

**SUMMARY OF  
GENERAL STATUTES ENACTED  
AT THE  
1<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE 153<sup>rd</sup>  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA  
2015**

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL**

**316 STATE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334**





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## FOREWORD

We are pleased to present to you the Summary of General Statutes Enacted at the 2015 Session of the General Assembly of Georgia. This represents one of the services which the Legislative Services Committee and the Office of Legislative Counsel perform for the legislative branch of government. Other services include bill drafting, research, statutory and Code revision, rendering of opinions, counseling, legislative reference, interim committee staffing, and preparation of reports.

This document contains a summary of the general statutes of state-wide application which were enacted at the 2015 regular session of the General Assembly of Georgia. No resolutions, local Acts, or uncodified "population Acts" have been included. The document also includes a table of Code sections amended and enacted at the 2015 session.

Minutely analyzing each statute would be impractical, because doing so would defeat the main purpose which we hope that this document accomplishes. It is intended to be used as a convenient reference for persons desiring to know which laws were enacted or to ascertain the main features of each Act without the necessity of reading the Act in its entirety.

For specific, detailed information on any particular law, the Act itself should be examined. Acts may be readily located in the Georgia Laws by Act number, since the Acts are published in the Georgia Laws in numerical order by Act number. In addition, the Georgia Laws contain a table for converting Act numbers to Georgia Laws page numbers.

This summary is not to be deemed in any manner as an opinion from the Office of Legislative Counsel, and the question of constitutionality has not been considered with respect to any Act.

We hope that this document will benefit all who have occasion to use it. Comments and suggestions for improvement are welcomed and should be directed to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Wayne R. Allen  
Legislative Counsel

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The Acts in this summary are arranged according to the title of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated which they amend. In those cases in which an Act amends more than one Code title, the Act appears under only one of the affected titles. A table of titles appears below. No Acts are listed for those titles which are indicated by an asterisk. Click on the title or page number and it will take you to the designated title.

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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015 SESSION SUMMARY

HOUSE BILLS	Introduced/Filed	Passed	Pending	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Signed/Vetoed by Governor
	706	247	438	13	8	239/8
Generals Passed. . . . .	136					
Locals Passed. . . . .	<u>111</u>					
	247					Sent to the Governor for approval: 247
Pending / Carry-Overs:						
House. . . . .	365					
Senate. . . . .	70					
Further Action. . . . .	3					
Conf. Committee. . . . .	<u>0</u>					
	438					
Prefiled/Hoppers. . . . .	13					
Unfav.Rept./Lost/ Withdrawn. . . . .	<u>8</u>					
	706					

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced/Filed	Passed	Pending	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Signed/Vetoed by Governor
	960	866	92	1	1	4/0
General. . . . .	3					
Constitutional Ams. . . . .	0					
Non Privileged Adopted..	33					
Privileged Adopted. . . . .	<u>830</u>					
	866					Sent to the Governor for approval: 4
Pending / Carry-Overs:						
House . . . . .	90					
Senate . . . . .	2					
Further Action . . . . .	0					
Conf. Committee . . . . .	<u>0</u>					
	92					
Prefiled/Hoppers. . . . .	1					
Unfav. Rept./Lost/ Withdrawn. . . . .	<u>1</u>					
	960					

SENATE BILLS	Introduced/Filed	Passed	Pending	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Signed/Vetoed by Governor
	249	65	179	1	4	62/3
Generals Passed. . . . .	48					
Locals Passed. . . . .	<u>17</u>					
	65					Sent to Governor for approval: 65
Pending / Carry-Overs:						
Senate. . . . .	147					
House. . . . .	30					
Further Action. . . . .	2					
Conf. Committee. . . . .	<u>0</u>					
	179					
Prefiled/Hoppers. . . . .	1					
Unfav. Rept./Lost/ Withdrawn. . . . .	<u>4</u>					
	249					



**TITLE 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

*Act 9; HB 90*

This Act makes extensive editorial amendments to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to correct typographical, stylistic, capitalization, punctuation, and other errors and omissions and reenacts the statutory portion of the Code as so amended.

Effective March 13, 2015.

*Act 70; HB 252*

This Act amends various titles of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to repeal obsolete and outdated provisions. The Act also repeals provisions which have been deemed unconstitutional, updates outdated terminology, and repeals certain provisions relating to preclearance.

Effective July 1, 2015.

*Act 27; SB 119*

This Act designates the first Monday in May of every year as Water Professionals Appreciation Day in Georgia.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 1-4-22.

Effective April 29, 2015.

**TITLE 2  
AGRICULTURE**

*Act 17; HB 397*

This Act provides for administrative reassignment of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission and revises appointments to the commission. The Act removes certain authority of the commission to make grants for water supply reservoirs and provides for oversight of the erosion manual promulgated by the commission.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-6-23, 2-6-27, 12-7-3, and 12-7-7.1.

Effective April 8, 2015.

**TITLE 3  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

*Act 57; SB 63*

This Act specifies that the state revenue commissioner has the ability to deny, suspend, cancel, or revoke any permit required under Title 3 of the O.C.G.A., relating to alcoholic beverages.

### **TITLE 3 (continued)**

The Act revises the definition of the term "brewpub" and eliminates the provision requiring malt beverages manufactured at a brewpub be solely in draft form. The Act also removes the prohibition against a brewpub licensee offering free sampling of malt beverages on the premises of a brewpub.

The Act requires a permit for a manufacturer of distilled spirits to provide educational and promotional tours. The Act provides the conditions under which distillery tours may be conducted. The Act provides that such distillery tours may be conducted free of charge or for a fee and may include free souvenirs, free food, and free tastings. The Act also allows certain merchandise to be offered to the public by a distiller. The Act permits one free souvenir to the same individual in one calendar day consisting of a single bottle of distilled spirits, containing not more than 750 milliliters of distilled spirits. The Act limits free tastings to one and one-half ounces of distilled spirits to the same individual in one calendar day.

The Act requires a permit for a manufacturer of malt beverages to provide educational and promotional tours. The Act specifies that alcoholic beverages shall not be sold on any licensed premises for which such a permit has been issued. The Act provides the conditions under which brewery tours may be conducted. The Act provides that such brewery tours may be conducted free of charge or for a fee and may include free souvenirs, free food, and free tastings. The Act also allows certain merchandise to be offered to the public by a brewer. The Act permits one free souvenir to the same individual in one calendar day consisting of a sealed container or containers of malt beverages with a total liquid capacity that does not exceed 72 ounces. The Act limits free tastings to 36 ounces of malt beverages to the same individual in one calendar day.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-1-2, 3-2-3, 3-3-46, 3-4-24, 3-4-24.1, 3-4-180, 3-5-36, and 3-5-38.

Effective July 1, 2015.

#### ***Act 78; HB 152***

This Act defines "bar" and other terms. The Act requires self-reporting of disciplinary actions to the department by persons licensed to operate a bar. The Act also provides for the reporting of certain disciplinary actions by counties and municipalities which issue licenses or permits for the operation of a bar. The Act prohibits an individual under the age of 21 from being a bouncer on a premises or in an establishment where alcoholic beverages are dispensed, served, or sold. The Act also prohibits an individual from entering a bar unless he or she is accompanied by his or her parent, guardian, or spouse who is 21 years of age or older. The Act specifies that such provision does not apply to an individual while he or she is attending a live musical concert or a live presentation of the performing arts for which he or she has paid an admission charge.

The Act prohibits the manufacture, use, sale, and possession of powdered alcohol. The Act provides for exceptions and penalties.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-1-2, 3-3-2.1 and 3-3-24.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-34.

Effective July 1, 2016, except that Section 4 of the Act enacting O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-34 is effective May 5, 2015.

#### ***Act 10; SB 103***

This Act provides that the governing authority of a county or municipality may by adoption of a resolution or ordinance authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises from

### **TITLE 3 (continued)**

12:30 P.M. until 12:00 Midnight on one Sunday during each calendar year that shall be designated in such resolution or ordinance.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-7.

Effective March 13, 2015.

#### ***Act 22; HB 85***

This Act provides for local control of distance requirements for grocery stores near school buildings, school grounds, or college campuses as to the retail sale of wine and malt beverages. The Act revises the definition of the term "grocery store" by adding a minimum square footage requirement.

The Act eliminates provisions relating to the sale or furnishing of alcoholic beverages to patients or inmates of Central State Hospital and to the sale or possession of alcoholic beverages near or upon the grounds of such hospital. The Act also specifies that it is unlawful to introduce or possess any alcoholic beverages in the buildings of the Georgia War Veterans Home operated for the use and care of disabled war veterans.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-3-21 and 3-3-25.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### **TITLE 4 ANIMALS**

#### ***Act 304; SB 175***

This Act requires certain animals that are shipped to or imported into Georgia to be accompanied by certain certificates of inspection and makes it unlawful to ship or import certain animals into Georgia without such certificate. The Act excludes certain poultry from the certification requirement.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 4-11-11.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### **TITLE 7 BANKING AND FINANCE**

#### ***Act 64; HB 184***

This Act substantially revises Title 7, relating to banking and finance, to update the Code to account for modernization and technological changes and to provide clarity to rights and responsibilities relative to the Department of Banking and Finance, credit unions, financial institutions, bank and trust companies, license holders for the sale of payment instruments, mortgage brokers and lenders, and merchant acquirer limited purpose banks.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-4, 7-1-6, 7-1-61, 7-1-78, 7-1-111, 7-1-113, 7-1-116, 7-1-392, 7-1-489, 7-1-512, 7-1-532, 7-1-551, 7-1-608, 7-1-628.3, 7-1-630, 7-1-634, 7-1-635.1, 7-1-651, 7-1-655 through 7-1-657, 7-1-667, 7-1-668, 7-1-684, 7-1-686, 7-1-697, 7-1-703, 7-1-704.1, 7-1-715, 7-1-845,

## **TITLE 7 (continued)**

7-1-1003, 7-1-1017, 7-9-2, 7-9-4, 7-9-5, and 7-9-7 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-61.1, 7-1-640 through 7-1-645, and 7-9-12.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 16; HB 347***

This Act clarifies when interest on arrearage of child support begins to accrue for any civil action pending on or after the effective date.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 7-4-12.1.

Effective April 2, 2015, for any pending or later filed civil action.

## **TITLE 8 BUILDINGS AND HOUSING**

### ***Act 148; HB 341***

This Act provides that certain qualified inspectors may be certified by the Building Officials Association of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-26.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 151; HB 368***

This Act repeals and reserves Part 5 of Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to glass installations.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 8-2-90 through 8-2-95.

Effective May 6, 2015.

