements.

The Alabama Retail Association Opposes:

■ increases in the minimum wage.

■ mandatory health-care benefits.

■ mandates of the price for which retailers can sell prescription drugs.

■ legislation to restrict the normal use of customer information obtained in the regular course of business.