

**SUMMARY OF
GENERAL STATUTES ENACTED
AT THE
2nd SESSION OF THE 154th
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA
2018**

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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.

David Bundrick
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 2018 SESSION SUMMARY

HOUSE BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2017 Session	428	49	9	2	40	9
Introduced during the 2018 Session	<u>429</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>8</u>
	857	212	11	4	195	17
Generals Passed	123					
Locals Passed	89					
Total Passed	212					
					Sent to the Governor for approval.....	212

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2017 Session	96	6	0	0	4	0
Introduced during the 2018 Session	<u>954</u>	<u>866</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
	1050	872	0	0	9	0
Generals Adopted.....	5					
Other Non-Privileged Adopted	40					
Locals Adopted	0					
Constitutional Amendments.....	3					
Privileged Adopted	824					
Total Adopted	872					
					Sent to the Governor for approval.....	9

SENATE BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2017 Session	233	14	2	0	14	0
Introduced during the 2018 Session	<u>194</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>4</u>
	427	76	4	1	72	4
Generals Passed	55					
Locals Passed	21					
Total Passed	76					
					Sent to the Governor for approval.....	76

SENATE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2017 Session	78	10	0	0	2	0
Introduced during the 2018 Session	<u>596</u>	<u>542</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
	674	552	2	1	6	0
Generals Adopted.....	3					
Other Non-Privileged Adopted	43					
Locals Adopted	0					
Constitutional Amendments.....	1					
Privileged Adopted	505					
Total Adopted	552					
					Sent to the Governor for approval.....	6

TOTAL BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
HOUSE BILLS	857	212	11	4	195	17
SENATE BILLS	<u>427</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL FOR BOTH HOUSES ...	1284	288	15	5	267	21

Total number of Bills sent to the Governor for approval..... 288

TOTAL RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
HOUSE RESOLUTIONS	1050	872	0	0	9	0
SENATE RESOLUTIONS	<u>674</u>	<u>552</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL FOR BOTH HOUSES ...	1724	1424	2	1	15	0

Total number of Resolutions sent to the Governor for approval..... 15

**TITLE 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Act 562; SB 365

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 May 8, 2018.

**TITLE 3
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

Act 461; SB 17

This Act provides that governing authorities of counties and municipalities may authorize sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 Midnight subject to the passage of a referendum. The Act also provides that a farm winery may sell certain wines for consumption on the premises earlier than 12:30 p.m. on Sundays, if such sales of wine are lawful in the county or municipality in which such farm winery is located.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-3-7 and 3-6-21.2.

Effective May 8, 2018.

**TITLE 7
BANKING AND FINANCE**

Act 339; HB 780

This Act makes revisions to laws relating to the Department of Banking and Finance and financial institutions, banks and trust companies, credit unions, licensed sellers of payment instruments, those licensed to cash payment instruments, and mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers. The Act requires the department to notify the General Assembly after issuance of an order allowing for financial institutions to operate under a federal law, rule, or regulation which is in conflict with state law. The Act provides authority to state chartered banks and credit unions to operate pursuant to a federal law, rule, regulation, or policy which is in conflict with state law upon satisfaction of certain notice requirements. The Act clarifies how notices may be given by the department and expands the scope of prohibition orders that may be issued by the Department. The Act expands what is considered an obligation for a bank, changes requirements for a bank or trust company to acquire shares of its own common stock, places restrictions on the oath of directors for a bank or trust company, provides for how a bank or trust company may eliminate or limit personal liability of a director, and revises requirements relating to plans to merge, consolidate, or exchange shares by a bank or trust company. The Act revises notice requirements to the department by a bank holding company. The Act places limitations on what entities may hold itself out as a "credit

union," changes credit union powers, places restrictions on the oath of directors for a credit union, provides for honorary directors of credit unions, and allows credit unions to give loans to employees. The Act requires sellers of payment instruments and licensees authorized to cash payment instruments to provide certain notices to the department and conduct criminal background checks on executive officers. The Act provides that information relating to sellers of payment instruments, licensees authorized to cash payment instruments, mortgage lenders, and mortgage brokers contained in the Nation-wide Multistate Licensing System and Registry shall not be confidential records of the department.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-6, 7-1-61.1, 7-1-71, 7-1-243, 7-1-285, 7-1-414, 7-1-484, 7-1-493, 7-1-531, 7-1-590, 7-1-625, 7-1-650, 7-1-655, 7-1-656, 7-1-658, 7-1-687 through 7-1-689, 7-1-705, 7-1-705.1, 7-1-706, 7-1-1000, and 7-1-1009 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-296 and 7-1-671.

Effective May 3, 2018.

TITLE 8 BUILDINGS AND HOUSING

Act 466; HB 876

This Act prohibits counties and municipalities from proscribing the use of wood in the construction of buildings when state minimum standard codes are otherwise met.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-25.

Effective July 1, 2018.

TITLE 10 COMMERCE AND TRADE

Act 356; SB 376

This Act prohibits consumer credit reporting agencies from charging a fee for placing or removing a security freeze on a consumer's account or for replacing unique personal identification numbers or passwords. The Act authorizes letters of credit to be issued from banks operating under the authority of any territory of the United States.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-914 and 10-1-914.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 10-3-6.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 412; HB 897

This Act substantially revises the Uniform Power of Attorney Act and renames the short title to the "Georgia Power of Attorney Act." The Act changes provisions related to applicability, execution, the effect of a photocopy, the termination of power of attorney, a petition for construction, acceptance and reliance upon a power of attorney, the liability for refusal to accept a

power of attorney, the operation of a business or entity, and an agent's authority relating to gifts. The Act clarifies provisions relating to incapacity of the principal and the role of a successor agent. The Act adds provisions relating to authority of an agent. The Act revises the form power of attorney. The Act updates cross-references to federal law.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-6B-1, 10-6B-2, 10-6B-3, 10-6B-5, 10-6B-6, 10-6B-8, 10-6B-9, 10-6B-10, 10-6B-11, 10-6B-14, 10-6B-16, 10-6B-19, 10-6B-20, 10-6B-22, 10-6B-40, 10-6B-42, 10-6B-48, 10-6B-50, 10-6B-52, 10-6B-54, 10-6B-55, 10-6B-56, 10-6B-70, 10-6B-71, and 10-6B-81.

Effective July 1, 2018.

TITLE 12 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Act 481; HB 205

This Act regulates the exploration and extraction of gas and oil in this state. The Act provides for authority to create an Oil and Gas Board under certain circumstances and provides for definitions. The Act requires the Board of Natural Resources to adopt regulations governing hydraulic fracturing operations. The Act also requires the promulgation of rules and regulations related to drilling and extraction, including those related to the prevention of fresh surface-water and ground-water supplies and the restoration and reclamation of well sites. The Act amends provisions relating to drilling permits and increases the amount of bond security for drilling operations. The Act increases the percent in interest necessary for requiring an order for unit operation. The Act additionally provides for authority of local governments and provides for a severance tax on the extraction of oil and gas.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-4-41 through 12-4-47 and 12-4-50 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 12-4-52.1 and 12-4-54.

Effective May 8, 2018.

Act 400; SB 404

This Act prohibits counties, municipalities, and other public water systems from charging or assessing a separate fee for water service for fire sprinkler protection systems.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 12-4-180.2.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 483; SB 451

This Act removes authority of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to formulate certain rules and regulations. The Act modifies provisions relating to regulated riparian rights to surface waters for general or farm use, permits for withdrawal, diversion or impoundment, coordination with water plans, metering of farm use, interbasin transfers, and appeal procedures, so as to modify provisions relating to regulated reasonable use of ground water for farm use, permits to withdraw, obtain, or utilize same, metering of same, and related procedures. The Act also

modifies procedures relating to such permits. The Act amends provisions relating to measuring farm uses of water.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-6-27, 12-5-31, 12-5-97, and 12-5-105.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 415; HB 332

This Act, which may be known and cited as the "Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act," repeals and reenacts Chapter 6A, relating to land conservation. The Act provides for definitions. The Act creates the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund. The Act also creates funding mechanisms for the protection of conservation lands and provides for their operation. The Act establishes procedural requirements for approval of project proposals. The Act additionally establishes a Board of Trustees for the trust fund. The Act provides for the promulgation of rules and regulations. The Act provides for annual grants to eligible counties through Outdoor Stewardship Fund land acquisitions. The Act renders the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Fund a successor to the Georgia Land Conservation Trust fund and the Georgia Land Conservation Revolving Loan Fund and provides for the transfer of funds.