## **TITLE 9 CIVIL PRACTICE**

### ***Act 97; HB 17***

This Act extends the statute of limitations to file a claim for childhood sexual abuse after the age of 23 so that it can be brought within two years of the discovery of the injury as established by competent medical evidence. The Act changes the definition of "childhood sexual abuse" to remove misdemeanor crimes and add trafficking in sexual servitude and certain computer crimes. The Act provides for civil recovery under certain circumstances against entities that employed the perpetrator or when the perpetrator volunteered for the entity. The Act allows for a two-year retroactive window (July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2017) for the revival of expired civil actions against the perpetrators. The Act also allows for more access to closed child abuse case files.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 9-3-33.1, 9-3-90, 9-3-99, 49-5-41, and 49-5-44.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 9 (continued)**

### ***Act 98; HB 233***

This Act creates a uniform method of forfeiting property used directly or indirectly in violation of certain criminal laws and the proceeds realized from such criminal acts by enacting Chapter 16 of Title 9, the "Georgia Uniform Civil Forfeiture Procedure Act." The Act streamlines numerous forfeiture laws that used many different methods of forfeiture into one process. The Act makes substantial changes throughout the Code, including requiring more transparency and accountability to show how forfeited items and money are used, and makes substantial revisions to the "Georgia RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act." The Act also changes the qualifications of individuals who may be eligible to serve as a grand juror.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-12-60 and various other provisions of the O.C.G.A.; repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 16-12-30, 16-13-48.1, 16-13-53, 16-14-13, 16-14-14, 16-14-15, 17-5-52.1, 40-11-21, 40-11-22, 40-11-23, and 52-7-7.4; repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Sections 16-6-13.2, 16-6-13.3, 16-12-32, 16-13-49, and 16-16-2; and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 9-16.

Effective July 1, 2015, and shall apply to seizures of property for forfeiture that occur on or after that date.

## **TITLE 10 COMMERCE AND TRADE**

### ***Act 84; HB 461***

This Act changes provisions for the buying and selling of regulated metal property. The Act changes certain provisions relating to required information from secondary metals recyclers, requirements for the purchase of catalytic converters, and the role of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-350, 10-1-351, 10-1-352, 10-1-353, and 10-1-359.5 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 10-1-358.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 187; SB 148***

This Act transfers the powers and responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs to the Attorney General's office.

The Act amends Parts 1A and 2 of Article 15, Article 21, Article 28, and Article 31 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 10-1, O.C.G.A. Chapter 10-15, O.C.G.A. Chapter 18-5, Article 4 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 51-12, and O.C.G.A. Sections 2-22-5, 10-1-414, 10-1-427, 10-1-438, 10-1-773, 10-1-835, 16-9-120, 16-9-123, 16-9-127, 16-9-130, 16-9-131, 31-38-11, 31-38-12, 33-4-6, 33-4-7, 33-20A-9.1, 35-1-13, 36-76-7, 43-1A-4, 43-1A-5, 43-17-2, 43-17-11, 43-17-19, 43-47-3, 44-3-7, 45-10-25, 46-2-23.1, 46-2-26.3, 46-4-155, 46-4-158.2, 46-4-158.3, 46-4-160, 46-4-160.5, 46-4A-4, 46-4A-12, and 46-5-27 and repeals O.C.G.A. Chapter 33-57 and O.C.G.A. Chapter 46-10.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 10 (continued)**

### ***Act 159; HB 393***

This Act provides an exception to restrictions on the ownership, operation, or control of motor vehicle dealerships by manufacturers and franchisors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-622 and 10-1-664.1.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 11 COMMERCIAL CODE**

### ***Act 167; SB 65***

This Act repeals the "Georgia Foreign Money Judgments Recognition Act" and enacts the "Uniform Foreign-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act." The Act updates and modernizes various statutes in the commercial code relating to commercial transactions in order to maintain uniformity in Georgia's statutes governing commercial transactions as recommended by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The Act revises the "Uniform Fraudulent Transfers Act" and enacts the "Uniform Voidable Transactions Act." The Act amends the "Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Law" to provide for applicability of certain provisions in the "Georgia Civil Practice Act." The Act changes provisions related to an exemption for bankruptcy and intestate insolvent estates.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-4, 7-1-680, 9-3-35, 9-12-110, 9-12-111, 9-12-112, 9-12-113, 9-12-114, 9-12-115, 9-12-116, 9-12-117, 9-12-133, 10-1-622, 10-12-3, 11-1-101, 11-1-102, 11-1-103, 11-1-105, 11-1-106, 11-1-107, 11-1-108, 11-1-201, 11-1-202, 11-1-203, 11-1-204, 11-1-205, 11-1-206, 11-2-103, 11-2-202, 11-2-208, 11-2A-103, 11-2A-207, 11-2A-501, 11-2A-518, 11-2A-519, 11-2A-527, 11-2A-528, 11-3-103, 11-4A-105, 11-4A-106, 11-4A-204, 11-5-103, 11-8-102, 11-9-102, 11-11-101, 17-14-17, 18-2-70, 18-2-71, 18-2-72, 18-2-74, 18-2-75, 18-2-76, 18-2-77, 18-2-78, 18-2-80, 18-2-81, 40-11-6, 44-13-100, and 52-7-75.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 11-1-109, 11-1-207, 11-1-208, 11-1-209, 11-6-101, 11-6-102, 11-6-103, 11-6-104, 11-6-105, 11-6-106, 11-6-107, 11-6-108, 11-6-109, 11-6-110, 11-6-111, and 11-9-111.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 9-12-118, 9-12-119, 11-1-301, 11-1-302, 11-1-303, 11-1-304, 11-1-305, 11-1-306, 11-1-307, 11-1-308, 11-1-309, 11-1-310, 18-2-82, 18-2-83, 18-2-84, and 18-2-85.

Effective July 1, 2015, except Parts 3A, 3B, and 3C, which become effective on January 1, 2016.

## **TITLE 12 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

### ***Act 124; HB 199***

This Act provides for uniformity when provision of a notice relating to timber harvesting is required by a local governing authority.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 12-6-24.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 12 (continued)**

### ***Act 175; SB 101***

This Act provides for a buffer along coastal marshlands within which certain land-disturbing activities are prohibited. The Act also provides for exceptions and variances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 12-7-3 and 12-7-6.

Effective December 31, 2015, except for purposes of promulgating rules and regulations.

## **TITLE 13 CONTRACTS**

### ***Act 140; HB 299***

This Act authorizes the collection of convenience fees by lenders and merchants upon certain payments made by electronic means. The Act requires notice of the imposition of such convenience fees. The Act defines certain terms and provides for certain exclusions and applicability.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 13-1-15.

Effective May 6, 2015.

## **TITLE 14 CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***Act 194; HB 316***

This Act provides that physicians specializing in ophthalmology may organize a professional corporation with optometrists.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 14-7-4.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 15 COURTS**

### ***Act 74; HB 328***

This Act enacts recommendations of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform, changes provisions relating to the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, creates the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia, allows courts to use debt collectors under certain circumstances, and corrects cross-references. Part I of the Act requires consumer credit reporting agencies to search public records to ensure the release of proper information and allows enforcement through the "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975." Part II of the Act allows a defendant who was sentenced to a lengthy sentence as recidivist and as a drug recidivist to be considered for parole under limited circumstances. Part III of the Act allows for a probationary occupational license when the defendant has completed a drug court program. Part IV of the Act raises the misdemeanor level of fraud in obtaining public assistance. Part V of the Act creates the Council of Accountability Court Judges of

## **TITLE 15 (continued)**

Georgia to oversee accountability courts rather than the Judicial Council of Georgia. Part VII of the Act removes "standards" from the name of the Georgia Public Defender Council and Code sections dealing with indigent defense, changes the qualifications of the director, changes the director's responsibilities, changes the council's approval of programs and record keeping, and changes the functions of the Legislative Oversight Committee.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-1-15, 15-1-16, 15-1-17, 15-6-30, 15-6-76.1, 15-7-49, 15-9-18, 15-10-240, 15-16-27, 15-21-12, 15-21A-7, 17-10-7, 17-12-1, 17-12-2, 17-12-3, 17-12-5, 17-12-6, 17-12-7, 17-12-8, 17-12-10, 17-12-10.1, 17-12-20, 17-12-36, 17-12-51, 17-12-80, 35-6A-3, 36-32-1, 42-9-45, 43-1-19, and 49-4-15 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-393.14 and 15-1-18.

Effective July 1, 2015, except that Part II of the Act is effective May 5, 2015, and applies retroactively.

### ***Act 138; HB 279***

This Act increases the salaries for circuit public defenders, district attorneys, superior court judges, Superior Court Justices, and appellate judges. The circuit public defenders, district attorneys, and superior court judges who implement accountability courts in their circuit also get a salary supplement. The Act also provides appellate judges living more than 50 miles from the judicial building in Atlanta with a per diem. The Act provides for an additional judge of the superior court for the Western Judicial Circuit, adds a new panel of three judges to the Court of Appeals, and provides for the selection process for these judges. The Act creates the Judicial, District Attorney, and Circuit Public Defender Compensation Commission which will be repealed effective June 30, 2020.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-2-3, 15-3-1, 15-3-4, 15-3-5, 15-6-2, 15-6-29, 15-18-10, 17-12-25, and 45-7-4 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-29.1, 15-18-10.1, and 17-12-25.1 and O.C.G.A. Chapter 22-15.

Effective May 6, 2015, for purposes of appointing the additional Western Judicial Circuit Judge whose term begins April 1, 2016. Effective July 1, 2015, for purposes of appointing the new Court of Appeals Judges whose terms begin January 1, 2016. Effective May 6, 2015, except with respect to provisions that are contingent on appropriations; if appropriations are made in the 2015 appropriations Act, then effective January 1, 2016. Otherwise, the Act is repealed on July 1, 2015, if funds are not so appropriated.

### ***Act 181; SB 135***

Part I of this Act repeals the sunset of the Code section authorizing certified process servers. Part II of the Act manages the release of information to the public that is provided by superior court clerks to third parties for storage, archival, or back-up.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 9-11-4.1, 15-6-62.1, and 50-18-72 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 15-6-60.1.

Part I of the Act is effective May 6, 2015, and Part II of the Act is effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 15 (continued)**

***Veto Number 5; HB 524***

This Act provides for public electronic access to trade name registrations and imposes a new fee for reregistering an existing trade name in the trade name registry. From July 1, 2015, through December 31, 2020, the Act allows \$5.00 of the trade name registration and reregistration fees to be dedicated to the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority for creating the public registry.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections ~~10-1-490, 15-6-61, 15-6-77, 15-6-97, 15-6-98, and 15-6-99.~~

***Act 166; SB 62***

This Act allows probate courts to have concurrent jurisdiction on certain game and fish violations under Title 27 for high and aggravated misdemeanors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-9-30.3.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 75; HB 361***

This Act enacts recommendations of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform to clarify outstanding issues presented by juvenile court judges, attorneys, and interested stakeholders regarding the practical usage of the Code after the passage of 2013 HB 242. The Act changes the transfer criteria for certain serious cases when the juvenile and superior courts have jurisdiction. The Act also returns 17 year olds charged with traffic offenses to state, municipal, and probate courts, not juvenile court. The Act authorizes prosecuting attorneys to file complaints and participate in children in need of services cases.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-2, 15-11-10, 15-11-12, 15-11-16, 15-11-24, 15-11-146, 15-11-231, 15-11-232, 15-11-243, 15-11-390, 15-11-405, 15-11-420, 15-11-440, 15-11-441, 15-11-443, 15-11-450, 15-11-451, 15-11-506, 15-11-560, 15-11-561, 15-11-562, 15-11-630, 15-18-6.1, and 17-10-14.

