

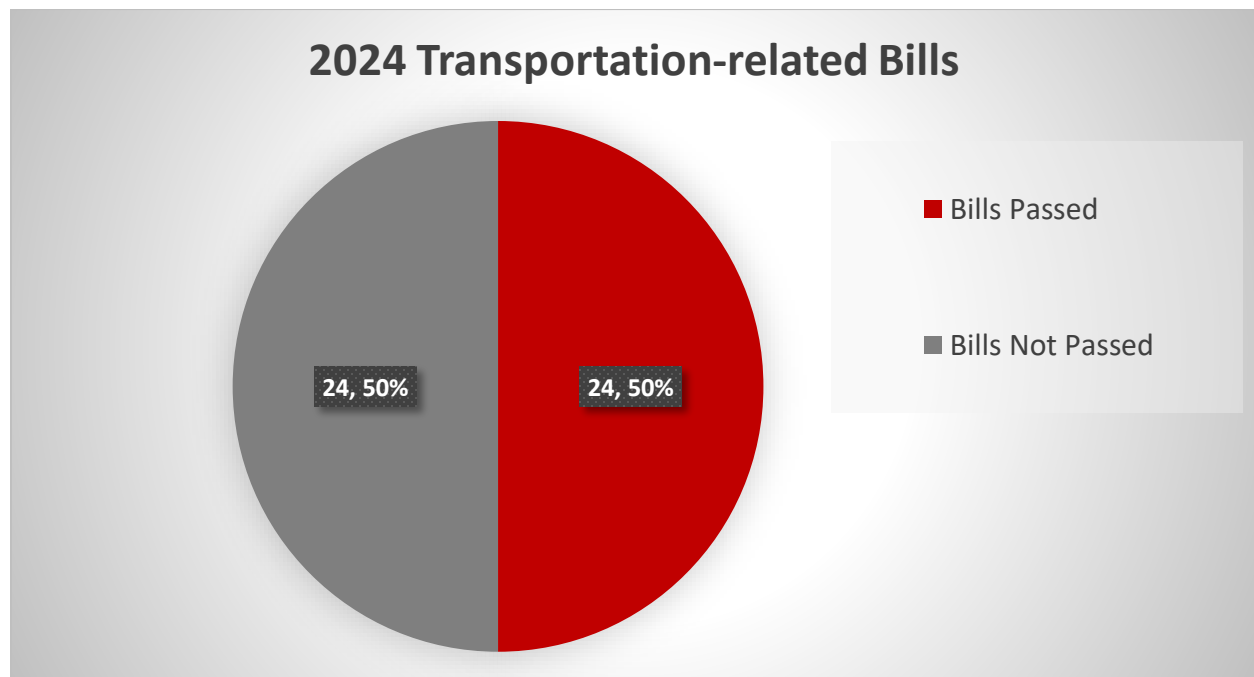
2024 Alabama Legislative Session Wrapup

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 49 transportation-related bills that were introduced during the session.