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

Effective July 1, 2019, only if an amendment to the Constitution authorizing the General Assembly to provide by law for allocation of up to 80 percent of the revenue derived from the state sales and use tax collected by establishments classified under the 2007 North American Industry Classification Code 451110, sporting goods stores, to a trust fund to be used for the protection of conservation land is ratified by the voters at the November, 2018, state-wide general election. If such an amendment is not so ratified, then this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed on January 1, 2019.

Act 453; HB 785

This Act provides for and revises certain definitions related to solid waste management.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 12-8-22.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 340; HB 792

This Act changes the surcharge imposed by host local governments regarding solid waste disposal facilities operated by private enterprises. The Act authorizes and requires host local governments to impose upon municipal solid waste disposal facilities owned or operated by private enterprises certain surcharges per ton or volume equivalent until certain dates. The Act also changes the surcharge imposed by host local governments in certain circumstances regarding disposal of fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, or flue gas desulfurization materials in solid waste disposal facilities operated by private enterprise. The Act maintains the current host local government surcharge for the disposal of construction or demolition waste and inert waste at a municipal solid waste facility operated by private enterprise. The Act provides for effective dates of such surcharges and provides for the uses of funds collected from such surcharges. The Act further provides for contractual

negotiation of such surcharges. The Act extends the sunset date for certain solid waste surcharges and hazardous waste fees.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-39 and 12-8-95.1.

Effective June 30, 2018.

Act 295; HB 885

This Act revises certain provisions relating to limitations on the effect of The Georgia Air Quality Act on powers of the Board of Natural Resources, Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division of said department, and the director of said division relative to limiting or restricting the burning of vegetative material over certain agricultural tracts, lots, or parcels.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 12-9-21.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 293; HB 777

This Act repeals Article 5 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 12-10, relating to the Historic Chattahoochee Compact.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 12-10-80 and 12-10-81.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 13
CONTRACTS**

Act 389; HB 899

This Act prohibits the disqualification of bidders based upon lack of previous experience with the delivery method.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 13-10-4 and 36-91-23.

Effective May 3, 2018.

**TITLE 15
COURTS**

Act 416; SB 407

This Act enacts various recommendations of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform. The Act provides for electronic filing of pleadings and documents in civil and criminal cases, fees for filings in civil cases, data collection and exchange of information in criminal and certain juvenile cases, and provides for definitions. The Act establishes the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board under the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and provides for its membership, terms, compensation, and duties. The Act provides for the Judicial Council of Georgia to develop

a misdemeanor citation form and allows misdemeanors to be prosecuted in state courts by use of citation. The Act changes provisions relating to the use of citations and setting bail and clarifies matters relating to sentencing, record restriction, first offender treatment, and pay-only probation. The Act allows the Department of Driver Services to issue certain types of licenses and permits. The Act expands the types of activities and organizations that can be used by the court in ordering community service and clarifies provisions relating thereto, requires time frames for certain actions involving probation supervision, allows different levels of courts to consider retroactive petitions for first offender sentencing, and repeals a contingency based upon an amendment to the Constitution. The Act clarifies the effect that a misdemeanor conviction involving moral turpitude or first offender punishment will have on a professional license. The Act changes provisions relating to the Department of Community Health's duties and responsibilities and providing assistance to inmates who are eligible for Medicaid. The Act increases certain penalties relating to the theft of, the use of an altered identification mark on, or the transfer to certain individuals of a firearm and changes provisions relating to possession of firearms by convicted felons and first offender probationers. The Act changes provisions relating to authorizing the release of information from the prescription drug monitoring program data base. The Act revises the powers of arrest of campus policemen who are regular employees of the Technical College System of Georgia and allows them to render mutual aid under certain conditions and provides for the public safety director or chief of police of any institution within the Technical College System of Georgia to enter into mutual aid agreements with local governments under certain conditions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 9-11-5, 15-6-11, 15-6-61, 15-7-5, 15-7-42, 15-11-64, 16-8-12, 16-9-70, 16-11-113, 16-11-131, 16-13-60, 17-4-23, 17-6-1, 17-6-12, 17-10-1, 17-10-8, 20-8-4, 31-2-1, 31-2-4, 35-3-37, 35-6A-2, 36-36-2, 36-36-4, 36-36-5, 36-36-6, 36-36-7, 36-36-8, 36-69-3, 40-5-22, 40-5-76, 42-3-50, 42-3-51, 42-3-52, 42-3-53, 42-3-54, 42-8-34, 42-8-37, 42-8-62.1, 42-8-65, 42-8-66, 42-8-102, 42-8-103, 42-8-105, 43-1-19, 49-4-31, 49-4-32, 49-4-51, 49-4-52, 49-4-80, and 49-4-81 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 15-1-22, 15-5-21.1, 20-4-39, 35-6A-13, and 35-6A-14.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 343; HB 808

This Act changes the term of superior court for the counties in the Waycross judicial circuit. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-6-3.

Effective January 1, 2019.

Act 405; SB 436

This Act modernizes certain general provisions for probate courts. The Act changes provisions relating to judicial training, the appointment of associate probate judges, bond, and the filling of a vacancy of the probate court judge and procedures connected thereto. The Act repeals provisions relating to the sheriff acting as administrator under certain circumstances and the continuation of fee systems. The Act changes provisions relating to The Council of Probate Judges of Georgia and the Probate Judges Training Council, the authority of retired probate judges to perform marriage ceremonies, judges acting as clerk of probate court, recording of proceedings,

probate court office hours, and the requirement that certain pleadings be verified, and conforms cross-references. The Act also defines a term for the purpose of the right to offer a will for probate.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 1-3-1, 15-9-1.1, 15-9-2, 15-9-2.1, 15-9-3, 15-9-4, 15-9-5, 15-9-7, 15-9-8, 15-9-9, 15-9-10, 15-9-11, 15-9-11.1, 15-9-13, 15-9-14, 15-9-15, 15-9-16, 15-9-17, 15-9-18, 15-9-30, 15-9-36, 15-9-37, 15-9-40, 15-9-42, 15-9-65, 15-9-66, 15-9-83, 15-9-86, 15-9-88, 15-9-101, 15-9-102, 15-9-103, 15-9-104, and 53-5-2 and repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 15-9-44, 15-9-45, and 15-9-67.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 472; HB 906

This Act allows the Division of Family and Children Services to offer extended care youth services to youth between 18 and 21 years of age under certain circumstances. The Act clarifies juvenile court jurisdiction and the termination of dependency orders. The Act requires certain information to be provided to a caregiver, foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative by DFCS upon placement of a child. The Act also changes a certain provision regarding the inspection of public records.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-2, 15-11-10, 15-11-109, 15-11-201, 15-11-214, 49-5-8, and 50-18-72 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-340, 15-11-341, and 15-11-342.

Effective May 8, 2018, except Parts II and III shall become effective on July 1, 2018, and Part I shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

Act 474; SB 131

This Act provides for adoption proceedings to be stayed while an appeal of an order to terminate parental rights is pending and clarifies the statutory grounds for terminating parental rights and other considerations when terminating parental rights. The Act also clarifies provisions relating to a child's waiver of the right to counsel.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-35, 15-11-103, 15-11-310, and 15-11-511.

Effective July 1, 2018.

TITLE 16 CRIMES AND OFFENSES

Act 422; HB 732

This Act expands the offense of trafficking of individuals for sexual servitude to include the act of patronizing and clarifies punishment provisions for certain types of trafficking for sexual servitude.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-5-46.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 419; HB 803

This Act creates the offense of trafficking disabled adults, elder persons, and residents of long-term care facilities and provides for definitions, elements of the crime, and punishment.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-5-102.1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Veto Number 18; SB 315

This Act creates the offense of unauthorized computer access and provides for exceptions. The Act clarifies punishment and changes venue provisions for computer crimes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-9-93 and 16-9-94.

