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ALABAMA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



TomorrowTODAY STAFF – Posing after governor’s news conference are: Julia Fromm, Janessa Madison, Saleena Jan, A.J. Williams, Erin Hosmer, Laurie Wakefield, Editor in Chief Turner Cole, Parker Roth, M.V. Huffaker, Cole Armagost, Indira Singh and Lucy Edwards.

Bills Signed Into Law

Continued from front

FYB9 – Integration for Immigration by Camila Lopez, Spain Park High School, Hoover.

FYB14 – The Confederate Monument Removal Act by Abigail Linderman, Spain Park High School, Hoover

FYB28 – Self Defense Instructional Class to Primarily Combat the Human Trafficking Industry by Virginia Averyt, Mountain Brook High School

FYB29 – Termination of the Death Penalty by Vaughn Frost, Mountain Brook High School

FYB46 – Removing Confederate School Names by Claire Gary and Elizabeth Ray, The Montgomery Academy, Montgomery.

FYB47 – Rural Doctors Training Program by Holden Habermacher and Charlie Hill, The Montgomery Academy, Montgomery.

FYB51 – Equal Rights for Young Immigrants by Mohammed Shahrouj, St. Luke’s Episcopal School, Mobile.

FYB61 – The Legalization of Recreational Cannabis Act by Brooke Bender, Anna Dickey and Christian Glenos, Mountain Brook High School

The 72nd Youth Legislature had many successful and debatable bills that stimulated civil debate among all the chambers. Congratulations to all those who had their bills signed into law.



TomorrowTODAY

Building Tomorrow’s Leaders TODAY

Sunday, February 23, 2020

Governor signs 21 passed bills into law

By M.V. Huffaker
TomorrowTODAY writer

Youth Gov. Pavel Shirley signed 21 bills into law.

SB5 – Act to Prohibit Use of Risk Assessment Tools by Sara Guven Vestavia Hills High School, Birmingham.

SB7 – Excused Mental Health Related Absences Act by Whitt Sheumaker, Vestavia Hills High School.

SB13 – Changing Alabama’s Firearms Laws by Josh Philips, Spain Park High School, Hoover.

SB29 – Tax Reform for Alabama Businesses by Reid Freeman, Mountain Brook High School

SB39 – Abolish the Federal Income Tax Deduction by Mark Waller, Mountain Brook High School.

SB43 – An Act to Legalize Prostitution and Brothels by Halla Elmore, LAMP, Montgomery.

HB19 – Abolish the Death Penalty by Selma



PHOTOS BY LAURIE WAKEFIELD / The Montgomery Academy

Gov. Pavel Shirley congratulates Whitt Sheumaker of Vestavia Hills High School and Jane Grey Battle and Chloe Kinderman of Mountain Brook High School after he signed their bills into law.

Maric, Spain Park High School, Hoover.

HB29 – 24-Hour Gun Purchase Wait Time by Miguel Juan and Antonio Nava-Flores, YMCA Heart of the Valley, Huntsville.

HB32 – LGBTQ + Rights Enforcement by Calvin Byrd and Jarquez Byrd, Heart of the Valley, Huntsville.

HB74 – An Act to Protect Alabama Waterways from Coal Ash Pits Act by Claire Cesarini, W.P.

Davidson High School, Mobile.

HB81 – Reducing Alabama’s Infant Mortality Rates by Griffin Darden, Mountain Brook High School.

HB80 – The Healthy Alabama Act by Chloe Kinderman and Jane Grey Battle, Mountain Brook High School.

FYB2 – The Elkmont Act by Rylen Dempsey, Vestavia Hills High School

Continued on back

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PHOTO BY A.J. WILLIAMS/ The Montgomery Academy

The youth Supreme Court poses for a photo before touring the Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building while the legislative delegates were in committee meetings.

Chief Justice: Being YIG Speaker Inspired Future

By Indira Singh
TomorrowTODAY Copy Editor

Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Parker made it a priority to learn everyone's name and schools when he met the officers and youth justices of the Youth in Government Program. Parker went on to share his experience of being the 1969 Speaker of the House for the YMCA Youth in Government program, which he cited as his reason to get involved in government. The program gave him the training and orientation he needed to succeed in his efforts to become a part of the judicial system.



PHOTO BY PARKER ROTH / Montgomery Academy
Youth Justice Samad Gilliani listens to a bill author.

Parker was inspired by his Youth Legislature experience to pay forward invaluable opportunities and experiences by creating unique internships available to students in law school. He believes in "sowing back into the system" and preparing the youth to become the new faces of the government, he said.

Parker said he never dreamed that he would be chief justice when he began his legal career, but one of his biggest life lessons was learning to step up and become the leader others need you to be.

He advised the youth justices to continue to perform to the best of their abilities, to listen closely to the arguments made, listen to your colleagues and study the briefs and to go beyond. Parker said these are the keys of success for being a good and fair justice. His final and most important piece of advice for the youth Supreme Court was to listen to the wisdom of the multitude of the council and to trust in one another as they were each other's best resources in their paths to success.

'Sad It Is Over, Time to Pass Torch'

By Cole Armagost
TomorrowTODAY writer

During his state of the state address and news conference Friday, Feb. 21, 72nd Youth Gov. Pavel Shirley discussed the special order bills he and his Cabinet worked to pass.

The nine Special Order bills "are the most important bills the state legislature can pass," he said. He specifically mentioned a gun licensing law as well as a bill that deals with reducing the federal income tax deduction. "This would help raise revenue in the state," he said. He also spoke about a First Year bill dealing with a hospital program in rural areas of Alabama.

When asked to describe the Youth in Government program to those unfamiliar with it, he said it is "a statewide youth political involvement program that provides lots of hands-on experience."

Questioned about any future plans to run for office, Shirley, a senior from Mountain Brook, replied, "Not necessarily. Who knows where life will lead me, but, as of right now, I am not planning my 2040 presidential campaign."



PHOTO BY A.J. WILLIAMS/
The Montgomery Academy

Gov. Pavel Shirley

What stands out to him the most about this program is the diversity and plethora of opinions and ideas across the state, which prompted him to choose the word multi-faceted when asked to summarize the program in a single word.

He said the program has forced him to get out of his comfort zone and make him put himself out there. He is grateful for the opportunity to be able to meet people from all over the state and make lifelong friends that he would never have met otherwise. Shirley said he is sad that his time in the YIG program is over but he is ready to pass the torch and see the future of the program flourish.