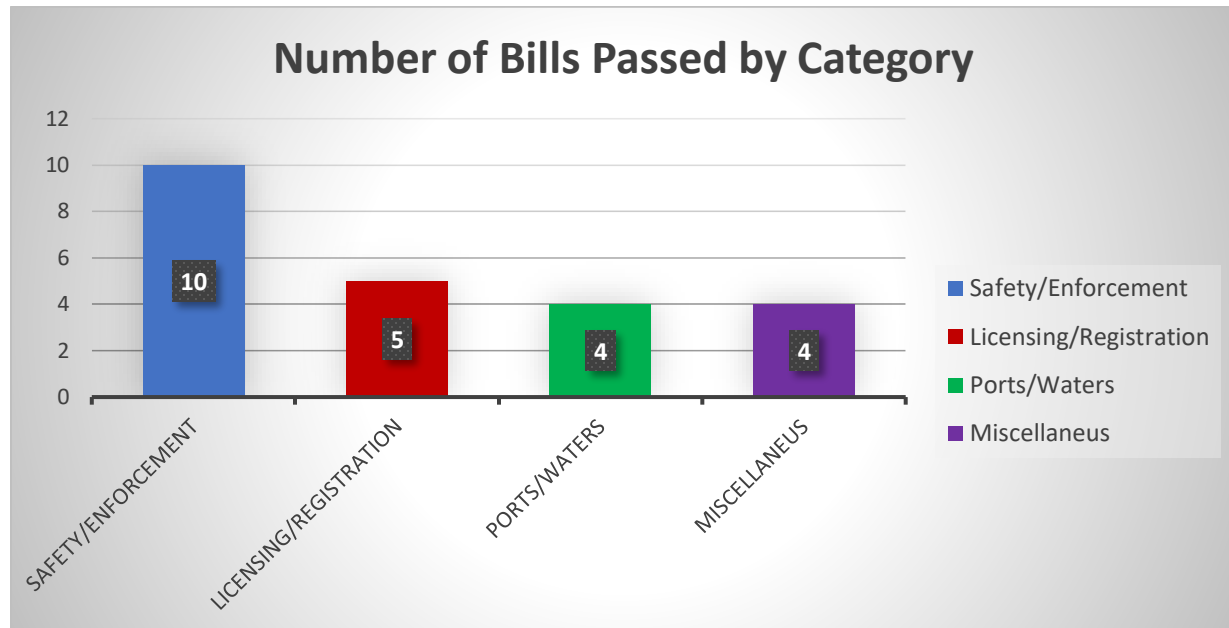
For this analysis, transportation-related bills were grouped into several different categories and divided into bills that passed and bills that were not passed.

Figure 1: 2024 Transportation-related Bills



Legislation Passed, by Category

Figure 2: Transportation Legislation Passed by the Alabama Legislature in Regular Session 2024, Number of Bills by Category



Safety/Enforcement

[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

[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](#)

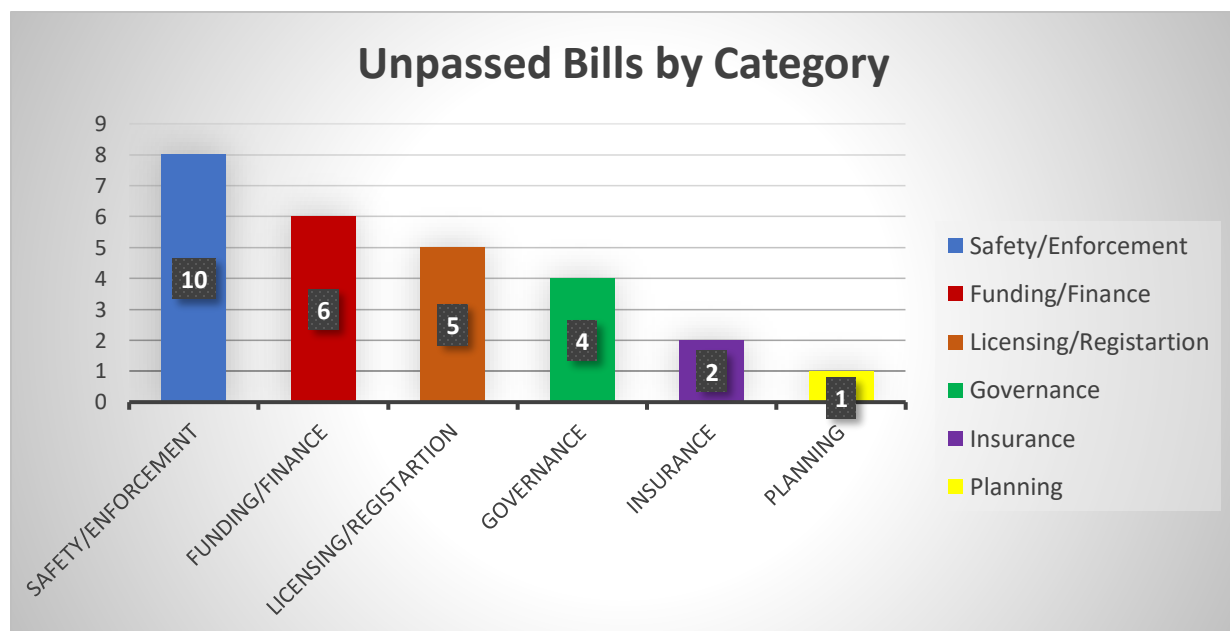
Author: Corley Ellis

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.