Act 388; HB 890

This Act creates the offense of using an emergency exit door after having shoplifted and provides for punishment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-40.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 413; HB 657

This Act prohibits the knowing transfer of a firearm to felony first offenders and those convicted of a felony in another state and provides for exceptions and punishment. The Act provides for an affirmative defense.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-113.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 373; HB 830

This Act makes changes to the lists of Schedules I and II controlled substances and dangerous drugs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-25, 16-13-26, and 16-13-71.

Effective May 3, 2018.

**TITLE 17
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

Act 468; SB 127

This Act allows a victim of a crime to file a motion in a criminal case to assert certain rights and provides for the procedure therefor.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 17-17-15.

Effective January 1, 2019, provided that a constitutional amendment is ratified by the voters in the November, 2018, General Election.

**TITLE 18
DEBTOR AND CREDITOR**

Act 459; SB 194

This Act revises various provisions in garnishment proceedings. The Act eliminates the requirement for the clerk of court to approve an affidavit for garnishment, changes the maximum part of disposable earnings subject to garnishment and conforms the form used for such claim, changes service on the defendant, changes provisions relating to the introduction of evidence and how judgments are paid, and provides for a conforming cross-reference.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 18-4-3, 18-4-5, 18-4-7, 18-4-8, 18-4-9, 18-4-19, 18-4-82, and 44-7-50.

Effective May 8, 2018.

**TITLE 19
DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

Act 305; HB 190

This Act changes provisions relating to marriage articles. The Act clarifies provisions relating to antenuptial agreements. The Act also repeals provisions relating to recording certain documents. The Act modernizes terminology and repeals arcane concepts. The Act additionally conforms cross-references.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 13-4-82, 13-5-30, and 19-3-60 through 19-3-66 and repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 19-3-67 and 19-3-68.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 285; HB 159

This Act substantially revises the general provisions applicable to adoptions. The Act changes the requirements for adopting children. The Act provides for a nonresident to allow an adoption of his or her child. The Act provides for the adoption of foreign-born children. The Act provides for a waiver to revoke a surrender of parental rights under certain circumstances. The Act changes the age for individuals to access the Adoption Reunion Registry. The Act also provides for the creation, authorization, procedure, revocation, rescission, and termination of a power of attorney for the care and custody of his or her child. The Act repeals the "Power of Attorney for the Care of a Minor Child Act." The Act additionally grandfathers certain provisions relating to a power of attorney given to a grandparent. The Act corrects a cross-reference.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-320 and 19-8-1 through 19-8-27 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 19-9-120 through 19-9-134 and 20-2-852.1.
Effective September 1, 2018.

Act 475; SB 427

This Act changes provisions relating to the court's discretion in making a final determination of support. The Act enacts reforms recommended by the Georgia Child Support Commission. The Act clarifies the process of calculating child support when there is more than one child for whom support is being determined under certain circumstances. The Act also changes provisions relating to reliable evidence of income, voluntary unemployment, and involuntary loss of income to account for a parent's incarceration. The Act changes provisions relating to health insurance, specific deviations, and work related child care costs. The Act additionally increases fees charged by the Department of Human Services.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-6-15, 19-11-6, and 19-11-8.

Part I of the Act becomes effective July 1, 2018, and Part II of the Act becomes effective October 1, 2018.

Act 308; HB 344

This Act allows individuals other than movants in a child support case to request a genetic test from the Department of Human Services under certain circumstances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-7-54.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 473; HB 920

This Act allows for the use of information of the Department of Human Services concerning the parties to an adoption under certain circumstances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-8-23.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 317; HB 513

This Act provides for signs to be posted at certain medical facilities, fire stations, or police stations to indicate locations where a newborn child may be left such that the mother can avoid criminal prosecution.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 19-10A-8.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 20
EDUCATION**

Act 561; HB 494

This Act requires satisfactory comprehensive records checks for early care and education program employees. The Act revises definitions and terminology relating to records check determinations. The Act provides that background checks are not valid if an individual has been separated from employment for more than 180 consecutive days. The Act authorizes hearsay in preliminary hearings regarding emergency closure of a program or the emergency placement of a monitor or monitors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1A-13 and 20-1A-30 through 20-1A-39 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-45.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 382; HB 853

This Act provides that a child placed in a psychiatric residential treatment facility by his or her parent or legal guardian pursuant to a physician's order is eligible for education services from the local school system in which the psychiatric residential treatment facility is located.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-133.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 449; SB 401

This Act provides for guidance for students in career oriented aptitudes and career interests in developing an individual graduation plan. The Act provides for a review and report of school counselors' roles, workloads, service delivery, and professional learning. The Act requires the Office of Student Achievement to collect and monitor enrollment and student data for dual credit courses. The Act provides for the Department of Education to review and report on school counselors for grades six through 12 until December 31, 2018. The Act mandates that the State Board of Education provide annual age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education for students in kindergarten through ninth grade. The Act allows for participating in or presenting at in-service training on sexual abuse and awareness and prevention to be counted as a requirement toward professional personnel certification renewal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-143, 20-2-161.3, 20-2-200, 20-2-201, and 20-2-327.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 446; SB 3

This Act enacts the "Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training (CONNECT) Act." The Act addresses industry credentialing for students who complete certain focused programs of study, industry credentialing of individual graduation plans, and identification of critical and emerging occupations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-145.1, 20-2-159.1, 20-2-159.4, 20-2-161.2, 20-2-260, 20-2-326, 20-2-327, 20-2-328, and 20-2-329 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-327.1. Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 294; SB 330

This Act enacts the "Georgia Agricultural Education Act." The Act specifies the model for agricultural educational programs for grades six through 12 and provides for pilot programs for such education in elementary schools. The Act extends in-field certification for agricultural education to include kindergarten through fifth grade.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-200 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-154.2 and 20-2-154.3. Effective April 27, 2018.

Act 426; HB 739

This Act adds the short title, "The Tracy Rainey Act," to an existing Code section relating to qualifications for teaching certificates for military spouses.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-200.2. Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 425; HB 787

This Act provides for state charter schools to receive services from regional educational service agencies. The Act outlines funding for state chartered special schools and state charter schools. The Act requires the Department of Audits and Accounts to submit annual reports and comprehensive reports of state chartered special schools and state charter schools. The Act establishes a grant program to replicate high-performing charter schools. The Act establishes a needs based financial aid program for postsecondary education at institutions within the University System of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-270, 20-2-270.1, 20-2-271, 20-2-272, 20-2-274, 20-2-2068.1, and 20-2-2089 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-2075, 20-2-2093, and 20-3-360 through 20-3-364. Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 484; SB 362

This Act establishes an innovative assessment pilot program for state-wide testing requirements and an accountability system.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-281 and 20-14-31 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-286. Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 431; HB 852

This Act allows local boards of education to permit students who are enrolled in and attend a public school for more than half of a school year to continue attending such school in the event of the student's relocation to another attendance zone provided the student does not have chronic disciplinary or attendance problems.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-296.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 451; HB 763

This Act expands the mission of county student attendance committees to include improving student climate in each school. The Act provides for committee review and recommendations for policies relating to school climate for the purpose of improving achievement, morale, community support, and attendance while decreasing negative aspects of student behavior and the school environment. The Act requires public schools to provide coordination with local law enforcement and the juvenile court in preparing school safety plans. The Act also allows public schools to request funding assistance for facilities, technology, or other safety improvements or initiatives. The Act adds school safety plans to the list of public records that do not require public disclosure.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-690.2, 20-2-1185, and 50-18-72.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 332; HB 718

This Act excuses school absences up to five days per school year of students with parents who currently serve or previously served on active duty in the armed forces, the reserves, or the National Guard due to military affairs sponsored events as long as proper documentation is provided to the school prior to the event.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-692.1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 450; HB 740

This Act requires local school systems to conduct certain screenings, assessments, and reviews prior to expelling or assigning a student in kindergarten through third grade to out-of-school suspension for five or more consecutive or cumulative days during a school year. The Act also requires the local school system to comply with all federal laws concerning parental consent prior to screenings and evaluations.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-742.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 557; SB 339

This Act requires the board of regents and university system to adopt regulations and policies relevant to free speech and expression on campuses of state institutions of higher education. The Act also requires the board of regents to publish an annual report addressing issues concerning free expression.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-48, 20-3-48.1, and 20-3-48.2.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 443; HB 448

This Act requires certain education and postsecondary educational institutions to qualify for exemptions with the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission. The Act provides for promulgation of rules and regulations for such exemptions, and for completion of current terms of appointment to the commission. The Act revises the membership of the commission and the Board of Trustees of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-250.3, 20-3-250.4, and 20-3-250.27.
Effective May 7, 2018.