Effective May 5, 2015.

***Act 76; HB 153***

This Act provides for a civil action for damages for the unauthorized practice of law, especially in the real estate arena. The Act also provides for exceptions.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 15-19-59 and 15-19-60.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 95; SB 8***

This Act, known as the "Safe Harbor/Rachel's Law Act," is divided into parts. Part II of the Act extends the statute of limitations to file claims for childhood sexual abuse until the plaintiff is 25 years old. The Act changes the definition of "childhood sexual abuse" to remove misdemeanor crimes and add trafficking in sexual servitude and certain computer crimes. Part III of the Act creates the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund that requires defendants convicted of trafficking for sexual servitude, keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, pandering, pandering by compulsion, solicitation of sodomy, masturbation for hire, or sexual exploitation of children to pay an additional penalty upon

## **TITLE 15 (continued)**

conviction. Adult entertainment establishments will also pay the greater of 1 percent of the prior year's gross revenue or \$5,000.00 into the fund. The fund is to be used for care, rehabilitation, and social services for sexually exploited children. Part III also creates the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission and provides for membership and duties. Parts IV, VA, and VB make changes in Titles 16, 42, and 49. The Act allows accuseds under 18 years of age to have the affirmative defense of their age to certain sexual crimes. The Act also changes certain sexual offense forfeiture laws to provide for forfeiture of motor vehicles, money, and proceeds used to facilitate such crimes. The Act adds trafficking of persons for sexual servitude as an offense that requires sexual offender registration and provides for venue for sexual offender registration offenses. The Act provides for the Department of Human Services to provide services to sexually exploited children.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 9-3-33, 9-3-33.1, 9-3-90, 9-3-99, 15-6-95, 16-3-6, 16-6-13.2, 16-6-13.3, 42-1-12, and 49-5-8 and enacts O.C.G.A. Article 11 of Chapter 15-21.

Effective July 1, 2015, except Part III is effective on January 1, 2017, if a constitutional amendment is ratified by the voters in the November, 2016, General Election, and different versions of the forfeiture laws are effective depending on the enactment of HB 233.

## **TITLE 16 CRIMES AND OFFENSES**

### ***Act 190; SB 160***

This Act requires an officer to issue a noncustodial citation for certain alcohol violations, unless the accused is intoxicated. The Act also creates a new offense that prohibits minors from being identified in obscene depictions, provides for definitions, and provides for penalties.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-3-23.1 and 17-4-23 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-40.1. Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 20; HB 1***

This Act, known as "Haleigh's Hope Act," creates the lawful possession of low THC oil under certain circumstances, regulates its possession, and provides for penalties. The Act provides for the Department of Public Health to issue registration cards and for the Georgia Composite Medical Board to establish procedures to allow physicians to certify a patient's need for low THC oil. A Low THC Oil Patient Registry will be established by the Department of Public Health. The Act creates the Georgia Commission on Medical Cannabis, which will be repealed on June 30, 2016. The Act provides for research programs through the Board of Regents and nonprofit research institutions, which will be repealed on July 1, 2020. The Act limits liability of health care institutions and health care providers when low THC oil is used or possessed on premises.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Article 8 of Chapter 12-16, Chapters 50 and 51 of Title 31, and O.C.G.A. Sections 31-2A-18 and 51-1-29.6.

Effective April 16, 2015.

## **TITLE 16 (continued)**

### ***Act 100; HB 492***

This Act changes the definition of a Class B designated felony act when it involves a violation of O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-127.1 and clarifies when incidents need to be reported by certain school officials. The Act clarifies the controlling nature of O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-130. The Act clarifies the carrying of weapons near a polling place. The Act changes provisions relating to renewal of weapons carry licenses. The Act allows ammunition to be stored in vehicles in parking lots. The Act allows local governments to regulate a volunteer's possession of firearms. The Act allows law enforcement officials to have access to probate court records to verify weapons carry licenses.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-2, 16-11-126, 16-11-127, 16-11-127.1, 16-11-127.2, 16-11-129, 16-11-135, 16-11-171, 16-11-173, 17-5-52.1, 20-2-1184, 21-2-413, and 50-18-72.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 40; SB 72***

This Act is divided into three parts. Part I of the Act changes the definition of incest to include relatives related by halfblood. Part II of the Act changes the nature of harassing phone calls to provide for modern technology of texting and other electronic communication. Part III of the Act, "Tanja's Law," revises and increases penalties for harming law enforcement animals while the animal is on duty.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-23, 16-6-22, 16-11-39.1, and 16-11-107.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 49; HB 192***

This Act adds the unlawful use of government purchasing cards to the crime of financial transaction card fraud and provides for venue, generally, for the offense. The Act provides for regulations of government purchasing cards and government issued credit cards. The Act also provides that when certain projects serve a governmental function, to the extent that the project comprises public and private components, it may be authorized for a local governmental authority.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-9-30, 16-9-33, and 16-9-37 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 16-9-40, 36-80-24, and 36-80-25.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 125; HB 211***

This Act makes changes to the list of Schedules I, III, and IV controlled substances and dangerous drugs and changes who is listed as a prescriber of a dangerous drug.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-25, 16-13-27, 16-13-28, 16-13-71, and 16-13-73.

Effective May 6, 2015.

### ***Act 88; HB 89***

This Act allows the use of currently dated city and county ordinances to select the areas for drug-free commercial zones.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-13-32.6.

Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 17  
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

***Act 192; SB 195***

This Act increases the maximum allowable continuing education fee for bondsmen to \$250.00 annually. The Act requires that bench warrants be issued at the end of a court day when a defendant fails to appear and revises the language dealing with defendants who are removed from the United States.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 17-6-50.1, 17-6-71, and 17-6-72.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 174; SB 99***

This Act changes provisions relating to a judge expressing an opinion as to proof in a criminal case or as to the guilt of the accused. The Act requires a party to make a timely objection outside of the jury's presence stating the specific grounds for the objection. The Act allows the judge to give curative instructions or grant a mistrial. The Act provides that when the comment is as to guilt, a new trial shall be granted.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 17-8-57.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 169; SB 79***

This Act allows step-relatives to make claims for compensation from the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Board and increases allowable funeral expenses from \$3,000.00 to \$6,000.00.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 17-15-7 and 17-15-8.  
Effective May 6, 2015.

***Act 173; SB 94***

Section 4 of this Act requires a procedure to enhance witness identification accuracy and law enforcement agencies that conduct lineups or showups to have written policies in place for such procedures by July 1, 2016. Other sections of the Act allow for search warrants for intangible evidence of a crime to be sought and collected via search warrant. The Act also allows law enforcement to use recording devices in private places, and there is a restriction of open records for the release of such recordings.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 16-11-60, 16-11-62, and 17-5-21 and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 20-17 and 50-18-72(a)(26.2).

Effective July 1, 2015, except that Section 4 of the Act is not effective until July 1, 2016.

**TITLE 19**  
**DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

*Act 89; HB 567*

This Act expands the jurisdiction of courts for the enforcement of child support orders.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-6-26.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

*Act 134; HB 268*

This Act revises provisions related to the mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse to provide for reporting methods and procedures.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-7-5.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

*Act 252; HB 568*

This Act provides for the reimbursement of paternity testing costs incurred by the Department of Human Services in certain instances. The Act also provides for additional standards and requirements for the collection and handling of genetic material.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-7-43, 19-7-45, and 19-7-54.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

*Act 222; HB 452*

This Act revises definitions related to protective orders to require registration and inclusion of certain types of protective orders in the Georgia Protective Order Registry.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-13-50, 19-13-51, 19-13-52, 19-13-53, 19-13-54, and 19-13-56.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 20**  
**EDUCATION**

*Act 163; HB 401*

This Act requires criminal background checks to be performed on potential employees of child care learning centers, family child care learning homes, and group-care facilities. The Act revises the powers and authority of the Department of Early Care and Learning and the licensing, commissioning, permitting, and registration for early care and education programs.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-12-1.1, 20-1A-1 through 20-1A-18, 20-1A-30 through 20-1A-44, and 25-2-13.  
Effective January 1, 2016.

## **TITLE 20 (continued)**

### ***Act 241; HB 502***

This Act updates and clarifies provisions in law related to elementary and secondary education. The Act repeals various population act provisions. The Act authorizes local boards of education to require students to complete a course in America's founding philosophy and founding principles. The Act provides for a method for seeking a waiver from a State Board of Education rule. The Act encourages local school systems to implement a program of formative assessment and intervention in reading for kindergarten through third grade. The Act revises provisions relative to digital learning and virtual instruction. The Act revises provisions related to health insurance for public school teachers and employees. The Act establishes a Celebrate Freedom Week each September to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-51, 20-2-80 through 20-2-82, 20-2-84.3, 20-2-131, 20-2-140, 20-2-140.1, 20-2-142, 20-2-151, 20-2-154.1, 20-2-159.1 through 20-2-159.3, 20-2-160, 20-2-161, 20-2-181, 20-2-182, 20-2-184.1, 20-2-190, 20-2-200, 20-2-241, 20-2-242, 20-2-244, 20-2-270.1, 20-2-281, 20-2-290, 20-2-306, 20-2-314, 20-2-315, 20-2-319.1, 20-2-319.3 through 20-2-319.5, 20-2-326, 20-3-329, 20-2-690, 20-2-892, 20-2-920, 20-2-942, 20-2-1160, 20-2-2065, 20-2-2067.1, and 20-2-2084 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-142.1, 20-2-244.1, and 20-2-1020 through 20-2-1022.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 14; HB 91***

This Act eliminates the Georgia High School Graduation Test as a requirement for purposes of graduation. The Act provides for procedures for former students who did not pass one or more portions of the Georgia High School Graduation Test to petition to obtain a high school diploma.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-84, 20-2-132, 20-2-171, 20-2-281, 20-2-283, and 20-2-284 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-281.1.

Effective March 30, 2015.

### ***Act 24; SB 133***

This Act establishes the Opportunity School District and allows it to supervise, manage, and operate certain schools that have received unsatisfactory ratings based on student achievement. The Act provides for authority and limitations of the Opportunity School District and establishes means by which schools may be removed from state supervision.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-84, 20-2-186, and 20-2-2068; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 20-14-41; and enacts Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 20-14.

Effective January 1, 2017, contingent on ratification of an amendment to the Constitution.

