



Office of Senate President Pro Tempore Del Marsh  
Press Clips  
Sunday, August 03, 2014

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## **[Governor's office says bond refinancing to save state \\$20 million over 12 years \(AL.com\)](#)**

Gov. Robert Bentley's office said the state will save about \$20 million over 12 years under a bond refinancing approved today.

The State Bond Commission approved the refinancing of \$199.9 million in outstanding general obligation bonds. The move will save \$19.9 million over the remaining 12 years of the bonds according to a news release from the governor's office.

The bonds were sold on a competitive basis with an average true interest rate of 2.13 percent.

The bonds were part of \$350 million in bond issues from 2006 and 2007. The refinancing will reduce debt service payments from the General Fund and Education Trust Fund, the news release says.

Since May, the state has refinanced three bond issues for a total savings of \$71 million, according to the governor's office.

## **Rep. Barry Moore's lawyers ask court to say recorded phone call inadmissible (AL.com)**

State Rep. Barry Moore of Enterprise has asked a Lee County judge to block a phone conversation recorded by Moore's opponent in the June 3 primary from being admitted as evidence in Moore's perjury trial.

Moore's lawyers filed a motion to suppress today, asserting that the phone call was illegally recorded.

Josh Pipkin, who lost to Moore in the primary, recorded a phone conversation last year during which Moore told Pipkin that House Speaker Mike Hubbard was "furious" about Pipkin running.

Moore appeared to indicate to Pipkin that a project in their district could be jeopardized unless Pipkin stayed out of the race.

Prosecutors allege that Moore lied about the conversation when asked about it before a special grand jury in Lee County in January.

In April, the grand jury indicted Moore for perjury and giving false statements. Moore has pleaded not guilty.

The special grand jury was formed to investigate Hubbard and possible corruption at the Alabama State House, according to a letter from Attorney General Luther Strange, who recused himself and appointed former St. Clair County District Attorney Van Davis to handle the investigation.

In the motion filed today, Moore's lawyers say the conversation between Moore and Pipkin was "surreptitiously and illegally recorded while Mr. Pipkin was in Alabama and Moore was in Florida."

They say that a Florida law requiring consent of both parties for the recording applies. Alabama law does not require consent of both parties.

Moore's motion says that the recording is the basis of the indictment and "will be an integral part of the State's case."

Moore's trial is set for Sept. 15. He has asked Lee County Circuit Judge Jacob A. Walker III to put the case on hold while he appeals some issues to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

## **Till named Alabama's deputy secretary of commerce, replacing economic development veteran Swann (AL.com)**

The Alabama Department of Commerce has named Angela Till, a veteran of the Alabama Department of Revenue, as its new deputy secretary of commerce, replacing Linda Swann, who is retiring after 11 years with the agency.

Till has worked at the revenue department for two dozen years in various roles. Now she will bring her knowledge of finances and incentives to the state's lead economic development agency.

"We have become more strategic and collaborative in our approach to our mission at commerce and to be able to call on a skilled and knowledgeable expert like Angela Till to take over in this role is critical to our success," Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield said in a statement. "Angela's expertise in the financial and tax-related aspects of incentives packages and her deep experience in working with economic developers across the state will be valuable to us as we continue to pursue our job-creation strategies."

Till began working with the commerce department July 16. Prior to that, she served as the abatement program administrator for the Office of Economic Development in the Alabama Department of Revenue, helping to craft the tax-related elements of incentive packages. She has 14 years of experience in administering Alabama's tax incentive programs for the Department of Revenue.

Till holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Auburn University at Montgomery and lives in Greenville. She has two sons, both students at Auburn University.

Linda Swann, director of the Alabama Development Office

Linda Swann

Swann joined the Department of Commerce as assistant director in 2003 and served a brief stint as the interim director in 2010. She also headed the Alabama Film Office between 2004 and 2009.

Swann has worked on the recruitment of some of the largest economic development projects, including the ThyssenKrupp steel mill near Mobile, the Raytheon missile plant in Huntsville and the Hyundai Heavy Industries factory in Montgomery. She operated the Economic Development Services & Strategies consulting firm prior to joining the commerce department. She also worked at the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, Alabama Power Co., and the Gadsden-Etowah County Industrial Development Authority.

"Few people in economic development in Alabama can match Linda's experience or her track record in the field," Canfield said. "She has been at the center of projects that have brought billions in new investment to the state and created thousands of high-wage jobs. Her contribution will be lasting."

The Department of Commerce will honor Swann with a reception at 2:30 p.m. July 25 at the Capitol, with Governor Robert Bentley scheduled to speak and present her with a proclamation. The Economic Development Association of Alabama also will honor her at a reception during its summer conference at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, July 27-30.

## **Bentley: Maxwell could house undocumented children (Montgomery Advertiser)**

Maxwell Air Force Base could house immigrant children fleeing violence in Central America. Or it could be passed over.

Gov. Robert Bentley's office said Thursday that Maxwell Air Force Base was being reviewed as a possible site for immigrant children coming over the U.S.-Mexico border.

More than 400 immigrant children have already been placed with sponsors in Alabama, according to federal figures released Thursday.

A division of the Department of Health and Human Service said 407 children were placed with sponsors in Alabama between the start of the year and July 7. The announcement did not indicate which counties have the most children.

The number of immigrant children in Alabama is less than in three neighboring states. The Office of Refugee Resettlement reported 760 in Tennessee, 1,154 in Georgia and 3,181 in Florida. That's out of more than 30,000 placements nationwide.