Act 328; HB 700

This Act adds graduate degree programs to the authorized types of service cancelable education loans to members of the Georgia National Guard. The Act provides for requirements to obtain and retain such loans.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-374.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 314; HB 432

This Act allows certain institutions that lack accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to be an approved school for tuition equalization purposes if previously deemed an approved school under certain alternative provisions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-411.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 558; SB 82

This Act adds members of the National Guard and members of a reserve component of the armed forces stationed in Georgia and claiming Georgia as his or her home of record as individuals meeting the residency requirements for HOPE scholarships and grants.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-519.1.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 399; SB 395

This Act establishes the Georgia Joint Defense Commission. The Act creates the Defense Community Economic Development Grant Program which awards grants to assist in promoting military communities. The Act repeals an article relating to the Defense Community Economic Development Fund.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Title 50, Chapter 7, Article 10 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-4-120, 20-4-121, 20-4-122, and 20-4-130 through 20-4-134.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 300; HB 951

This Act creates the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation at and in connection with the University System of Georgia. This Center assumes the business and responsibilities of the Centers of Innovation Agribusiness administered by the Department of Economic Development. The Act authorizes the Board of Economic Development to designate a deputy commissioner for rural Georgia within the Department of Economic Development. The Act repeals the Georgia Rural Development Council.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-7-2; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 50-8-150; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-18-1 through 20-18-7.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 21
ELECTIONS**

Act 493; HB 973

This Act provides that lobbyists shall acknowledge receiving, reading, and agreeing to abide by the sexual harassment policy of the General Assembly as a condition to lobbyist registration.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 21-5-71.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 25
FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

Act 327; HB 699

This Act authorizes the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council to provide by rule or regulation for the waiver of the educational requirement of a high school diploma or a general education development equivalency within 12 months of employment as an employee, volunteer, or private contractor of a fire department operating in this state or as a certified firefighter.

The Act also provides that each firefighter who presents to the council satisfactory documentation of his or her training as a member of the United States armed forces, the Georgia National Guard, or the Georgia Air National Guard shall be issued a certificate of completion by the council.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 25-4-8 and 25-4-9.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 312; HB 419

This Act subjects the use or ignition of consumer fireworks to general noise ordinances of counties and municipal corporations, conditions, meeting notice requirements, revises drought condition procedures and requirements concerning consumer fireworks, and requires certain signs in the retail display area for consumer fireworks.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 25-10-2 and 25-10-5.1.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 444; SB 353

This Act establishes civil enforcement and penalty enforcement and penalty authority in the Safety Fire Commissioner for violations concerning regulation of boilers and pressure vessels by the Commissioner of not more than \$5,000.00.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 25-15-31.
Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 27
GAME AND FISH**

Act 478; SB 332

This Act provides for an outdoor mentor program within the Department of Natural Resources. The Act also provides for outdoor passports and a fee for nonresident youth sportsman's licenses.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 27-2-5 and 27-2-23 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 27-2-4.5.
Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 30
HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

Act 462; HB 844

This Act revises the former Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons to create the Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The Act creates within the Georgia

Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing a multiagency task force for the purposes of establishing a system of collaborative governance for making certain recommendations and developing and supporting certain interagency practices and policies for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 30-1-5.
Effective May 8, 2018.

Act 418; HB 635

This Act provides that the district attorney of each judicial circuit may establish, or cause to be established, an Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team to coordinate the investigation of and responses to suspected instances of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of disabled adults or elder persons. The Act provides that certain records concerning reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of elder persons, disabled adults, or residents in the custody of the Department of Human Services shall be subject to reasonable access by certain persons and agencies. The Act authorizes the director, assistant director, or deputy director for investigations of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to issue subpoenas under certain circumstances for criminal investigations involving the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a disabled adult, elder person, or resident.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 30-5-3, 30-5-4, and 30-5-7 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 30-5-11 and 35-3-4.4.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 31
HEALTH**

Veto Number 21; SB 357

This Act enacts "The Health Act." The Act creates the Health Coordination and Innovation Council of the State of Georgia that brings together experts from academic institutions and industries, as well as state elected and appointed leaders, to provide a forum to share information, coordinate the major functions of the state's health care system, and develop innovative approaches for stabilizing costs while improving access to quality care; that serves as a forum for identifying specific state health issues of greatest concern; and that promotes cooperation from both public and private agencies to test new and innovative ideas.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-1-13, 31-2A-5, 31-2A-16, 31-7-192, 31-11-103, 31-11-116, 31-11-135, 31-16-3, 31-18-4, 31-43-12, 31-44-3, 31-49-5, 37-2-4, and 45-7-21; repeals Article 9 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-8; and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-53.

Act 302; HB 65

This Act creates the Joint Study Commission on Low THC Medical Oil Access which shall study the in-state access of medical cannabis and low THC oil. The Act adds post-traumatic stress disorder and intractable pain to the conditions authorized for the use of low THC oil. The Act

requires the Georgia Composite Medical Board to annually review and recommend additional conditions that have been shown through medical research to be effectively treated with low THC oil.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-2A-18 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-2A-19.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 392; HB 909

This Act requires the Department of Public Health to establish a procedure by which a hospital, clinic, or birthing center that provides maternal or neonatal health care services may request approval as a designated facility having met certain established criteria for a particular maternal or neonatal level of care. The Act provides for an application process and the public posting of any such designated facilities.

The Act enacts Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-2A.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 299; HB 769

This Act revises provisions regarding pharmacy practices relative to pharmacists and the use of remote order entry. The Act requires the Department of Community Health to take certain steps to streamline and expedite the credentialing and billing processes for state medical plans. The Act creates and establishes the Rural Health System Innovation Center within the Department of Community Health to serve as a research organization that utilizes certain resources to develop new approaches for financing and delivering health care. The Act revises provisions relating to certificate of need and provides for the establishment of micro-hospitals. The Act provides for a grant program for insurance premium assistance for physicians practicing in medically underserved rural areas.

The Act revises certain provisions related to the tax credit for contributions to rural hospital organizations and extends the date for automatic repeal to December 31, 2021.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-5, 26-4-80, 31-6-2, 31-6-47, and 48-7-29.20 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 31-2-15 and 31-2-16, Article 1 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-34, and Article 2 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-34.

Provisions of the Act revising remote order entry are effective January 1, 2019. All other provisions of the Act are effective July 1, 2018, with provisions relating to the creation of the Rural Health System Innovation Center being contingent upon the passage of an Act which creates the Health Coordination and Innovation Council.

Act 420; SB 406

This Act enacts the "Georgia Long-term Care Background Check Program."

The Act provides for comprehensive criminal background checks for owners, applicants for employment, and employees providing care or owning a personal care home, assisted living community, private home care provider, home health agency, hospice care, nursing home, skilled nursing facility, or adult day care. The Act requires facilities to conduct a search of applicable registries for owners, applicants, and employees prior to a criminal background check. The Act

provides the Department of Community Health the authority to conduct national fingerprint based criminal background checks. The Act establishes a caregiver's registry to allow certain employers access to criminal background checks conducted by the Department of Community Health.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-7-12.3, Article 14 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-7, and O.C.G.A. Sections 49-2-14 and 49-2-14.1; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 31-2-9 and Article 11 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-7; and enacts Article 14A of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-7.