### ***Act 33; SB 2***

This Act authorizes local boards of education to award high school diplomas to students who complete postsecondary institution coursework and meet other requirements.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-149.2.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 20 (continued)**

### ***Act 34; SB 132***

This Act allows eligible high school students to take postsecondary education courses for credit and provides requirements and procedures for dual credit programs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-157, 20-2-160, and 20-2-161.3 and repeals O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-159.5.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 118; HB 164***

This Act extends the suspension of professional learning requirements for certification renewal by personnel certified by the Professional Standards Commission.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-200.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 101; HB 3***

This Act prohibits persons from entering into or soliciting a transaction with a student-athlete that would result in sanctions to the student-athlete and provides for a right of action by a postsecondary institution in such instances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-317 and 20-2-318.

Effective May 6, 2015.

### ***Act 171; SB 89***

This Act enacts in Part I the "Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act" which provides for policies related to collection and dissemination of student data. The Act provides for a chief privacy officer responsible for data privacy and data security within the Department of Education and provides restrictions on the collection, reporting, and use of student information or data. The Act establishes policies and procedures for securing student data and provides for access to information by parents or guardians. The Act also establishes policies to encourage the use of digital instructional materials and content.

The Act amends Articles 15 and 19 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 20-2.

Effective July 1, 2015, except for Part I, which shall be effective July 1, 2016, with exceptions.

### ***Act 183; SB 164***

This Act authorizes the implementation and funding of positive behavioral interventions and supports and response to intervention programs, particularly in high needs schools.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-741.

Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 20 (continued)**

***Act 191; HB 131***

This Act revises the definition of bullying to include acts of cyberbullying.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-751.4.  
Effective May 6, 2015, and applicable to all conduct occurring on or after such date.

***Act 91; HB 198***

This Act requires annual training in the area of suicide prevention by all certified personnel for elementary and secondary public schools.  
The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-779.1.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 25; HB 372***

This Act prohibits a municipality, county, or local political subdivision from enacting additional requirements for the operation of a charter which has passed state facility inspections and received a certificate of occupancy. The Act exempts accredited nonpublic, nonprofit colleges or universities in existence for more than ten years from the "Nonpublic Postsecondary Educational Institutions Act." The Act provides for enrollment preferences for conversion charter schools and state chartered special schools.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-2062, 20-2-2066, 20-2-2068.2, and 20-3-250.3.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 182; SB 156***

This Act authorizes the State Charter Schools Commission to establish a nonprofit foundation to aid the commission in accomplishing its purposes, including seeking supplemental funds, goods, services, or property.  
The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-2092.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 201; HB 209***

This Act revises notice requirements of scholarship options available for special needs students.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-2113.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 32; HB 62***

This Act waives the one-year residency requirement for special needs students scholarships when a student's parent is an active military duty service member stationed in Georgia within the previous year.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-2114.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 20 (continued)**

### ***Act 144; HB 320***

This Act requires that certain information held by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation, and the Georgia Student Finance Authority be kept confidential. The Act provides for the garnishment of pay, loss of a professional license, offset of lottery winnings, and offset of state tax refunds for amounts owed to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the Georgia Student Finance Authority without judicial action.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-236, 20-3-266, and 20-3-316.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 23; HB 353***

This Act designates the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission as the appropriate entity for complaints involving nonpublic postsecondary institutions and revises the process for filing a complaint against a nonpublic postsecondary institution. The Act amends the membership, qualifications, and powers of the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and exempts the commission from the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act. The Act allows for the submission of a bank standby letter of secured credit in lieu of a surety bond by a nonpublic postsecondary educational institution making application to the commission. The Act revises provisions relative to the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-250.2 through 20-3-250.5, 20-3-250.8, 20-3-250.10, 20-3-250.14, 20-3-250.15, 20-3-250.27, and 50-13-2.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 25**

### **FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

### ***Act 50; HB 110***

This Act allows for the sale of consumer works and Roman candles. The Act provides for certain regulations on the sale and use of consumer works and Roman candles by the Safety Fire Commissioner and the governing authority of a county or municipal corporation. The Act provides for an excise tax on the sale of consumer fireworks and Roman candles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-11-127.1, 25-10-1, 25-10-2, 25-10-6, 25-10-9, and 36-60-24, and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 25-10-5.1 and 25-10-10 and Article 7 of Chapter 13 of Title 48.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 26**

### **FOOD, DRUGS, AND COSMETICS**

### ***Act 81; SB 194***

This Act provides that certain provisions of law regarding pharmacists and pharmacies shall not apply to a facility engaged solely in the distribution of dialysate drugs, or devices necessary to perform home

## **TITLE 26 (continued)**

kidney dialysis to patients with end stage renal disease, provided that certain criteria are met. The Act authorizes certain refills by pharmacists of topical ophthalmic products under certain conditions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-5 and 26-4-80 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-6.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 189; SB 51***

This Act provides for substitutions of interchangeable biological products by pharmacists under certain conditions and with certain required disclosures.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-5 and 26-4-81.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 235; HB 511***

This Act provides for minimum standards for pharmacy technicians to fill remote automated medication systems in skilled nursing facilities and hospices.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-28.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 27 GAME AND FISH**

### ***Act 177; SB 112***

This Act removes certain restrictions relating to the reporting of animals taken by hunters and provides for general rulemaking powers of the Department of Natural Resources to establish reporting procedures.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 27-3-29 and 27-1-39, and repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 27-3-45 and 27-3-46.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 26; HB 160***

This Act allows for the trapping of raccoons in certain counties where previously prohibited.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 27-3-62.  
Effective April 29, 2015.

### ***Act 228; HB 475***

This Act removes various restrictions on the hunting of feral hogs and requires permits for the hunting or transportation of feral hogs in certain instances.

The Act enacts the "Feral Hog Control Act."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 27-1-33, 27-2-31, 27-3-4, 27-3-13, and 27-3-24, and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 2-7-200, 2-7-201, 2-7-202, 2-7-203, and 2-7-204.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 30  
HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

***Act 86; HB 72***

This Act expands and clarifies protection of disabled adults and elder persons. The Act provides for abuse, neglect, and exploitation of disabled adults, elder persons, and residents as a racketeering activity and prohibits private causes of actions or civil remedies for certain violations. The Act changes provisions relating to inspection warrants and the disclosure of AIDS confidential information. The Act revises the Good Samaritan law to provide for damaging property in emergency situations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-3-20, 16-5-100, 16-5-103, 16-5-104, 16-14-3, 17-8-1, 24-12-21, 30-5-3, 30-5-4, 31-2-9, 31-2-13, 31-5-10, 31-5-20, 31-5-21, 31-5-24, and 51-1-29 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-5-105.

Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 31  
HEALTH**

***Act 55; SB 109***

This Act clarifies the use and effectiveness of Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment forms. The Act provides alternate terminology for do not resuscitate orders.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-5, 16-5-101, 29-4-18, and 31-39-4 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-1-14.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 56; SB 126***

This Act authorizes certain health care practitioners to prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine to an authorized entity for emergency purposes, licensed health practitioners to prescribe levalbuterol sulfate for schools, and pharmacists to fill such prescriptions. The Act provides for the acquisition, stocking, and administration of such prescriptions by authorized entities and certain persons.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-116.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-776.3, 20-2-776.4, 26-4-116.3, and 31-1-14.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 203; HB 342***

This Act provides that certain violations by nursing homes shall not constitute negligence per se. The Act provides for limitations on advertisements that use or reference the results of federal or state surveys or inspections of nursing homes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-7-3.2.

Effective May 12, 2015, and shall apply to all causes of actions on and after such date.

## **TITLE 31 (continued)**

### ***Act 60; HB 183***

This Act revises the definition of private home care provider.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-7-300.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 218; HB 436***

This Act requires physicians and health care providers to offer HIV and syphilis testing of pregnant women in their third trimester of pregnancy and provides for the refusal of such testing. The Act eliminates the requirement for counseling by a health care provider prior to ordering an HIV test. The Act revises provisions relating to the number of advanced practice registered nurses a delegating physician can enter into a protocol agreement with at any one time.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-17-4.2, 31-22-9.2, and 43-34-25.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 156; HB 385***

This Act moves responsibility for determining the annual cost adjustment for providing medical records from the Office of Planning and Budget to the Department of Community Health.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-33-3.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 32**

### **HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, AND FERRIES**

### ***Act 229; HB 477***

This Act provides for notice to a property owner's association in lieu of individual homeowners when property formerly acquired for public road purposes is to be abandoned and is located within a subdivision with a property owner's association. The Act provides for newly established municipalities to assume ownership, control, care, and maintenance of county rights of way unless the county and municipality agree otherwise through a joint resolution.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 32-7-4 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-31-7.1.

Effective May 12, 2015.

### ***Act 157; HB 386***

This Act repeals Chapter 12 of Title 32 relating to the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 32-12-1 through 32-12-6.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 32 (continued)**

### ***Act 184; SB 169***

This Act provides for standards for qualification of a roadway as part of the state highway system. The Act provides for procedure for the disposition of property, the appropriation of federal funds, and the implementation of the federal Public Transportation Safety Program by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The Act provides for standards of compensation by the department and local governing authorities when an outdoor advertising sign is on land acquired for public road purposes. The Act provides for the operation of personal transportation vehicles for commercial delivery purposes within residential subdivisions if certain requirements are met regardless of the existence of a local ordinance that speaks to the use of personal transportation vehicles. The Act provides for a time frame by which an accident report shall be submitted by law enforcement agencies to the department.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-4-20, 32-5-2, 32-7-4, 32-9-10, 40-6-331, and 40-9-31 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 32-3-3.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 178; SB 125***

This Act authorizes the collection of tolls by the State Road and Tollway Authority for the management of the flow of traffic and provides authority for the fixing, revising, charging, and enforcing of such tolls. The Act provides for the charging of fines and issuance of notices by the Authority upon evidence of a toll violation. The Act provides for an exemption from sales and use taxes on property purchased or used by the Authority. The Act provides for the installation of necessary equipment by the Georgia Department of Transportation for the control of managed lanes and provides for standards for use of such lanes by drivers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-10-64, 32-10-65, 32-10-109, and 40-1-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-28.

Effective May 6, 2015.

## **TITLE 33 INSURANCE**

### ***Act 196; HB 190***

This Act provides insurance requirements for transportation network companies and their drivers, provides for minimum liability limits, certain disclosures, and certain notifications.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-1-24.

Effective July 1, 2016.

## **TITLE 33 (continued)**

### ***Veto Number 2; HB 439***

This Act enacts the Georgia New Markets Jobs Act to provide that certain entities may earn credit against state tax liability, provides for certification of qualified equity investments, provides for recapture of credit claimed under certain circumstances, provides for a retaliatory tax, and provides for decertification. The Act further establishes the Invest Georgia Tax Credit and authorizes the board to sell tax credits.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 10-10-21 and 33-1-24.

