

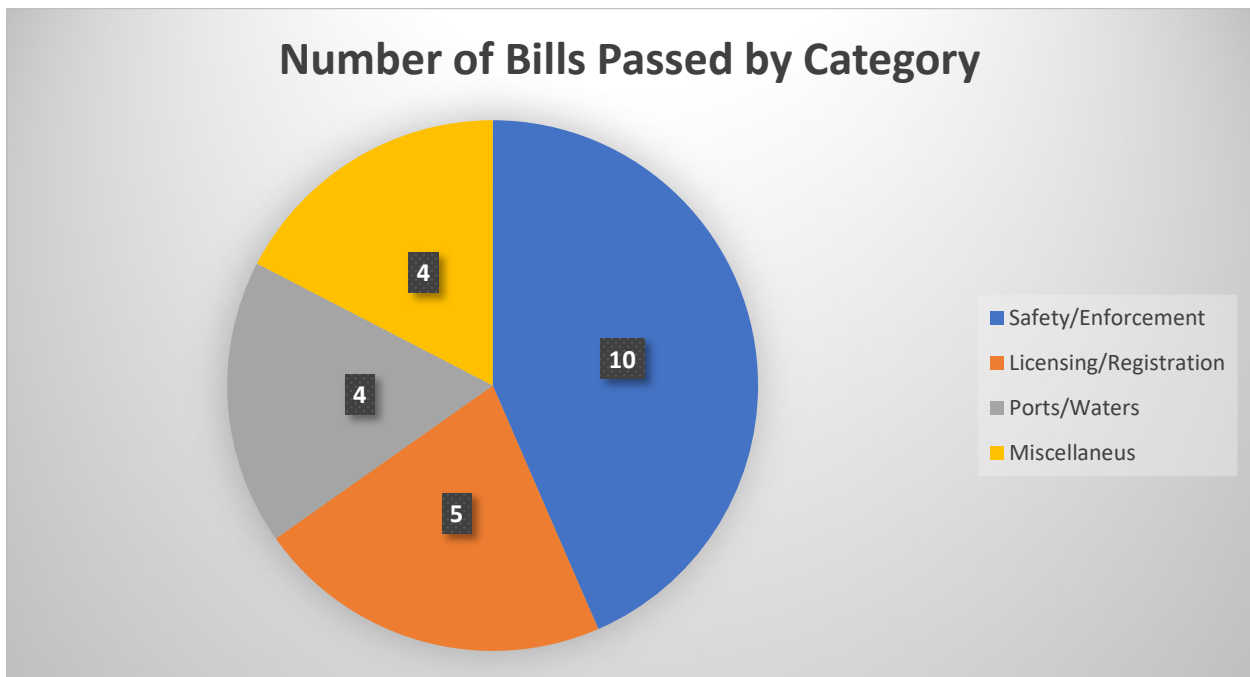
# 2024 Alabama Legislative Session Wrapup

## Overview

The 2024 Alabama Legislature's Regular Session convened on February 6, 2024 and adjourned on May 9, 2024. Twenty-four transportation-related bills were enacted out of the 54 transportation-related bills that were introduced during the session.

For this analysis, transportation-related bills were grouped into the following categories: safety/enforcement, licensing/registration, ports/waters, and miscellaneous. (See Figure 1). This report provides a listing and summary of the legislation that passed.

Figure 1: Transportation Legislation Passed by the Alabama Legislature in Regular Session 2024, Number of Bills by Category



## Legislation Passed, by Category

### Safety/Enforcement Legislation

#### [Senate Bill 89](#)

**Author:** Rodger M. Smitherman

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2024

Further provides for the crime of loitering by adding that any person who remains in any area within 30 feet of an interchange involving a controlled access or limited access highway commits the crime of loitering.

#### [Senate Bill 153](#)

**Author:** Andrew Jones

**Effective Date:**

Provides that a person who has been adjudged a youthful offender for a misdemeanor offense, violation, traffic violation, or municipal ordinance violation can file a petition to expunge the records relating to the charge and conviction under certain circumstances.

#### [House Bill 107](#)

**Author:** Steve Clause

**Effective Date:** Contingent upon ratification

Would authorize a municipality in Dale County to permit the limited operation of golf carts on a municipal street or public road. Would require the driver to have a driver's license and would require the operator of the golf cart to be covered by liability insurance.

#### [House Bill 110](#)

**Author:** Russell Bedsole

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Increases the intrastate air-mile radius from 75 air-miles to 150 air-miles.

#### [House Bill 233](#)

**Author:** Jeff Sorrells

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Requires a certificate of title for off-road vehicles. Adds a definition for off-road vehicles.

#### [House Bill 241](#)

**Author:** Joe Lovvorn

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to first responders on a sidewalk. Defines first responder as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedic, or emergency medical technician.

[House Bill 315](#)**Author:** Rhett Marques**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Amends the “Alabama Move Over Act” to be renamed the “John Hubbard Move Over Act.” Expands the protection to include other tasks associated with wrecker services instead of limiting coverage to only recovery or loading. Adds protection for maintenance, construction, and survey vehicles. Increases punishments for violations including the potential for criminal violations in cases of bodily injury or death.

[House Bill 345](#)**Author:** Matt Simpson**Effective Date:** June 1, 2024

Makes it unlawful for a person to operate an unmanned aircraft over a Department of Corrections facility under certain circumstances. Provides that any unmanned aircraft system and any property dropped from an unmanned aircraft system into a Department of Corrections facility are subject to civil forfeiture.