Effective October 1, 2019.

Act 404; SB 422

This Act exempts pharmacists from certain provisions relating to clinical laboratories under certain circumstances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-22-9.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 32
HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, FERRIES**

Act 407; SB 445

This Act provides for standards for contracts entered into by the Department of Transportation and the advertisement for solicitation of bids for such contracts. The Act prohibits certain municipalities from restricting access of commercial motor vehicles to certain portions of county road systems unless authorized by county ordinance or resolution. The Act criminalizes camping on certain portions of the state highway system or property owned by the department. The Act provides for procedure for the disposition of property held by the department.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-2-60, 32-2-65, 32-2-69, 32-4-42, and 32-7-4 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 32-6-6.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 437; SB 324

This Act allows for municipalities to contract with any abutting county for the construction or maintenance of a bridge within the limits of such municipality and county.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 32-4-112.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 361; SB 391

This Act exempts transit service buses, motor vehicles, and rapid rail systems owned by the State Road and Tollway Authority from the requirements relating to identification and regulation of motor vehicles.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 32-10-63.1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 304; HB 150

This Act provides the State Road and Tollway Authority with the ability to collect debts owed for unpaid tolls through setoff of a motor vehicle owner's income tax refunds through the Department of Revenue. The Act extends the use of the Consumer Price Index for calculating the excise tax rate on motor fuel to 2022.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-10-64, 48-7-161, and 48-9-3.
Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 33
INSURANCE**

Veto Number 10; HB 754

This Act provides for the division of a domestic insurer into two or more resulting domestic insurers, definitions, division subject plan approval by the Commissioner, certificate of division, and responsibilities of a resulting insurer. The Act revises rules and regulations to remove the Attorney General's approval requirements. The Act further adds the right to dissent and obtain payment for shares for a division of a domestic insurer.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-2-9 and 14-2-1302 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 33-14-120 through 33-14-128.

Act 555; HB 592

This Act removes the sunset date for insurers' self-evaluative privilege.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-2-34.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 448; SB 381

This Act amends the surplus lines insurance provisions to provide that a nonadmitted insurer domiciled in this state will be deemed a domestic surplus lines insurer if certain criteria are met and provides for criteria, tax assessment, protection exceptions, financial and solvency requirements, and exemptions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-5-20.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-5-20.2.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 553; HB 938

This Act provides for a limited credit insurance agency license, requirements, application to the Commissioner, penalties, decision appeal, and license renewal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-23-12.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 433; HB 878

This Act changes provisions relating to cancellation of an insurance policy by an insured to include oral, electronic, and written cancellation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-44.1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 336; HB 760

This Act clarifies renewal, nonrenewal, and reduction in coverage applicability of certain automobile policies and property insurance.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-24-45, 33-24-46, and 33-24-47.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 479; SB 118

This Act changes the age limit for insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder for an individual covered under a policy or contract, clarifies treatment coverage, and changes the coverage limit.

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

Effective January 1, 2019.

Act 549; HB 64

This Act enacts the "Protection and Guarantee of Service for Health Insurance Consumers Act." The Act provides for the compensation of health insurance agents in certain situations, definitions, exceptions, the Commissioner's authority, and applicability.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.23.

Effective July 1, 2018, and applies to all contracts issued, delivered, or issued for delivery in this state on and after January 1, 2019.

Act 551; HB 818

This Act provides that a health care provider shall choose the method by which such provider shall be reimbursed by an insurer for health care service performed, definitions, dissemination of certain information from health insurers to health care providers, waiver, and enforcement powers for violations.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.23.

Effective January 1, 2019.

Act 353; SB 350

This Act updates notice practices requirements by an insurance institution or agent to applicants or policyholders in the case of policy renewal to comport with federal law.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-39-5.
Effective July 1, 2018.

TITLE 34
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Veto Number 11; HB 795

This Act authorizes the Commissioner of Labor to perform criminal background checks on Department of Labor employees. The Act changes the eligibility of the State Board of Workers' Compensation administrative law judge emeritus and directors emeritus by allowing those appointed prior to June 30, 2018, to continue to hold such office and annual salary. The Act provides for procedural notice provisions relating to rule-making and subpoena powers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 34-2-6, 34-9-53, 34-9-57, and 34-9-60 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 34-2-15.

TITLE 35
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES

Act 452; HB 79

This Act regulates the use of license plate data obtained by law enforcement agencies from automated license plate recognition systems. The Act provides requirements for the collection of, and restrictive accessibility to, such license plate data. The Act allows for the exchange or sharing of such data under certain circumstances. The Act provides for penalties for the improper use of such license plate data.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 35-1-22.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 439; HB 703

This Act establishes the Office of Public Safety Officer Support within the Department of Public Safety to respond to and provide peer counselors and critical incident support services to any requesting public entities that employ public safety officers. The Act provides for a support coordinator who is charged and empowered to carry out the responsibilities of the Office of Public Safety Officer Support and to certify individuals who meet certain requirements as peer counselors.

The Act revises the privilege of communications between law enforcement officers and peer counselors to include employees of, and individuals certified as peer counselors by, the Office of Public Safety Officer Support.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 24-5-510 and enacts Article 8 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 35-2.

Effective only if funds are specifically appropriated for the purposes of this Act in an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly.

Act 383; HB 856

This Act adds the commissioner of community supervision to the composition of the Board of Public Safety.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 35-2-1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 411; SB 336

This Act revises provisions so as to prohibit the disclosure to a subscriber or customer of a subpoena issued for production of electronic communication service records for computer or electronic devices when such subpoena involves certain offenses against minors or trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude.

The Act allows the Georgia Crime Information Center to retain and search by future submissions, under certain circumstances, fingerprints of certain individuals for whom fingerprint based criminal history checks are authorized.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1A-31, 20-1A-32, 20-1A-34, 20-1A-38, 20-1A-39, 31-2-9, 31-2A-7, 31-7-254, 31-7-258, 31-7-259, 35-3-4.1, 35-3-4.3, 35-3-33, 37-1-28, 49-2-14, 49-2-14.1, 49-5-62, 49-5-63, 49-5-64, 49-5-68, 49-5-69.1, and 49-5-111.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 386; HB 867

This Act revises the quorum for transaction of business by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council. The Act clarifies that investigators employed by the council may retain their weapon and badge upon retirement. The Act revises the requirement for retaking the job related academy entrance examination after an unsatisfactory attempt. The Act repeals requirements for the training and certification of police chaplains.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 35-8-4, 35-8-6, 35-8-8, and 35-8-13.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 36
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Act 363; SB 397

This Act allows counties and municipalities to hire state licensed real estate brokers to assist in the disposition of surplus real property. The Act also provides the methodology for procuring such brokerage services and the requirements and duties of such real estate brokers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-9-3 and 36-37-6.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 306; HB 257

This Act requires local government authorities to register with the Department of Community Affairs in order to be eligible for state funds. The Act also changes the deadline for local government authorities to register with said department. The Act additionally prohibits authorities from incurring debt or credit obligations prior to submitting a report to said department.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-80-16 and 36-81-8.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Veto Number 15; HB 995

This Act provides requirements for certain agreements from consultants who enter into contracts or arrangements with counties, municipalities, and other local governmental entities to prepare or develop specifications or requirements for bids, requests for proposals, procurement orders, or purchase orders.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-80-26.

Act 470; HB 489

This Act provides that the Georgia Procurement Registry shall be used for the advertisement of certain bid or proposal opportunities for goods and services and public works construction contracts by a county, municipal corporation, or local board of education. The Act also provides that advertisement via the Georgia Procurement Registry shall be at no cost to local government entities and that such entities may advertise such bids or proposals in other media.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-91-20 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-80-26.

Effective July 1, 2018.

TITLE 38

MILITARY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Act 313; HB 422

This Act authorizes incorporation of a nonprofit corporation to be designated as the Georgia Veterans Service Foundation, Inc., in order to seek supplemental funds for promoting Georgia's state war veterans' homes and veterans' cemeteries and for other purposes of the Veterans Service Board. The Act also provides requirements for and governance of such public foundation.