### ***Act 117; HB 162***

This Act provides for insurance compliance self-evaluative privilege, so as to provide for an insurance compliance self-evaluative audit document as privileged information, its inadmissibility in certain legal actions, applications and exceptions, and burden of proof, and applies to self-evaluative audits completed before June 30, 2018, but shall not apply to any such audits completed on or after July 1, 2018, unless authorized by the General Assembly prior to that date.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-2-34.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 120; HB 185***

This Act provides for extensive revision to the Standard Valuation Law to provide for modernization of life insurance reserve calculation requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-25-4, enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 33-13A-1 through 33-13-A-13, and repeals and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-10-13.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 87; SB 108***

This Act provides for requirements for insurers to maintain a risk management framework and provides guidance and instructions for filing an Own Risk and Solvency Assessment and report with the Commissioner. This Act further provides for standards and timing of reports, exemptions, confidentiality of report, the Commissioner's duties and powers, penalties, and the redesignation of certain Code provisions and conforming changes.

The Act designates the existing provision of O.C.G.A. as Article 1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 33, and amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-13-1, 33-13-4 through 33-13-6, 33-13-8 through 33-13-13, and 33-13-15.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 105; HB 84***

This Act provides that any policy covering any loss, expense, or liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of an aircraft that contains one, all, or any combination of specific exclusions or conditions in the categories permitted by law shall include conspicuous notice advising the insured that the policy contains such provisions and provide specific instructions as to what actions the insured is required to take in order to protect and preserve his or her rights and coverages under the policy.

## **TITLE 33 (continued)**

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-30.

Effective July 1, 2015, applicable to policies issued on or renewed after July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 207; HB 409***

This Act provides for the reimbursement for the treatment of burns for skin substitutes utilizing cryopreserved cadaver derived skin tissue.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.18.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 31; HB 429***

This Act provides that no health benefit plan shall restrict coverage for prescribed treatment based upon the insured's diagnosis with a terminal condition and penalties. The Act further provides for certain coverage of autism spectrum disorder, limitations, premium cap and other conditions, applicability, and for a contingent repeal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 33-24-59.10 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.18.

Effective for policies issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2015, except that Section 2B shall become effective on January 1, 2017, only if the amendment to the Georgia Constitution proposed by HR 808 is ratified by the voters at the November, 2016, general state-wide election, in which event Section 2A of the Act shall stand repealed on January 1, 2017. If such constitutional amendment is not ratified, then Section 2B of this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed on January 1, 2017.

### ***Act 67; HB 552***

This Act changes certain captive insurance company provisions which include definitions, transaction insurance prerequisites, director provisions, capital or surplus requirements, application of examination and confidentiality of certain documents, and taxation requirements. The Act further provides for federal home loan bank rights regarding collateral pledged by an insurer-member subject to a delinquency proceeding.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-37-3, 33-37-5, 33-41-2, 33-41-4, 33-41-7, 33-41-8, 33-41-16, and 33-41-22 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-37-26.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 79; SB 111***

This Act provides for changes and additions to certain definitions relating to continuing care providers and facilities and provides for a provider to offer continuing care at home on or off site of a facility.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-45-1, 33-45-3, and 33-45-7.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 61; HB 470***

This Act changes certain provisions of The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights and provisions relating to the regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to impose certain requirements for the use of maximum allowable cost pricing by pharmacy benefits managers and to provide for

## **TITLE 33 (continued)**

enforcement of such provisions. The Act further provides that the on-site audit gives 14 days prior notice and includes in such notice a comprehensive list of claims by prescription number to be audited with certain permissible omissions, recoupment limitations, and other audit revisions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-118, 33-64-1, 33-64-7, and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-64-9.

Sections 1, 5, and 6 become effective July 1, 2015. Sections 2, 3, and 4 shall become effective on January 1, 2016.

## **TITLE 34 LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

### *Act 92; HB 443*

This Act enacts the "Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act" and permits employers to create and use a policy that provides preferential hiring, promotion, or retention to veterans of the armed forces of the United States.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 34-1-8.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### *Act 85; SB 88*

This Act provides for the payment of wages and salary payments by credit to a payroll card account. The Act requires those making wage and salary payments using such a method to provide the employee with a written explanation of any fees associated with the payroll card account and the ability to opt out of receiving such payments via such method and receive payments instead by check or electronic credit transfer.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 34-7-2.

Effective May 5, 2015.

### *Act 113; HB 117*

This Act changes certain provisions, processes, and procedures affecting unemployment insurance and benefits.

Section 1 of the Act modifies the definition of the term "most recent employer."

Section 2 of the Act changes certain provisions relating to charging regular benefits paid against the experience rating account of employers.

Section 3 of the Act provides that the Commissioner of Labor may make any adjustments or refunds deemed appropriate for any amounts erroneously collected where no written request for a refund or an adjustment has been received, provided such amounts were assessed within the last seven years.

Section 4 of the Act provides circumstances that shall be deemed to establish good cause in filing a valid claim for benefits in connection with an individual's most recent work, which include family violence verified by reasonable documentation.

Section 5 of the Act changes a provision relating to specific provisions for payments in lieu of contributions in order to correct a cross-reference.

## **TITLE 34 (continued)**

Section 6 of the Act provides that any action to recover an overpayment shall be brought by the Commissioner of Labor or an authorized representative thereof within seven years from the release date of the notice of determination and overpayment by the Department of Labor.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 34-8-43, 34-8-157, 34-8-164, 34-8-194, 34-8-159, and 34-8-254. Effective May 6, 2015.

### ***Act 185; HB 412***

This Act changes certain provisions affecting workers' compensation.

Section 1 of the Act revises certain provisions relating to the exclusivity of rights and remedies granted to an employee under workers' compensation. The Act provides that an employer may be liable to an employee for certain rights and remedies by expressly agreeing in writing to specific additional rights and remedies. The Act provides, however, that the use of contractual provisions generally relating to workplace safety, generally relating to compliance with laws or regulations, or generally relating to liability insurance requirements shall not be construed to create rights beyond those provided in O.C.G.A. Chapter 34-9.

Section 2 of the Act eliminates the Conformed Panel of Physicians as a method by which an employer may satisfy the requirements for furnishing medical care.

Section 3 of the Act increases the maximum weekly compensation for temporary total disability benefits from \$525.00 to \$550.00 per week.

Section 4 of the Act increases the maximum weekly compensation for temporary partial disability benefits from \$350.00 to \$367.00 per week.

Section 5 of the Act increases the total compensation payable to a surviving spouse when there are no other dependents from \$150,000.00 to \$220,000.00.

Section 6 of the Act provides that on and after January 1, 2016, each insurer and self-insurer shall make payments to the fund in an amount equal to that proportion of \$100 million the total workers' compensation claims paid by the insurer or self-insurer bears to the total workers' compensation claims paid by all insurers and self-insurers during the preceding calendar year but not to exceed \$100 million.

Section 7 of the Act provides for the transfer of the books, records, and property of the Subsequent Injury Trust Fund to the custody of the Insurance Department upon dissolution of the fund and changes the date by which the fund and members of its board of trustees shall be discharged from their duties from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2023.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 34-9-11, 34-9-201, 34-9-261, 34-9-262, 34-9-265, 34-9-358, and 34-9-368.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 35 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES**

### ***Act 132; HB 263***

This Act provides for an advisory board to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for juvenile justice issues. The Act provides that certain entities and agencies share information with the council. The Act transfers the responsibility and duties over certain shelters from the Department of Human Resources to the council. The Act transfers the duties, powers, and authority to manage and operate the

## **TITLE 35 (continued)**

Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation from the Division of Rehabilitation Services within the Department of Labor to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-504, 15-11-704, 15-11-708, 19-13-20, 19-13-21, 19-13-22, 35-6A-7, 49-4A-2, 49-4A-8, 49-5-155, and 49-9-4 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 35-6A-11 and 35-6A-12.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 36 LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### ***Act 217; HB 432***

This Act provides that local Acts providing for the deannexation of property from a municipality and the annexation of the same property to another municipality which are effective on the same date do not create a prohibited unincorporated island.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-36-4.

Effective May 12, 2015.

### ***Act 210; SB 4***

This Act provides for the priority of certain liens regarding assessments for downtown development authorities. The Act also provides for the use of surface transportation projects in urban redevelopment areas. The Act further provides methods of procurement and the use of public contracts with private enterprises for such surface transportation projects. The Act places limitations on former public employees when negotiating contracts for the projects.

The Act provides for the formation of a metropolitan planning process for the Atlanta Urbanized Area and Atlanta Air Quality region.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-61-2, 36-61-4, 36-61-6, 36-61-10, 36-61-12, 36-61-14, and 36-61-16 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 36-42-17 and 50-18-280.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 208; HB 174***

This Act amends the "Urban Redevelopment Law," so as to revise the terminology of "slums" to "pockets of blight."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-61-2, 36-61-3, 36-61-5 through 36-61-8, 36-61-10, and 36-61-17.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 108; HB 95***

This Act provides that the state treasurer may place local government investment pool funds in a separate trust fund to be administered by him or her pursuant to policies established by the State Depository Board.

## **TITLE 36 (continued)**

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-83-8.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 72; SB 59***

This Act enacts the "Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act." The Act creates the Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Committee and provides for its membership, terms, allowances, duties, and support. The Act provides guidelines for qualifying projects and the manner by which projects may be initiated, approved, evaluated, and reviewed. The Act also provides for aspects of such projects such as contracts, property interests, financing, grants, default, and remedies. The Act further provides for sovereign immunity and the powers and jurisdiction of law enforcement officers in relation to such projects.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 36-91-110 through 36-91-119 and 50-5C-1 through 50-5C-10.  
Effective May 5, 2015.

## **TITLE 37 MENTAL HEALTH**

### ***Act 8; SB 53***

This Act revises the sunset provision of Act No. 546, approved April 21, 2014 (Ga L. 2014, p. 347), which relates to mental health and authorizes a licensed professional counselor to perform certain acts.

The Act amends Act No. 546, approved April 21, 2014 (Ga L. 2014, p. 347).  
Effective March 10, 2015.

### ***Act 236; HB 512***

This Act changes certain terminology and provisions relating to the governing and regulation of mental health and to the administration of mental health as it relates to regional and local administration and services.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 37-1-20, 37-2-4.1, 37-2-5, 37-2-5.1, and 37-2-5.2.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 179; SB 131***

This Act provides for the certification, rather than licensing, of crisis stabilization units through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 37-1-29.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 37 (continued)**

### ***Act 90; HB 288***

This Act provides for the addition of two members to serve on the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 37-2-4.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 38**

### **MILITARY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

#### ***Act 52; SB 69***

This Act provides employees of private and public employers certain employment rights and benefits for periods of service on the State Defense Force.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 38-2-54.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

#### ***Act 82; HB 180***

This Act revises the residency requirements to qualify for admission to the War Veterans' Home.  
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 38-4-55.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

#### ***Act 99; HB 98***

This Act substantially revises the Georgia Code of Military Justice.  
The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 38-2-320 through 38-2-577 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 38-2-1000 through 38-2-1145.  
Effective July 1, 2015, and applicable to offenses occurring on or after that date.

