Budget hearings, lottery bill part of busy week at State House

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Alabama's 2016 legislative session does not officially start for three weeks, but lawmakers will be gearing up this week.

Tuesday will be a busy day at the State House, with the start of General Fund budget hearings and other meetings.

At 10 a.m., Rep. Alan Harper, R-Northport, and Sen. Jim McClendon, R-Springville, will hold a press conference to announce **their plans to sponsor a lottery bill. [http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/01/republican_senator_to_sponsor.html]**

At 11 a.m., **the Alcoholic Beverage Study Commission, [http://www.al.com/business/index.ssf/2015/07/alabama_commission_wraps_up_pu.html]** created by the lawmakers last year, is scheduled to meet and is expected to vote on its recommendations to the Legislature.

General Fund budget hearings [http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/01/alabama_budget_process_cranks.html] begin Tuesday at 1 p.m.

The Alabama Department of Corrections, Unified Judicial System and Military Department will all appear at budget hearings on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Education Committee will gather at 3:30 p.m. for a general information meeting and fiscal update.

General Fund budget hearings continue Wednesday and Thursday:

Wednesday, starting at 9 a.m.

-- Alabama Medicaid Agency

-- Finance Department

Wednesday, starting at 1 p.m.

-- Department of Human Resources

-- Department of Mental Health

-- Department of Senior Services

-- Department of Public Health

Thursday, starting at 9 a.m.

-- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

-- Department of Environmental Management

-- Department of Youth Services

-- Alabama Law Enforcement Agency

The budget hearings will be in room 200 of the State House.

Also on Thursday, **the Joint Committee on Public Pensions [http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/11/alabama_public_pensions_commit.html]** will meet at 1:30 p.m.

The legislative session starts Feb. 2.

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