Unpassed Legislation, by Category

Figure 3: Unpassed Transportation Legislation; Number of Bills by Category



Safety/Enforcement

[Senate Bill 64](#)

Author: Larry Stutts

Proposed allowing off-road vehicles on certain county roads under specific conditions, including vehicle licensure requirements. It defined terms such as "all-terrain vehicles" and "recreational off-highway vehicles," outlining safety standards and requiring liability insurance. The bill aimed to regulate off-road vehicle usage on county roads while exempting certain operations from registration and equipment requirements.

[House Bill 192](#)

Author: Juandalynn Givan

Proposed to allow the Jefferson County Commission to declare noise disturbances and nuisance vehicles as public nuisances in unincorporated residential areas, defining terms and establishing fines for violations enforceable through civil actions.

[House Bill 208](#)

Author: Ed Oliver

Proposed amendments to the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to boating regulations. The bill aimed to increase the maximum authorized length of certain vessels on specific bodies of water in Alabama and to make technical revisions to update the existing code language.

[House Bill 211](#)

Author: Jamie Kiel

Would have required law enforcement agencies to notify parents, legal guardians, or legal custodians when minors are cited for traffic infractions.

[Senate Bill 103](#)

Author: Josh Carnley

Aimed to exempt air ambulance services from requiring a certificate of need from the State Health Planning and Development Agency, ensuring their operation under federal aviation laws. The bill aimed to clarify and exempt air ambulance services, both fixed wing and rotary wing, from SHPDA jurisdiction regarding certificates of need, ensuring they could operate without this regulatory requirement.

[House Bill 265](#)

Author: Ron Bolton

Proposed revisions to Alabama's child passenger restraint laws, extending requirements for rear-facing infant seats and mandating belt-positioning booster seats until children are six years old and pass a readiness test for seat belt use. The bill also sought to enforce mandatory seat belt use for all occupants of a vehicle, with limited exceptions, and prohibited children under 13 from riding in the front seat, except under certain circumstances.

[House Bill 348](#)**Author:** Danny Garrett

This bill aimed to prevent delays for emergency vehicles by requiring stopped trains blocking railroad crossings to be separated or moved within two hours. Trains creating such blockages would be considered a public nuisance and incur a fine.

[Senate Bill 241](#)**Author:** Gerald H. Allen

This bill would have established a list of approved unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) maintained by the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency. Local governments would be prohibited from buying UAS not on the list, which must comply with Federal Aviation Administration standards and present no security threat to the State

Funding/Finance

[House Bill 171](#)**Author:** Chris Sells

Proposed exempting all civil aircraft over 30 years old that are owned by an individual that is 65 years old or older.

[House Bill 269](#)**Author:** Brock Colvin

This bill would have expanded two existing aircraft sales tax exemptions in Alabama. It would have allowed any certified air carrier, not just those with an in-state hub, to buy or lease aircraft and replacement parts tax-free. It would have also broadened the exemption for certain manufactured aircraft by allowing them to be delivered, not just sold, in Alabama, and clarified how to determine an aircraft's residency for tax purposes.

[House Bill 162](#)**Author:** James Lomax

Proposed a cap on increases in assessed value for private passenger vehicle property tax assessments, limiting any increase to a maximum of three percent following county-wide reappraisals. The cap would not apply in cases where there is a change in property ownership.

[Senate Bill 91](#)**Author:** Linda Coleman-Madison

Would have imposed an additional annual license tax and registration fee of \$5 on each private passenger automobile and motorcycle. The proceeds would have been deposited into the Alabama Public Transportation Trust Fund, and used by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to increase public transportation across the state.