## **TITLE 39**

### **MINORS**

#### ***Act 150; HB 366***

This Act changes certain provisions relating to the employment of minors. The Act changes certain requirements regarding the issuance of employment certificates and exempts information gathered regarding the employment of minors from public disclosure.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 39-2-11, 39-2-11.1, 39-2-12, 39-2-14, and 50-18-72.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 40  
MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

***Act 21; SB 100***

This Act removes driver's license suspension as a penalty for offenses which are not traffic related, except for failure to pay child support, including attempting to purchase alcohol by a minor, school truancy, fraudulent license application, a felony based upon conviction of fraudulent identification, driving off without paying for gas, and drug offenses not related to the physical control of a motor vehicle. The Act requires the Department of Human Services to inform a delinquent obligor for child support of resources available to assist in the remedy of a delinquency. The Act revises certain reporting requirements by the Department of Education to the Department of Driver Services. The Act amends provisions relative to for-hire intrastate motor carriers to comply with federal regulations. The Act provides for the issuance of a temporary operating permit when a vehicle has failed to pass an emissions test. The Act allows for a person obtaining a personal identification card to register as an organ donor and provides for the dissemination of such information by the Department of Driver Services to the appropriate procurement organizations. The Act allows for the issuance of a limited driving permit to an applicant whose driver's license is suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction so long as the applicant meets the basic requirements for such permit. The Act waives the license fee for Class P noncommercial instruction permit applicants taking the knowledge test with a licensed driver training school or public or private high school. The Act allows for the issuance of drivers' licenses and personal identification cards with a black and white photograph. The Act requires a court to seize the driver's license of a driver under 21 years old if convicted of certain traffic offenses and forward a copy of a disposition which results in a license suspension to the Department of Driver Services within ten days of a conviction. The Act expands the permissible use of a limited driving permit to include performing normal duties of a driver's occupation. The Act also changes provisions relating to pleas of nolo contendere for driving with a suspended, canceled, or revoked vehicle registration. The Act prohibits employees and owners of driver improvement clinics and DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs from giving gifts to potential clients, law enforcement, or certain government officials.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-3-23.1, 19-11-9.3, 20-2-320, 20-2-690, 20-2-690.2, 20-2-697, 20-2-701, 40-1-1, 40-1-8, 40-2-1, 40-2-20, 40-2-140, 40-5-2, 40-5-6, 40-5-22, 40-5-25, 40-5-27, 40-5-28, 40-5-54, 40-5-57.1, 40-5-63, 40-5-64, 40-5-75, 40-5-81, 40-5-100, 40-5-121, 40-5-150, 40-5-171, 40-6-15, and 42-8-112 and repeals O.C.G.A. Section 40-5-57.2.

Effective July 1, 2015, and applicable to offenses which occur on or after such date, except for the portion relating to the waiver of application fees for Class P noncommercial instruction permit applicants taking the knowledge test with a licensed driver training school or public or private high school, which shall become effective on January 1, 2016.

***Act 195; HB 225***

This Act establishes regulations for transportation for hire. The Act prohibits a county or municipal corporation from adopting an ordinance requiring certificates of public necessity and convenience or medallions to operate a taxicab but permits the continuing enforcement of such ordinances enacted prior to July 1, 2014. The Act creates a for-hire license endorsement to be used for the operation of taxicab services, limousine services, and transportation referral services unless a driver has undergone a private background check certification. The Act allows the governing authority of a county or municipal airport to charge fees as part of the regulation of for-hire transportation services operating at an airport. The Act requires transportation referral service providers to register with the Department of Public Safety.

## **TITLE 40 (continued)**

The Act regulates the type of information to be maintained by drivers and network service providers of a transportation referral service. The Act requires drivers in a transportation referral service to have insurance coverage and to display an emblem or signage provided by the department at all times the vehicle is being operated as a for-hire vehicle. The Act provides for the calculation of fares or fees for taxicabs, limousines, and transportation referral service providers. The Act requires the maintenance of a master license by taxicab, limousine, and transportation referral network service companies, with the cost of such license to be based upon the number of for-hire vehicles used by the company.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-60-25, 40-1-158, 40-1-166, 40-2-168, 40-5-1, 40-5-39, and 48-8-3 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 40-1-190 through 40-1-200.

Effective July 1, 2015, except for portions relating to registration and licensing of taxicabs, limousines, and for-hire vehicles and exemption from sales and use taxes for fares of for-hire vehicles which have purchased a for-hire master license, which become effective on July 1, 2016.

### ***Act 180; SB 134***

This Act establishes a rebuttable presumption that fines collected from the use of speed detection devices or basic rules of the road violations are for the promotion of health and safety and not for generation of revenue if such fines are less than 35 percent of the law enforcement agency's annual budget. The Act requires local governments to include revenue from speeding fines in the annual report submitted to the Department of Community Affairs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-81-8 and 40-14-11.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Veto Number 1; SB 76***

This Act enacts the "Motorcycle Mobility Safety Act" which allows the driver of a lightweight motorcycle or bicycle to disobey a traffic control device or signal under certain circumstance when the driver reasonably believes the signal is not acknowledging the driver's presence due to the lightweight nature of the vehicle. The Act requires a motor vehicle driver to stop upon activation of a flash beacon or similar pedestrian activated crosswalk. The Act removes the handlebar height restriction on motorcycles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-1-1, 40-6-20, 40-6-91, and 40-6-314.

### ***Act 115; HB 147***

This Act provides for an initial two-year registration period for new passenger vehicles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-20 and 40-2-151.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 104; HB 48***

This Act establishes a special and distinctive license plates for public safety first responders injured in the line of duty and for members of the Georgia State Defense Force. The Act allows for the placement of special and distinctive license plates for service in the military to be placed upon motorcycles. The Act expands eligibility for family members of service members killed in action specialty license plates and clarifies what constitutes a disabled veteran for purposes of eligibility for

## **TITLE 40 (continued)**

free license plates, eligibility requirements for homestead exemption, and exemption from motor vehicle ad valorem taxation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-69, 40-2-81, 40-2-85.1, 40-2-85.3, 40-2-86, 48-5-48, and 48-5-478 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-63.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 15; SB 82***

This Act revises the collection and distribution of fees and alternative ad valorem taxes on apportionable vehicles. The Act provides for the electronic publication of the Georgia Unclaimed Property List on the Department of Revenue's website and provides for the disposition of the proceeds from the sale of items from such list.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-152, 44-12-215, and 44-12-218.

Effective March 31, 2015, except the portion related to fees and alternative ad valorem taxation of apportionable vehicles, which shall apply to all disbursements which occur after the effective date.

### ***Act 240; HB 118***

This Act updates requirements for obtaining a commercial driver's license to comply with federal regulations, including restrictions on the use of wireless communication devices.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-5-125, 40-5-142, 40-5-147, 40-5-151, 40-5-159, and 40-6-241.2.

Effective May 12, 2015.

### ***Act 58; HB 206***

This Act provides for the procedure for passing an active sanitation vehicle and penalty for failure to comply with such provisions.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-16.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 80; HB 123***

This Act clarifies that the definition of load includes a registered trailer for purposes of failing to secure a load to a vehicle.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-254.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 146; HB 325***

This Act amends the definition of passenger vehicle from vehicles capable of transporting ten or fewer passengers to 15 or fewer passengers and exempts vehicles capable of transporting 11 to 15 passengers which were manufactured prior to July 1, 2015.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-8-76.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 42  
PENAL INSTITUTIONS**

***Act 73; HB 310***

This Act creates the Board of Community Supervision, the Department of Community Supervision, and the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry. The Act moves personnel, duties, and functions formerly with the Department of Corrections, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, certain aspects of the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council to the Board of Community Supervision and the Department of Community Supervision. The Act provides for procedures and provisions for the operation and terms and conditions of probation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Chapter 42-3, Articles 2 and 6 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 42-8, and O.C.G.A. Sections 15-1-4, 15-1-15, 15-1-16, 15-1-17, 15-5-81, 15-6-30, 15-6-77, 15-11-2, 15-11-58, 15-11-67, 15-11-471, 15-11-473, 15-11-506, 15-11-562, 15-11-601, 15-11-705, 15-11-710, 15-12-40.1, 16-5-21, 16-6-5.1, 16-6-25, 16-10-24, 16-10-33, 16-10-34, 16-10-97, 16-11-37, 16-11-127.1, 16-11-130, 17-6-1.1, 17-10-1, 17-10-3, 17-10-9.1, 17-12-51, 17-14-2, 17-14-8, 17-14-14, 17-14-16, 17-15-13, 17-17-3, 17-17-8, 17-17-14, 19-7-52, 19-11-21, 19-11-67, 19-13-10, 19-13-31, 19-13-32, 19-13-34, 19-13-51, 20-2-699, 21-2-231, 34-9-1, 35-3-36, 35-6A-3, 35-8-2, 35-8-3, 37-2-4, 40-5-64, 40-5-81, 40-5-83, 42-1-1, 42-1-10, 42-1-11, 42-1-12, 42-1-14, 42-1-19, 42-2-11, 42-2-15, 42-4-50, 42-5-50, 42-8-61, 42-8-66, 42-8-112, 42-8-114, 42-8-116, 42-9-3, 42-9-9, 42-9-20, 42-9-21, 42-9-41, 42-9-42, 42-9-44, 42-9-48, 42-9-53, 42-9-57, 42-9-90, 43-12A-5, 45-7-9, 45-7-21, 45-9-81, 45-9-83, 45-9-101, 45-18-7, 48-7-161, 49-3-6, 49-4A-8, and 49-4A-11, enacts O.C.G.A. Section 17-10-1.4, and repeals Articles 1, 4, 5, 8, and 9 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 42-8.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 43; HB 71***

This Act changes procedures relative to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles in granting pardons for serious offenses or commutations of a death sentence to a life sentence. The Act changes provisions relating to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles procedure and information gathering when considering the grant of a pardon, clemency, or commutation of a death sentence.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 17-17-13, 42-9-20.1, 42-9-42, 42-9-43, 42-9-46, 42-9-47, 42-9-53, and 50-13-9.1.

Effective May 1, 2015.

**TITLE 43  
PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES**

***Act 54; HB 504***

This Act provides that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, certain newly admitted college students shall be required to sign certain documentation stating he or she has received a vaccination against meningococcal disease not more than five years prior to such admittance or reviewed certain information.

The Act authorizes the administration of vaccines by pharmacists or nurses pursuant to vaccine protocol agreements with physicians. The Act provides requirements for the content of vaccine protocol

## **TITLE 43 (continued)**

agreements and limits the number of vaccine protocol agreements into which a physician may enter at any one time. The Act prohibits certain entities from entering into vaccine protocol agreements. The Act also provides for sanctions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-12-3.2 and 43-34-26.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 200; HB 416***

This Act enacts the "Consumer Information and Awareness Act" to provide for certain identification by health care practitioners with regard to their licenses. The Act requires that advertisements identify a health care practitioner's license. The Act also requires the provision of certain identifiers and signage by health care practitioners.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-1-33.

