



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

DISTRICT NO. 87  
Houston and Geneva Counties

**DONNIE CHESTEEN**  
P.O. BOX 39  
GENEVA, ALABAMA 36340  
PHONE: (334)242-7600

**COMMITTEES:**

AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY – VICE CHAIR  
WAYS & MEANS EDUCATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 11, 2015**

**Contact: Donnie Chesteen**  
**334-449-1040**

## **HOUSE APPROVES REP. DONNIE CHESTEEN’S “TRUTH IN SALARY ACT” FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND EDUCATORS**

**Montgomery** – The House of Representatives on Wednesday awarded its approval to the “Truth in Salary Act,” a measure sponsored by State Rep. Donnie Chesteen (R – Geneva) and designed to ensure that state government employees and education workers understand the full value of their taxpayer-funded compensation packages.

The bill is part of the House Republican Caucus’s “Alabama First” legislative agenda.

“Responsible governing demands transparency and accountability and no one deserves to be fully informed more than our state employees and educators,” Chesteen said. “Just like workers in the private sector must know their company benefits, it’s important that public employees understand the considerable investments that taxpayers are making in their overall compensation.”

Chesteen noted that a new teacher who recently graduated from college earns a salary of \$36,867, but when retirement, health insurance, and other benefits are factored in, the total compensation package reaches \$54,011. He said such information is important for both employees and taxpayers to know.

Among the provisions included in House Bill 39 are:

- The “Truth in Salary Act” requires all state agencies, local boards of education, and postsecondary and higher education institutions to provide their employees with an annual itemized benefit statement.
- The statement will detail an employee’s salary and wages, insurance, vacation, holidays, sick leave or personal days, and contributions towards retirement or pension benefits.
- The benefit statement will also include a summary of the total amount of taxpayer dollars the Legislature has invested in state employee and educator benefit programs the previous year.

###