[House Bill 453](#)**Author:** Arnold Mooney**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Expands the crime of unauthorized entry into a critical infrastructure (which already included the use of unmanned aircraft systems) to include electrical power generating facilities, natural gas facilities, dams, and crude oil storage or production facilities.

[House Bill 474](#)**Author:** Allen Treadaway**Effective Date:** May 9, 2024

Provides for the use of automated traffic enforcement systems to detect and record violations of motor vehicle speed contests and exhibitions of speed including. Vehicles detected by automated traffic enforcement systems may be impounded. Provides that a person gives consent for their vehicle to be searched if the person knew or reasonably should have known their vehicle would be used for motor vehicle speed contests or exhibitions of speed.

## Licensing/Registration Legislation

[Senate Bill 258](#)**Author:** Keith Kelley**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Makes various changes to Alabama’s state law to conform to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulations. Changes include deleting a requirement for a driver to report certain violations. Also adds a ban on receiving a commercial driver’s license for individuals who have been convicted of using a vehicle in the commission of a felony involving any act or practice of severe forms of trafficking in persons.

[House Bill 322](#)**Author:** Randy Wood**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Authorizes the Calhoun County Commission to levy and provide for the collection of an additional vehicle license and registration fee on each vehicle license and registration, transfer, or renewal of any vehicle in the county. Also provides for the distribution of the proceeds from the fees to the sheriff.

[House Bill 328](#)**Author:** Russell Bedsole**Effective Date:** June 1, 2024

Authorizes the Shelby County Manager to void a motor vehicle license and other licenses when the payment for the license is non-collectible.

[House Bill 416](#)**Author:** Rhett Marques**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Provides for the collection of an additional motor vehicle license and registration fee on each motor vehicle license and registration renewal or transfer in the county. Also provides for the distribution of the proceeds from the fees to the general fund to be used by the sheriff's office and the office of the district attorney.

[House Bill 445](#)**Author:** Artis "A.J." McCampbell**Effective Date:** May 9, 2024

Provides for an additional issuance fee for motor vehicles in Marengo County. Also provides for distribution of the revenue to the Marengo County Economic Development Authority and for improvements to the Marengo County road system as authorized by the county commission. Applies retroactively to October 1, 2022.

## Ports/Waters

[Senate Bill 60](#)**Author:** Arthur Orr**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Authorizes the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to facilitate and coordinate the development, improvement, maintenance, and construction of inland ports and transfer facilities in the state. A grant program will be created and will be awarded on a competitive bid basis for inland ports and intermodal facility projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.

[House Bill 209](#)**Author:** Ed Oliver**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Adds the waters of the State impounded by Martin Dam (Lake Martin) and by Weiss Dam (Weiss Lake) to the waters of the State where the regulation and prohibition on wakeboarding applies.

[House Bill 253](#)**Author:** Chip Brown**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Provides that the Port Authority is a body corporate with the ability to employ non-merit system employees.

[House Bill 375](#)**Author:** Ginny Shaver**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Establishes the Nonresident Alabama Boater Safety Certification and requires nonresidents to obtain the certification before operating a vessel on the waters of this state, with some exceptions.

## Miscellaneous

[Senate Bill 155](#)**Author:** Clyde Chambliss**Effective Date:** June 1, 2024

Requires the Department of Revenue, rather than ALDOT, to annually report to the Joint Transportation Committee the total amount of local motor fuel excise tax revenues collected for the immediately preceding fiscal year and the total amount of the revenues expended on road and bridge maintenance and improvement during that same fiscal year. Also requires the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, rather than the Joint Transportation Committee, to complete an annual report of the performance of ALDOT in terms of highway construction, maintenance, and costs of the same.

[House Bill 87](#)**Author:** Chip Brown**Effective Date:** June 1, 2024

Provides that an airport authority is authorized to participate in a corporation, partnership, or joint venture relating to airport operations, land acquisitions, and activities incidental to the operation of the authority.

[House Bill 176](#)**Author:** James Lomax**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Requires ALDOT to develop a statewide plan regarding advancements in aviation technology. Also requires ALDOT to designate a liaison within the department as a resource for local and regional jurisdictions navigating advances in aviation technology. Prohibits political subdivisions of the State from adopting rules or regulations regarding advanced air mobility in certain circumstances.

[House Bill 256](#)**Author:** Corley Ellis**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

Further provides for the mileage and daily fees paid to an agent of the state transporting an accused individual in certain circumstances. Also makes nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update existing code language to the current style.

**Other Noteworthy Bills**

Listed below are a few noteworthy transportation-related bills that were introduced during the 2024 Regular Session but were not enacted.

[House Bill 189](#)**Author:** Chris Pringle

Would have created the State Transportation Commission composed of five members appointed by the Governor from the five regions of the State Department of Transportation to coordinate and develop the activities of the department and provide for the membership, duties, and responsibilities of the commission.

[House Bill 211](#)**Author:** Jamie Kiel

Would have required law enforcement to make a reasonable effort to notify the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian when citing a minor for traffic infractions, with some exceptions.

**Acknowledgement**

This report was prepared by Justin Fisher J.D. and Trayce Hockstad J.D., Law & Policy Analysts, Transportation Policy Research Center, Alabama Transportation Institute, University of Alabama.