The Act amends Title 35, Chapter 3, Article 9 of the O.C.G.A. and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 38-4-14.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 435; HB 779

This Act revises the duties of the director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. The Act also creates the Board of Homeland Security and provides for duties and responsibilities of such board.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 38-3-3 and 38-3-20; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 38-3-22.2; and enacts O.C.G.A. Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 2A.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 40
MOTOR VEHICLES**

Act 330; HB 714

This Act updates the date applicable to the definition of "present regulations" for purposes of the safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-1-8.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Veto Number 20; SB 342

This Act allows for the owner or operator of a motor vehicle with a numbered license plate issued by the Department of Revenue but without a valid revalidation decal affixed to such plate to retain such vehicle until his or her court appearance. The Act provides for a penalty for operating a motor vehicle or allowing a motor vehicle to be operated without a valid revalidation decal properly attached to the license plate.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-8 and 40-2-8.1.

Act 464; HB 695

This Act authorizes the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to grant waivers to requirements relating to display of special license plates for government owned motor vehicles. The Act changes the amount dedicated to the Department of Agriculture for the sale of a special and distinctive license plate promoting dog and cat reproductive sterilization. The Act establishes a special and distinctive license plate honoring Georgia's working forests.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-37 and 40-2-86.

Effective July 1, 2018, except for provisions relating to a special and distinctive license plate honoring Georgia's working forests, which shall become effective on July 1, 2019.

Act 368; HB 671

This Act revises the definition of "authentic historical Georgia license plate" and the authorized use of such plate. The Act establishes a special and distinctive license plate honoring the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-41.1 and 40-2-86.
Effective May 3, 2018.

Act 434; HB 898

This Act revises provisions relative to the registering of motor vehicles in a fleet and fleet vehicle registration plans. The Act revises provisions relating to a special license plate for use upon the personal vehicles of firefighters.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-50 through 40-2-55 and 40-2-86.1.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 307; HB 287

This Act provides for the issuance of a second Gold Star special license plate honoring family members of service members killed in action to eligible family members.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-85.3.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 371; HB 784

This Act establishes a special and distinctive license plate promoting the conservation and enhancement of waterfowl populations and their habitats.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-86.
Effective July 1, 2019.

Act 438; HB 815

This Act establishes a special and distinctive license plate honoring Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-86.
Effective May 7, 2018.

Act 546; HB 761

This Act allows motor vehicle dealers selling no more than ten motor vehicles per month to apply for a waiver from the requirement of submitting certificates of title to the Department of Revenue electronically. The Act provides that a dealer that sells a motor vehicle to a person who is not a resident of the county in which the dealer is located may file an application for title for such motor vehicle with the county tag agent in the county where the dealer is located.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-3-33.
Effective May 8, 2018.

Act 298; HB 673

This Act enacts the "Hands-Free Georgia Act." The Act prohibits certain actions which distract the driver of a motor vehicle, including holding or supporting a cell phone or stand-alone device with a part of the body; reading, sending, or writing texts; watching videos other than those related to the navigation of the vehicle; and recording or broadcasting a video. The Act prohibits certain actions relating to the use of a cell phone by a driver of a commercial motor vehicle. The Act provides for exemptions from applicability and penalties for violations, including fines and the assessment of points.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-5-57, 40-5-142, 40-5-159, 40-6-165, and 40-6-241 and repeals O.C.G.A. Code Sections 40-6-241.1 and 40-6-241.2.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 401; SB 409

This Act defines "other on-track equipment" and provides for rules of the road when approaching a railroad grade crossing with a train or other on-track equipment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-140.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 545; HB 978

This Act provides that drivers approaching a school bus loading or unloading passengers on the opposite side of a highway divided by a turn lane need not stop. The Act revises the process by which a civil monetary penalty for failure to stop for a school bus as evidenced by use of video recordings is assessed. The Act provides for the use of cameras and recorded images for detecting and enforcing speeding in school zones. The Act provides for penalties for failure to pay the civil monetary fines related to passing a school bus and speeding in a school zone, including prohibition of renewal of motor vehicle registration and on the transfer of title of the motor vehicle involved in the violation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-6-163, 40-14-2, 40-14-5 through 40-14-8, and 40-14-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 40-14-1.1, 40-14-1.2, and 40-14-18.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 331; HB 717

This Act provides that certain state consumer protection laws apply to autonomous motor vehicles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-8-11.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 344; HB 809

This Act provides that a motor vehicle to be used by any employee of the Georgia State Patrol for the enforcement of traffic laws may be painted a solid color.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-8-91.

Effective July 1, 2018.

TITLE 43
PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES

Act 531; SB 461

This Act provides that microblading of the eyebrow is included as tattooing and that it shall not be considered illegal tattooing near the eye.

The Act also provides for and changes certain definitions relative to barbers and the practice of cosmetology and provides for licensure. The Act adds hair relaxing and straightening to the scope of practice of certain occupations licensed by the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers. The Act provides for the regulation of shops, salons, and schools by local governments. The Act changes certain provisions related to instruction to be provided to licensees; inspections of certain shops, salons, and schools; and applications for registration. The Act provides for additional courses of study that may be offered by certain schools. The Act also provides for the board to be the repository for certain education records and requires that licenses and rules and regulations of the board be displayed in certain locations. The Act further requires certain schools to teach specific courses and revises certain provisions related to penalties and the unlicensed practice of occupations licensed by the board.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-40-1, 31-40-10, 43-10-1, 43-10-6, 43-10-9, 43-10-12, 43-10-16, and 43-10-19.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 417; SB 425

This Act changes provisions relating to professional land surveyors and provides for licensure. The Act changes and adds certain defined terms. The Act provides for land surveyor interns and changes certain educational and examination requirements relating to land surveyor interns and professional land surveyors. The Act also provides that a contractor or an employee of a contractor that is performing layouts and measurements for a highway or construction project is not required to be licensed as a professional land surveyor. The Act further provides that any person offering services to the public using certain words related to land surveyors without complying with Chapter 15 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-15 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-15-13.1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 316; HB 475

This Act implements requirements for use of collection receptacles for donations on certain properties and provides for penalties for violations. The Act allows local governing authorities to petition the superior court to issue an order requiring the removal of collection receptacles and for procedures and requirements for such removals.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-17-2, 43-17-8.1, 43-17-13 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-17-8.2.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 357; SB 382

This Act provides for guidance by the Department of Public Health on certain training programs approved by the State Board of Optometry for doctors of optometry who administer pharmaceutical agents by injection.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-30-1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 354; SB 364

This Act changes provisions relating to delegation of authority to physician assistants. The Act authorizes a primary supervising physician to have up to eight physician assistants who have completed a board approved anesthesiologist assistant program licensed to him or her at a time.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-34-103.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 456; HB 956

This Act requires consultation with certain licensed and accredited Category II veterinarians prior to the filing of criminal charges for cruelty to animals in certain instances.

The Act provides for the disclosure of a rabies vaccination history within 24 hours of receipt of a written request.

The Act provides an exception for confidentiality of certain medical information of animals within a veterinarian's care.

The Act provides for definitions and changes certain provisions relating to the practice of veterinarians and veterinary technicians. The Act provides for supervision and utilization of veterinary assistants. The Act provides for exemptions from veterinarian and veterinary technician licensing and registration requirements. The Act authorizes the practice of veterinary technology by veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants under certain circumstances. The Act revises responsibilities of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine and changes certain provisions relating to scheduling and administration of examinations, reexamination, and reactivation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 24-12-31, O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-50, and O.C.G.A. Section 38-3-161 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 4-1-7 and 43-50-110.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 44
PROPERTY**

Veto Number 2; HB 410

This Act revises provisions relating to providing statements for amounts owing to a condominium association or property owners' association and establishes providing statements for amounts owing to similar associations that are not subject to the "Georgia Condominium Act" or "Georgia Property Owners' Association Act" and provides for fees for providing such information. The Act provides for required information, information available upon request, and the manner for providing such information.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-3-109 and 44-3-232 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 44-3-251.