Effective May 12, 2015.

### ***Act 59; HB 246***

This Act removes the State Board of Accountancy as a division of the State Accounting Office and provides that the State Board of Accountancy is administratively attached to the State Accounting Office. The Act also provides to the State Board of Accountancy powers and actions granted to other licensing boards. The Act revises the definitions of certain terms relating to accountants and defines the term "report." The Act also revises provisions relating to foreign registered accountants and the standard of proof for refusing to certify an applicant for a certificate of certified public accountant. The Act provides the causes for which the board may refuse to grant a license to an applicant, revoke any license issued by the board, discipline a licensee, or forbid an individual from exercising the substantial equivalency practice privileges. The Act revises certain provisions relating to sanctions the board may impose and to actions the board may take against persons engaging in the practice of public accountancy without a license.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-3-2, 43-3-3, 43-3-5, 43-3-6, 43-3-9, 43-3-15, 43-3-16, 43-3-18 through 43-3-21, 43-3-24, 43-3-25.1, 43-3-28, 43-3-31, 43-3-32, and 50-5B-2 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-3-24.1.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 199; HB 314***

This Act combines the provisions relating to the State Board of Barbers and the State Board of Cosmetology, so as to create the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers, and provides for the members, meetings, officers, and powers of such board.

The Act defines and revises the definitions of certain terms relative to barbering and the practice of a cosmetologist. The Act also revises certain provisions relating to rules and regulations of the board as to sanitary requirements, inspections, and other matters. The Act further revises provisions relating to the issuance of a certificate of registration to current or discharged members of the military and their spouses. The Act provides for a certificate of registration by endorsement. The Act changes provisions relating to certificates of registration and renewals thereof, examinations, reciprocity, and study at colleges or schools. The Act revises and provides for continuing education requirements and exemptions thereto.

## **TITLE 43 (continued)**

The Act requires that student transcripts and records be provided and maintained by schools of barbering, schools of cosmetology, schools of esthetics, schools of hair design, and schools of nail care. The Act also requires that such schools teach certain courses.

The Act provides that a hearing requested after receipt of a citation from the board may be held by the board or a committee of the board and that decisions of a committee of the board shall be considered final decisions of the board. The Act also amends other provisions for purposes of conformity.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-10-1 through 43-10-20 and repeals O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-7. Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 63; HB 18***

This Act exempts defense, aviation, space, and aerospace companies and those who work for them and who provide engineering for certain products or services from obtaining a license as a professional engineer and from complying with the provisions of O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-15 relating to professional engineers and land surveyors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-15-29. Effective May 5, 2015.

### ***Act 209; HB 232***

This Act provides that the member of the State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers appointed from the public at large shall not hold nor shall have ever held a license to engage in the practice of dispensing hearing aids and shall not employ any individual engaged in the practice of dispensing hearing aids. The Act requires that the chairperson and vice chairperson of the board each hold a dispenser's license.

The Act requires an applicant for a dispenser's license to consent to and pay any fees associated with the performance of a background check and provide a classifiable set of fingerprints. The Act does not require a background check for renewal applications. The Act provides that successful completion of 20 hours of continuing education in a program approved by the board is a prerequisite for the renewal of a dispenser's license on or after January 1, 2016.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-20-4, 43-20-8, and 43-20-15. Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 160; HB 394***

This Act revises various provisions relating to the licensure of registered professional nurses and licensed practical nurses. The Act provides that the Georgia Board of Nursing is authorized to enforce all investigative and disciplinary orders issued by the former Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses. The Act also provides for acceptance of nursing education programs located outside the United States. The Act further provides for a time period, not to exceed three years, to be established by the board for applicants who do not pass the licensing examination to complete further education and training. The Act revises provisions relating to renewal of licensure.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-26-5, 43-26-7, 43-26-33, 43-26-36 through 43-26-40, and 43-26-42.

Effective May 6, 2015.

## **TITLE 43 (continued)**

### ***Act 53; HB 505***

This Act revises various provisions regarding the licensure and regulation of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants. The Act revises several definitions. The Act provides for the State Board of Physical Therapy to conduct business by other digital means in addition to conference by telephone. The Act also revises provisions regarding the use of certain titles. The Act allows a person currently licensed in another state providing physical therapy services during a declared disaster or emergency to do so for a period of time each year. The Act further revises provisions regarding granting licenses and the disciplining of licensees.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-33-3, 43-33-7, 43-33-11 through 43-33-13, and 43-33-18.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 29; HB 253***

This Act provides that an appraisal management company shall not pay any fees to an appraiser performing any real estate appraisal activity in a federally related transaction without complying with the rules and regulations adopted by the board to regulate such transactions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-39A-14.1.  
Effective April 29, 2015.

### ***Act 108; SB 95***

This Act provides for the acceptance of funds by brokers in a separate, federally insured account at a financial institution in this state. The Act revises certain provisions relating to unfair trade practices by real estate brokers and salespersons regarding deposits of funds.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-40-20 and 43-40-25.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 44 PROPERTY**

### ***Act 128; HB 245***

This Act changes the amount permissible as a special assessment fee that a condominium instrument may authorize a condominium's board of directors to impose.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 44-3-80.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 145; HB 322***

This Act changes and clarifies provisions relating to the witnessing requisites of deeds, mortgages, and bills of sale and provides a procedure for claiming certain United States savings bonds. The Act provides for the filing of deeds under power within a certain time after a foreclosure sale and the assessment, collection, and remittance of a late filing fee from a late filing of a deed upon power.

## **TITLE 44 (continued)**

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-5-30, 44-14-33, 44-14-34, 44-14-37, 44-14-61, 44-14-62, 44-14-63, and 44-14-160 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 44-12-237 and 44-12-238.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 109; HB 99***

This Act provides a procedure for tenancy in common when joint tenants divorce or have their marriage annulled.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 44-6-190.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 45**

### **PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

### ***Act 249; HB 551***

This Act authorizes voluntary deductions from wages or salaries of employees of the State of Georgia and local units of administration for purchases of consumer offerings through an employee purchase program facilitated by and through the Department of Administrative Services.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-7-56.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 71; SB 203***

This Act creates the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission.

The Act enacts Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 45-13.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 143; HB 313***

This Act authorizes the application for limited paid leave by certain employees of the State of Georgia or any branch, department, board, bureau, or commission thereof for the purpose of promoting education in this state pursuant to rules and regulations submitted by the State Personnel Board and approved by the Governor.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 45-20-32.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 137; HB 278***

This Act amends the Public Employee Hazardous Chemical Protection and Right to Know Act of 1988 to transfer enforcement responsibility under the act to the Safety Fire Commissioner. The Act revises grievance and judicial review procedures under the act.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 45-22-2, 45-22-5, 45-22-6, 45-22-7, 45-22-8, and 45-22-11.

Effective January 1, 2016.

**TITLE 46**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

*Act 300; HB 57*

This Act enacts the "Solar Power Free-Market Financing Act of 2015" to provide for the financing of solar technology by retail electric customers for the generation of electric energy to be used on and by property owned or occupied by such customers or to be fed back to the electric service provider. The Act provides that an electric service provider shall not be liable for certain acts related to such solar technology. The Act specifies what requirements may be imposed upon retail electric customers utilizing solar technology connected to an electric system of an electric service provider. The Act clarifies who shall be considered an electric supplier and an electric service provider.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 46-3-60 through 46-3-66.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 47**  
**RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS**

*Act 133; HB 266*

This Act modifies provisions relating to the investment authority of local retirement systems by removing an old cross-reference to clarify that the investment authority of local retirement systems is controlled by Chapter 20 of Title 40. The Act modifies a definition related to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia by updating an entity's formal name. The Act modifies provisions related to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System by changing the definition of employee to include those employed by an employer created pursuant to the charter of a municipal corporation. The Act modifies provisions related to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System by causing mandatory employee contributions to be returned to such employee's estate or surviving spouse upon death before retirement. The Act, within the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund, changes definitions, modifies membership of the board, clarifies provisions related to leaves of absence, withdrawal of dues, failure to pay dues, and application for reinstatement as an active member, provides for designation of up to five beneficiaries, and provides for certain penalties for false statements or falsified records.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-1-12, 47-2-323, 47-5-2, 47-5-47, 47-7-1, 47-7-20, 47-7-40, 47-7-41, 47-7-60, 47-7-100, 47-7-103, and 47-7-126.

Effective July 1, 2015.

*Act 126; HB 217*

This Act changes provisions relating to certificated or uncertificated forms of investments available to public retirement systems. The Act authorizes public retirement systems to invest in mutual funds. The Act authorizes public retirement systems to invest in commingled funds, collective investment funds, common trusts, and group trusts.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-20-83.

Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 48  
REVENUE AND TAXATION**

***Act 127; HB 234***

This Act adds days on which the Federal Reserve Bank is closed to the list of days that excuse late filing of returns or payment of taxes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-2-39.

Effective May 6, 2015.

***Act 193; HB 202***

This Act provides for a license plate for automobile dealers headquartered in Georgia. The Act comprehensively revises ad valorem taxation, assessment, and appeal. The Act provides for certain powers, duties, and authority of the Department of Revenue and the state revenue commissioner. The Act provides for a sales tax exemption for certain private colleges on construction materials. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-1-1, 40-2-38, 40-3-4, 48-2-44, 48-3-3, 48-3-27, 48-5-32, 48-5-148, 48-5-205, 48-5-265, 48-5-274, 48-5-299, 48-5-302, 48-5-306, 48-5-311, 48-5-345, 48-5-405, 48-5-492, 48-5-493, 48-5-494, 48-5C-1, 48-6-2, 48-6-4, and 48-8-3.

Effective May 6, 2015, for sections 1, 2, 3, 27, and 28; effective July 1, 2015, for sections 13 and 15; and effective January 1, 2016, for the remaining sections; sections 9, 12, and 15 apply to all appeals filed on or after January 1, 2016.

***Act 153; HB 374***

This Act clarifies an exemption from ad valorem taxation for certain leased farm equipment and for farm equipment held for sale in dealer inventory.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-41.1 and 48-5-504.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 107; HB 94***

This Act exempts certain persons from penalties for failure to timely pay ad valorem tax.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-451.

Effective July 1, 2015, and applies to penalties assessed on or after that date.

***Act 225; HB 457***

This Act exempts watercraft held in inventory from ad valorem taxation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-504.40.

Effective May 12, 2015, and applies to tax years from January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2019.