[Senate Bill 295](#)**Author:** Roger M. Smitherman

Would have imposed an additional annual license tax and registration fee of \$5 on each private passenger automobile and motorcycle. The proceeds would have been deposited into the Alabama

Public Transportation Trust Fund, and used by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to increase public transportation across the state.

[House Bill 493](#)

Author: Ben Robbins

This bill aimed to establish a mechanic's lien for aircraft repairs and maintenance in Alabama. The bill would allow mechanics to file a lien with the Federal Aviation Administration or the Alabama Secretary of State, depending on the aircraft's registration. The lien would be subordinate to existing financial loans on the aircraft.

Governance

[House Bill 189](#)

Author: Chris Pringle

Proposed establishing the State Transportation Commission to oversee the State Department of Transportation, appointing members from different regions to coordinate department activities and appoint the Director of Transportation. The bill aimed to exempt the department from the Budget Management Act and impose restrictions on commission members' future employment.

[Senate Bill 218](#)

Author: Vivian Davis Figures

Would have amended existing law to allow the Alabama State Port Authority to employ non-merit system employees, providing them with benefits similar to state employees.

[House Bill 362](#)

Author: David Faulkner

Currently, municipal courts are required to report DUI convictions to the state agency within five days. This bill proposes that failing to do so would result in the court forfeiting any fees and costs collected in that case. The forfeited money would go to the state instead of staying with the municipality.

[House Bill 392](#)

Author: Ben Robbins

This bill aimed to modify the process of transferring the title of a deceased owner's vehicle. Someone who inherits the car can get the title transferred without going through probate court, as long as they are an heir with documentation. This bill would have required probate court involvement unless all heirs agreed otherwise. It also established that providing false information in the affidavit would result in the crime of perjury.

Licensing/Registration

[House Bill 206](#)

Author: Rick Rehm

Sought to extend eligibility for special disabled veteran license plates to veterans with a physical disability of at least 50 percent, aiming to increase accessibility to these specialized plates.

[Senate Bill 108](#)

Author: Arthur Orr

Aimed to change driver license requirements in Alabama regarding nonresidents and undocumented immigrants. The bill proposed invalidating any driver's license issued by another state to undocumented immigrants who cannot prove lawful presence in the United States. It also sought to remove the exemption for nonresidents with such licenses, requiring them to obtain an Alabama driver's license to drive in the state.

[House Bill 374](#)

Author: Ritchie Whorton

This bill would have increased for firefighter license plates in Alabama. Starting in 2025, the annual fee would \$10. The revenue from the fee would have been used for expanding and maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in Tuscaloosa, expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support Program, the board of the Alabama Firefighters Annuity and Benefit Fund, and the secretary-treasurer of the State of Alabama Firefighters Emergency Relief Fund

[House Bill 321](#)

Author: Russell Bedsole

Currently, the design of license plates must be changed at least every five years. This bill would have increased the period to ten years.

[House Bill 314](#)

Author: Curtis Travis

This bill proposed expanding eligibility for a special firefighter license plate. Currently, only firefighters and volunteer firefighters qualify for the license plate. The bill would have included fire chaplains who are members of Alabama Fellowship of Fire Chaplains.

Insurance

[House Bill 141](#)

Author: Corley Ellis

This bill aimed to establish the Alabama Automobile Insurance Plan overseen by a governing committee appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance. The plan provides motor vehicle liability policies to applicants unable to obtain insurance through standard methods, with selected service providers authorized to issue policies under this framework.

[House Bill 219](#)

Author: David Faulker

Proposed mandating proof of registration and insurance for the release of impounded vehicles and requiring all towing

Planning

[House Bill 181](#)

Author: Craig Lipscomb

Aimed to establish the Alabama Waters Task Force. The task force would have considered and addressed issues relating to Alabama's water resources.

Acknowledgement

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