Act 482; HB 834

This Act provides for the termination of a residential rental agreement under circumstances involving family violence. The act provides for definitions, notice and terms of termination, and applicability. The Act revises the procedure between a landlord and tenant for listing damages before and after a tenancy and clarifies provisions relating to the return of a security deposit. The Act also clarifies matters relating to the effect of a temporary ex parte family violence order and the length of time it is effective.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-13-3, 44-7-33, 44-7-34, and 44-7-35 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 44-7-23.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 428; HB 381

This Act enacts provisions for the classification of abandoned mobile homes as derelict or intact for purposes of disposal or filing of liens. The Act provides for definitions, a procedure for requesting classification of an abandoned mobile home as intact or derelict, notice to the owner, the right to file a lien on abandoned mobile homes deemed to be intact, the opportunity for a hearing to confirm classification as a derelict abandoned mobile home, the court's authority to order the disposal of abandoned mobile homes found to be derelict, a process to foreclose a lien on an abandoned mobile home deemed to be intact, the right to an appeal, a public sale of an intact abandoned mobile home, disposition of proceeds from such public sale, and provides for a process to obtain certificate of title for mobile homes purchased at public sale. The Act also provides for jurisdiction of these matters in magistrate courts.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-10-2 and enacts Article 6 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 44-7. Effective May 1, 2019.

**TITLE 45
PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

Act 291; HB 907

This Act provides for the appointment and election of a successor in the event of a vacancy in the office of district attorney and the term of such successor.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-5-3 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 45-5-3.2.
Effective March 22, 2018.

Act 351; SB 327

This Act clarifies when a medical examiner's inquiry is required to be conducted.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-16-24.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 358; SB 385

This Act allows the chief medical examiner to inter and disinter unidentified human remains under certain circumstances.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 45-16-51.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 447; SB 333

This Act provides that the governing authority of a municipality may pay costs or fees associated with an employee's participation in a deferred compensation plan and certain public employees may be automatically enrolled in deferred compensation plans.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 45-18-35 and 45-18-36.
Effective May 8, 2018.

Act 329; HB 701

This Act allows for testing for all forms of opioids for state employment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-20-110.
Effective July 1, 2018.

TITLE 46
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Act 556; SB 355

This Act prohibits a utility from recovering from its customers the costs of financing associated with the construction of a nuclear generating plant, unless such plant was certified by the Public Service Commission prior to January 1, 2018.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 46-2-25.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 436; HB 751

This Act enacts the "Georgia Emergency Communications Authority Act" and establishes the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority. The Act revises the Georgia Emergency Telephone Number 9-1-1 Service Act of 1977 to account for the establishment of the authority, transfers certain duties from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to the authority, abolishes the 9-1-1 Advisory Committee, and revises provisions regarding the registration of certain information by service suppliers and Voice over Internet Protocol service suppliers, and revises certain other 9-1-1 fees and charges. The Act makes further conforming changes to employment and training of peace officers, public officers and employees, and state administrative organization as well as to certain information collected by the authority and the Department of Revenue.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 35-8-23, 45-7-21, 45-15-13, 46-5-122, 46-5-123, 46-5-124, 46-5-124.1, 46-5-126, 46-5-127, 46-5-128, 46-5-129, 46-5-130, 46-5-131, 46-5-133, 46-5-134, 46-5-134.1, 46-5-134.2, and 48-2-15 and enacts O.C.G.A Sections 38-3-180 through 38-3-191.

Effective July 1, 2018, for the purposes of creating the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority and appointing the members thereof; the enactment of Section 2-11 of the Act, regarding revisions of definitions of the Georgia Emergency Telephone Number 9-1-1 Service Act of 1977; and the provisions regarding billing practices contained in subsection (d) of Code Section 38-3-189. For all other purposes, this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2019.

TITLE 47
RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS

Act 303; HB 135

This Act provides that certain law enforcement officers who have been members of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia for at least ten years may obtain creditable service in such retirement system for prior service to a local government as a full-time law enforcement officer, provided that such an individual is not eligible to receive a present or future benefit from a defined contribution retirement or pension plan based on such prior service and he or she pays the full actuarial value of obtaining such creditable service.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-2-226.

Effective July 1, 2018, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2018, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 311; HB 398

This Act provides that investigators employed by the Georgia Board of Dentistry are eligible for membership in the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The Act further provides that the Georgia Board of Dentistry shall pay the cost of such investigators' participation in the fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-17-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-17-62.

Effective July 1, 2018, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2018, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 463; SB 369

This Act provides that \$5.00 of each fee collected prior to adjudication of guilt for purposes of pretrial diversion shall be paid to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-18-80 and 47-17-60.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 321; HB 571

This Act amends provisions relating to the Magistrates Retirement Fund to provide that a member in arrears for dues payments for a period of 90 days shall be suspended from the fund and must apply for reinstatement. The Act provides new options for electing payment of benefits and designated survivor's benefits. The Act removes the requirement that retired members who become employed as a full-time or part-time magistrate shall not continue to receive benefits while so employed.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-25-86 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 47-25-43 and 47-25-82.1.

Effective July 1, 2018, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2018, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

**TITLE 48
REVENUE AND TAXATION**

Act 284; HB 918

This Act incorporates certain provisions of federal tax law into Georgia tax law and revises income tax in Georgia. The Act doubles the standard deduction and lowers the personal and corporate income tax rate. The Act revises provisions relating to assignment of corporate income tax credits. The Act provides for no liability for state or local title ad valorem tax fees in a replacement title transaction for a vehicle not less than 15 years old.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-1-2, 48-7-20, 48-7-21, 48-7-27, 48-7-42, and 48-5C-1.

Effective March 2, 2018. Sections 1-1, 1-6, and 1-8 of this Act shall become effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon this Act becoming law without such approval and such sections shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2017. Sections 1-2 and 1-4 of this Act shall become effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon this Act becoming law without such approval and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019. Sections 1-2 and 1-4 of this Act shall expire by operation of law on the last moment of December 31, 2025, and revert to the language of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 48-7-20 and subsection (a) of Code Section 48-7-21, respectively, as they existed on the day immediately preceding the effective date of this Act. Sections 1-3 and 1-5 of this Act shall become effective upon passage of a joint resolution that is signed by the Governor ratifying such sections by both houses of the Georgia General Assembly on or after January 13, 2020, and upon such passage shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020. Should Sections 1-3 and 1-5 of this Act become effective as prescribed in the foregoing, both sections shall expire by operation of law on the last moment of December 31, 2025, and revert to the language of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 48-7-20 and subsection (a) of Code Section 48-7-21, respectively, as they existed on the day immediately preceding the effective date of this Act. Section 1-7 of this Act shall become effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon this Act becoming law without such approval and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018. Section 1-7 of this Act shall expire by operation of law on the last moment of December 31, 2025, and revert to the language of paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-7-27 as it existed on the day immediately preceding the effective date of this Act. Section 1-9 of this Act shall become effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon this Act becoming law without such approval. The revisions to subsection (c) of Code Section 48-7-42 contained in Section 1-9 of this Act shall be applicable to tax credits that are assigned in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018. New subsection (g) of Code Section 48-7-42 contained in Section 1-9 of this Act shall be applicable to sales, mergers, acquisitions, or bankruptcies occurring in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018. Part II of this Act shall become effective July 1, 2018.

Act 345; HB 816

This Act provides for mandatory fingerprinting and criminal record checks for certain individuals employed by or working in certain capacities for or with the Department of Revenue.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-2-6.

Effective May 3, 2018.

Act 372; HB 811

This Act allows the Department of Revenue to avoid breaching confidentiality when sharing tax information with a contracting entity that provides certain data analytics services for identifying taxpayers that are noncompliant with sales and use taxes. The Act allows such contracts to compensate the contracting entity based on tax collections that may be attributable to such entity.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-2-15.

Effective May 3, 2018.