***Act 46; HB 170***

This Act, known as the "Transportation Funding Act of 2015," creates the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure. The Act requires an annual report from the Department of Transportation, provides for a registration fee for alternative fuel vehicles, limits the Governor's power to suspend the collection of certain motor fuel taxes, reduces the state income tax credits for

## **TITLE 48 (continued)**

low-emission vehicles to zero, eliminates state sales and use taxes with respect to certain sales of motor fuels, revises the exemption from sales and use taxes for jet fuel, provides revised definitions of certain terms relating to prepaid motor fuel taxes, provides a limit on local sales taxes on motor fuels, changes the rate and method of computation of the excise tax on motor fuels, repeals the second motor fuel tax, and provides for a state fee on hotel or motel room rentals. The Act revises criteria for determination of eligible projects by the Transportation Infrastructure Bank. The Act changes provisions related to special district transportation sales and use taxes pursuant to the "Transportation Investment Act of 2010" and provides for an additional transportation special purpose local option sales and use tax by counties and municipalities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-10-127, 40-2-86.1, 40-2-151, 45-12-22, 48-7-40.16, 48-8-2, 48-8-3, 48-8-3.1, 48-8-30, 48-8-49, 48-8-50, 48-8-82, 48-8-102, 48-8-110.1, 48-8-141, 48-8-201, 48-9-3, 48-8-241, 48-8-242, 48-8-245, and 48-8-6.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 28-12-1, 28-12-2, 28-12-3, 32-5-27.1, 40-2-151.1, 48-13-50.3, 48-8-260, 48-8-261, 48-8-262, 48-8-263, 48-8-264, 48-8-265, 48-8-266, 48-8-267, 48-8-268, 48-8-269, 48-8-269.1, 48-8-269.2, 48-8-269.3, 48-8-269.4, 48-8-269.5, and 48-8-269.6.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Section 48-9-14.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 211; HB 308***

This Act revises the tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic structures.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29.8.

Effective January 1, 2016, and applies to certified rehabilitations completed on or after January 1, 2017, and shall stand repealed on December 31, 2021.

### ***Act 65; HB 464***

This Act sunsets tax credits related to water conservation facilities and a shift from ground-water usage and provides certain limitations with respect to the income tax credit for qualified donations of real property.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-29.12, 48-7-40.10, and 48-7-40.11.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 35; HB 339***

This Act extends the tax credit for film, video, or digital production in Georgia and provides for an application process for claiming such credit.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-40.26.

Effective April 30, 2015, and applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

### ***Act 66; HB 237***

This Act extends the angel investor tax credit.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-40.30.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 48 (continued)**

### ***Act 44; HB 63***

This Act, known as the "Georgia Employer GED Tax Credit Act of 2015," revises the adult basic skills education program tax credit.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-41.

Effective May 5, 2015, and applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

### ***Act 135; HB 275***

This Act revises the definition of the term "claimant agency" relating to setoff debt collection relative to income taxes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-161.

Effective May 6, 2015.

### ***Act 51; HB 428***

This Act provides a state and local sales tax exemption for tangible personal property used for or in the renovation or expansion of an aquarium owned or operated by an organization which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Act extends a sales tax exemption for materials to be used in certain construction projects of zoological institutions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 202; HB 426***

This Act provides a new exemption from state sales and use tax only for a limited period of time regarding the sale or use of tangible personal property to certain nonprofit health centers, provides a new exemption for a limited period of time with respect to certain nonprofit volunteer health clinics, and creates an exemption for certain food and food ingredients.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 45; HB 215***

This Act provides for an additional exemption to the ceiling on local sales and use taxes which may be levied by a political subdivision, a revised distribution of the proceeds from the levy of an equalized homestead option sales and use tax, and the levy of a special purpose local option sales and use tax in certain counties.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-8-6, 48-8-100, 48-8-101, 48-8-101.1, 48-8-102, 48-8-103, 48-8-104, 48-8-105, 48-8-106, 48-8-107, 48-8-108, and 48-8-109.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 48-8-109.1, 48-8-109.2, 48-8-109.3, 48-8-109.4, 48-8-109.5, 48-8-109.6, 48-8-109.7, 48-8-109.8, 48-8-109.9, and 48-8-109.10.

Effective May 4, 2015.

**TITLE 48 (continued)**

***Act 19; HB 319***

This Act ratifies a certain Executive Order related to the collection of taxes on gasoline and aviation fuel.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-17.  
Effective April 15, 2015.

***Act 301; HB 106***

This Act provides for a limitation on the joint county and municipal sales and use tax on motor fuel, a state fee on the rental of a hotel or motel room, and an additional transportation special purpose local option sales and use tax by counties and municipalities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-82.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 48-8-260, 48-8-261, 48-8-262, 48-8-263, 48-8-264, 48-8-265, 48-8-266, 48-8-267, 48-8-268, 48-8-269, 48-8-269.1, 48-8-269.2, 48-8-269.3, 48-8-269.4, 48-8-269.5, 48-8-269.6, and 48-13-50.3.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 142; HB 312***

This Act removes certain bonding requirements pertaining to manufacturers and importers of tobacco products.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-11-4.  
Effective May 6, 2015.

***Act 6; HB 292***

This Act defines the terms "Internal Revenue Code" and "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" to incorporate certain provisions of the federal law into Georgia law.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-1-2.

Effective March 6, 2015, and applies to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014.

***Act 136; HB 277***

This Act values all floor covering samples at the same rate for purposes of fair market value for state sales and use taxes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-39.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 39; SB 122***

This Act provides for additional purposes for which the proceeds of a special purpose local option sales tax may be used.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-111.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

**TITLE 49**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**

***Veto Number 4; HB 86***

This Act creates the Georgia Adult and Aging Services Agency and provides for the transfer of duties, powers, and authority to such agency on July 1, 2015, exercised by the former Division of Aging Services within the Department of Human Services on June 30, 2015. The Act creates the Georgia Adult and Aging Services Board and provides for its membership, powers, and duties. The Act also provides for an executive director of the Georgia Adult and Aging Services Agency. The Act amends various provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to make conforming changes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-855, 29-10-3, 29-10-4, 29-10-10, 29-10-11, 30-5-3, 31-8-50 through 31-8-53, 31-8-59, 31-8-63, 31-8-302, 31-8-303, 37-1-27, 49-1-7, 49-4-162, 49-6-2 through 49-6-6, 49-6-20 through 49-6-22, 49-6-40, 49-6-60 through 49-6-64, 49-6-71 through 49-6-74, 49-6-77, and 50-8-50 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 49-6-1.1 through 49-6-1.4.

***Act 77; SB 138***

This Act makes various reforms to the state's child welfare system pursuant to a comprehensive review by the Governor's Child Welfare Reform Council. The Act provides for the appointment of the director of the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services by the Governor and certain qualifications of such position. The Act establishes the DFCS State Advisory Board and DFCS Regional Advisory Boards. The Act provides requirements for members appointed to county boards of family and children services and clarifies the primary purpose of county departments of family and children services. The Act revises provisions regarding foster children. The Act provides for the sharing of data relating to the care and protection of children between agencies and the establishment of an interagency data protocol. The Act provides for interagency agreements to delineate the parameters for the sharing of such data between agencies.

The Act provides for contact with schools regarding reports of suspected child abuse and for access to a child's medical and educational records by a foster parent. The Act repeals certain provisions deemed unconstitutional regarding a central child abuse registry and enacts new provisions to provide for the establishment of a central child abuse registry. The Act provides for the reporting of convictions and substantiated cases of child abuse to the Division of Family and Children Services. The Act provides for a hearing to contest inclusion of a name in the registry, limits access to information in the registry, and provides for confidentiality of information contained in the registry.

The Act revises certain provisions relating to DFCS case plans and permanency planning reports and hearings. The Act provides that a temporary absence shall not be considered a placement change. The Act provides that DFCS may enter into contracts relating to certain purchases regarding children in state care or custody without competitive bidding.

The Act repeals a provision relating to the Council for Welfare Administration.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-201, 15-11-211, 15-11-215, 15-11-231, 15-11-232, 49-3-2, 49-3-6, 49-5-3, 49-5-8, 49-5-19, 49-5-41, and 50-5-69; repeals Article 8 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 49-5 and O.C.G.A. Section 49-2-16; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 49-2-18, 49-2-19, 49-3-9, 49-5-12.2, 49-5-24, and Article 8 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 49-5.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 49 (continued)**

### ***Act 119; HB 177***

This Act provides that a school employee making a report of suspected child abuse shall be notified upon receipt of such report by the child welfare agency providing protective services, law enforcement agency, or prosecuting attorney, as is applicable. The Act also requires notification to the school counselor or principal, as is applicable, upon completion of the investigation as to whether the suspected child abuse was confirmed or unconfirmed.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-41.

Effective July 1, 2015.

## **TITLE 50 STATE GOVERNMENT**

### ***Act 1; HB 75***

This Act amends the 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act to change certain appropriations for State Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Effective February 19, 2015.

### ***Act 198; HB 76***

This Act, the General Appropriations Act, provides appropriations for the operation of state government for State Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Effective May 11, 2015.

### ***Act 37; HB 70***

This Act designates the white-tailed deer as the official Georgia state mammal.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-3-87.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 47; HB 255***

This Act prohibits the application of green building certification standards to the construction, renovation, operation, or repair of state buildings unless the standards give equal credits to forestry products produced under various forestry certification systems.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-5-63.

Effective July 1, 2015.

### ***Act 197; HB 259***

This Act exempts the purchase of certain automobiles by the state from competitive bidding procedures. The Act retains the current \$25,000.00 threshold for exemptions from competitive bidding which was to sunset in 2015. The Act also redefines a term related to small business assistance.

**TITLE 50 (continued)**

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-5-67, 50-5-69, 50-5-120, 50-5-121, and 50-5-122.  
Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 186; HB 348***

This Act establishes the State Workforce Development Board for the development and facilitation of workforce programs within the state.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-7-11.1; repeals O.C.G.A. Chapter 34-14; and enacts Article 8 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 50-7.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 112; HB 104***

This Act restricts the types of conveyances of state property required to be initiated and completed through competitive bidding procedures.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-16-39, 50-16-41, and 50-16-42.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 176; SB 104***

This Act modifies the composition of the State Depository Board and eliminates provisions authorizing the board to appoint certain loan associations as depositories of state funds.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-17-50.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Act 18; SB 190***

This Act provides for license fees and additional requirements and conditions for manufacturers and distributors of bona fide coin operated amusement machines.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-27-70, 50-27-71, 50-27-72, 50-27-73, 50-27-78, 50-27-84, 50-27-87, 50-27-87.1, and 50-27-102.

Effective July 1, 2015.

***Veto Number 3; HB 510***

This Act creates the Georgia Sports Commission Fund of the OneGeorgia Authority for the provision of grants to sports commissions of moneys to cover costs of hosting sporting events.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-34-19.

**TITLE 52**  
**WATERS OF THE STATE**

*Act 2; SB 5*

This Act clarifies the power of the Georgia Ports Authority to comply with the terms of agreement connected to the acceptance of loans and grants from the United States.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 52-2-9.

Effective February 23, 2015.

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