And the Federal Emergency Management Agency notified Gov. Robert Bentley's office late Wednesday afternoon that Maxwell is under consideration for housing immigrant children, communications director Jennifer Ardis said Thursday.

A spokesman for the secretary of defense, Lt. Col. Thomas Crosson, confirmed Maxwell is among the bases under consideration, and it is the only one from Alabama.

Should Maxwell be chosen, no state money would be used, Bentley spokeswoman Jennifer Ardis said.

More than 52,000 children have attempted to enter the country since October, due mainly to violence in a number of Central American countries. A 2008 law requires children from Central America to go through a court hearing before they can be settled or deported. Children from Mexico may be repatriated more quickly.

Crosson said HHS would first have to assess the base to determine if it could house children.

As of Thursday morning, he said, no such assessment had been planned for Maxwell. HHS has approached the department for use of three bases to house children. Three are being used: Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, Fort Sill Army Base in Oklahoma and Naval Base Ventura in Oxnard, California.

On Tuesday, Bentley and the governors of five other states sent a letter to President Barack Obama, expressing concerns that a number of the undocumented children "will end up using the public schools, social services and health systems largely funded by the states" without going through the proper channels to determine legal status.

"With no end in sight, we need to have a plan to deal with this crisis in a humanitarian and practical way," the letter said.

Montgomery's congressional representatives divided along party lines in reaction to the news. U.S. Rep. Martha Roby, R-Montgomery, said in a statement that "housing, feeding and caring of immigration detainees would severely compromise the critical mission at Maxwell-Gunter," and said she would work on language to prevent the housing of immigrants at military bases.

Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Saks, was just as opposed.

"... these detainees would put an unnecessarily massive burden on the local community's resources," he said. "I will continue to push for these children to be returned to their home countries as quickly as

possible. We must send a strong message that amnesty is not on the table and illegally crossing our Southwest border will not be tolerated."

Rep. Terri Sewell, D-Birmingham, said in a statement she supported placing those children on military bases, saying the nation had "a moral obligation to protect and treat unaccompanied children with care and compassion."

Federal agencies briefly considered using Anniston's Center for Domestic Preparedness as temporary housing for undocumented immigrants, but said later it determined that the facilities would not be adequate.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, unaccompanied children coming over the border are first subject to health screenings and legal processing. Children may remain in shelters until a relative or sponsor is identified to take in the child while the legal process unfolds.

## **Flood of young immigrants could end up taxing state's education, public service systems, Gov. Robert Bentley says (AL.com)**

Saying they are concerned states could end up bearing the burden of caring for the stream of unaccompanied minors crossing into the U.S., Gov. Robert Bentley and five other Republican state leaders are calling on President Barack Obama to develop a plan to deal with the growing immigration crisis.

In a one-page letter dated July 22, Bentley, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, said the influx of as many as 50,000 immigrants – most of them minors – since October could end up stressing state resources.

During the National Governors Association meeting in Nashville, the governors met with Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell. During that visit, they said, the group learned the federal government is not requiring the relatives who are taking in the undocumented immigrants be citizens themselves.

"This raises real questions as to whether these children will maintain appropriate contacts with our legal system and will follow necessary procedures designed to protect both them and the American public," the governors wrote.

Nearly half the immigrant children sent to live with relatives fail to show up for immigration proceedings, the governors said.

"We are concerned that there will be significant numbers who will end up using public schools, social services and health systems largely funded by the states," they added.

Housing sought for 5,000 more children

Tens of thousands of minors – most from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras – have crossed into the country through the southwestern border since October, creating a humanitarian and political crisis for the Obama administration. The minors are currently being housed at three military bases and on Wednesday, the Pentagon said it has agreed to provide housing for an additional 5,000 children.

An agreement signed last week by the Department of Defense extends the current housing agreement through Jan. 31, 2015. The original plan called for up to 3,600 children to be housed for up to 120 days, with Fort Sill, Okla., Naval Base Ventura County, Calif., and Lackland Air Force Base, Texas providing shelter.

The Defense Department has not selected the bases where the additional 5,000 might be placed, only saying it is considering an "extensive list of possible locations." The children will be housed at the bases until returned to their home countries, a process that, unless changed, could take years.

Lack of immigration control encourages more to come

In their letter, the governors said the failure to return to unaccompanied children in a timely manner "will send a message that will encourage a much larger movement towards our southern border," something that will "put a significant number of children at risk of abuse and neglect.

"More than 57,000 children have crossed the border since October last year," they wrote. "Reports are that 90,000 children could make the journey by this fall. With no end in sight, we need to have a plan to deal with this crisis in a humanitarian and practical way."

## **Appeals court moves hearing in Siegelman case to October (AL.com)**

A federal appeals court won't be hearing former Gov. Don Siegelman's case next week.

Back in April, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals tentatively scheduled Siegelman's case for the week of July 28. But Siegelman attorney Susan James says the case has been reset for the week of Oct. 13.

A federal jury in 2006 convicted Siegelman and former HealthSouth CEO Richard Scrushy on bribery and other charges. Prosecutors said Scrushy bribed Siegelman for a spot on a state regulatory board with donations to Siegelman's 1999 lottery campaign.

Siegelman's lawyers say the case was tainted by the involvement of a prosecutor with ties to GOP politics and that the judge made multiple errors in calculating Siegelman's sentence.

The former Democratic governor is incarcerated in Louisiana.