Act 441; SB 371

This Act changes the provisions regarding the furnishing of sales and use tax information to municipalities and counties. The Act also provides for additional procedures, conditions, and limitations. The Act additionally provides for confidentiality and a criminal penalty.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-2-15.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 283; HB 661

This Act revises provisions related to the transmittal, filing, recording, access to, and territorial effect of tax liens issued by the Department of Revenue.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-97.3, 44-1-18, 44-2-2, 48-2-56, 48-3-21, 48-3-28, 48-3-40, 48-3-41, 48-3-42, 48-3-43, and 48-3-44.

Effective February 20, 2018.

Act 296; HB 85

This Act provides for the appraisal of certain timberland property by the Department of Revenue. The Act revises certain qualifications and requirements for covenants for forest land conservation use property and the method for determining the value of local assistance grants related to such property.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-2, 48-5-7, and 48-5-7.7 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-600 through 48-5-607, 48-5A-5, and 48-5A-6.

Effective January 1, 2019, only if an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia is ratified at the November, 2018, general election modifying constitutional prescriptions for forest land conservation use property and related assistance grants, permitting the withholding of a portion of assistance grants to provide for certain state administrative costs, and establishing qualified timberland property as a subclassification of tangible property for purposes of ad valorem taxation.

If such an amendment to the Constitution is not so ratified, then this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed by operation of law on January 1, 2019.

Act 465; SB 458

This Act changes certain requirements for proof of bona fide conservation use. The Act provides for payment of attorney's fees and interest in certain situations. The Act also provides conditions upon which family owned farmed entities may elect to discontinue a qualifying use of bona fide conservation use property while incurring a reduced penalty.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-7.4.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 334; HB 729

This Act repeals certain provisions relating to the levy of a state ad valorem tax. The Act modifies provisions related to the application of an intangible recording tax.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-8 and 48-6-65.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 346; HB 820

This Act creates a new homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted base year value of such homestead.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-44.1.
Effective May 3, 2018, and subject to a statewide referendum.

Act 492; HB 888

This Act changes certain application, reporting, and proof of filing requirements related to exemptions from property tax known as freeport exemptions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-48.1, 48-5-48.2, and 48-5-48.5 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-48.7.
Effective May 8, 2018.

Act 310; HB 374

This Act modifies certain ad valorem tax proceedings before county boards of equalization. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-306 and 48-5-311.
Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 367; HB 329

This Act revises the alternative ad valorem tax on motor vehicles by modifying the determination of fair market value of motor vehicles. The Act changes the manner of distribution of the proceeds of such tax. The Act provides for fees of the tag agent, for the submission of title applications and title ad valorem tax fees by dealers, and penalties for failure to timely submit title applications and title ad valorem tax fees. The Act also provides for the tax amounts on vehicles which were registered in other states and for transfers as a result of a divorce decree or court order. The Act further provides for an expiration period for temporary license plates and requires that applications be submitted to the county where the vehicle will be registered.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-8, 40-2-29, 40-3-21, 40-3-32, and 48-5C-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-3-21.1.
Effective July 1, 2019.

Act 381; HB 849

This Act provides for reporting of certain federal adjustments. The Act also provides for appeals related to Georgia partnership and pass-through entity adjustments and assessments. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-21, 48-7-27, 48-7-53, and 48-7-82.
Effective May 3, 2018.

Act 292; SB 328

This Act modifies income taxation of corporations. The Act also provides for the expiration of certain income tax credits. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-21, 48-7-29.3, 48-7-29.5, and 48-7-40.19.
Effective March 27, 2018, and applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018.

Act 370; HB 749

This Act clarifies that an exemption for retirement income is applicable to income received by a taxpayer as a retirement benefit from noncivilian service in the armed forces of the United States or the reserve components thereof. The Act exempts certain military income of surviving family members from taxation. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-27.
Effective July 1, 2018, and applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018.

Act 424; HB 217

This Act modifies certain provisions related to an income tax credit for contributions to student scholarship organizations. The Act exempts the sale or use of certain noncommercial written materials or mailings from taxation. The Act extends the date set for automatic repeal of an Act providing an income tax credit for certain contributions to the Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2A-2, 20-2A-3, 48-7-29.16, and 48-8-3. The Act amends an Act approved April 27, 2017 (Ga. L. 2017, p. 100).

Effective May 7, 2018. Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Act are applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

Act 378; HB 843

This Act expands the definition of a less developed area for the purposes of an income tax credit to include any census tract in a county that contains a certain federal military installation and also contains an industrial park owned and operated by a governmental entity.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-40.1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 476; HB 735

This Act exempts certain railroad property from storm-water fees. The Act gives an income tax credit to Class III railroads for expenditures on the maintenance of railroad track that they own or lease. The Act permits certain employers that claimed, but did not receive, a certain income tax credit in a prior tax year to receive such tax credit if they purchase qualified investment property and create new, full-time jobs. The Act exempts certain state property from storm-water fees.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-16-34.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 36-60-17.2, 48-7-40.34, and 48-7-40.35.

Effective May 8, 2018. Section 2 of the Act shall become effective May 8, 2018, and shall be applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and ending on or before December 31, 2023. Section 3 of the Act shall become effective May 8, 2018, and shall be applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, and ending on or before December 31, 2023. Sections 1 and 4 shall become effective July 1, 2018.

Act 365; HB 61

This Act requires certain retailers to either collect and remit sales and use taxes or provide tax notifications to purchasers and the state.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-8-2 and 48-8-30.

Effective January 1, 2019, and applicable to all sales made on or after such date.

Act 421; HB 696

This Act provides for an exemption from sales and use tax for certain high-technology data center equipment incorporated or used in a qualifying high-technology data center.

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

Effective January 1, 2019, and applicable to all transactions occurring on or after January 1, 2018.

Act 369; HB 697

This Act extends for one year an exemption from sales and use tax for tangible personal property sold to or used by certain nonprofit health centers and nonprofit volunteer health clinics.

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

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 550; HB 793

This Act exempts sales or use of tangible property used for or in the renovation of or expansion of certain aquariums or in the construction of a certain automobile museum.

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

Effective May 8, 2018.

Act 432; HB 871

This Act creates an exemption for 50 percent of the sales price of certain manufactured homes that are converted into real property in this state.

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

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 387; HB 886

This Act revises provisions related to a sales and use tax exemption for agricultural equipment and machinery. The Act provides for the cooperation of the Department of Revenue and the Department of Agriculture in the administration and enforcement of such exemption. The Act increases the amounts necessary to qualify for the agricultural exemption. The Act provides for penalties and reporting related to such exemption.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.3.

Effective May 3, 2018.

Act 394; HB 929

This Act increases the number of times that a sales tax for certain water and sewer projects can be renewed from three to six times.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-203.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 377; HB 840

This Act provides an exemption from penalties and interest for failure to pay an occupation tax or administrative fee in the event of a taxpayer's military service in a combat zone.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-21.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 324; HB 658

This Act removes a sunset date for the time during which a certain excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations may be collected.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 49
SOCIAL SERVICES**

Act 355; SB 370

This Act provides that the commissioner of community health shall waive the first \$25,000.00 of any estate and provides for the submission of an amendment to the state plan. The Act provides that, should such amendment to the state plan not be approved, the provisions shall stand repealed.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-4-147.1.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 352; SB 321

This Act modifies the civil penalties that shall be imposed in order to allow this state to recover the maximum penalty authorized by federal law for false or fraudulent Medicaid claims.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-4-168.1.

Effective May 3, 2018.

Act 325; HB 670

This Act revises the number of legislative branch representatives on the Georgia State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision and revises the appointing authorities for legislative representatives on the council.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-4B-3.

If a legislative branch representative is appointed and serving on the Georgia State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision on June 30, 2018, the Act shall become effective upon the termination of his or her term of service. If a legislative branch representative has not been appointed and is not serving on such council on June 30, 2018, then this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2018.

Act 469; SB 444

This Act enacts the "Senator Thorborn 'Ross' Tolleson, Jr., Act" creating the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan Advisory Council and provides for a legislative declaration and definitions, membership, duties, and reporting requirements.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 49-6-90 through 49-6-92.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 455; HB 831

This Act enacts the "Georgia's Employment First Act" to establish the Employment First Georgia Council. The Act provides for legislative findings and declarations, membership, duties, terms of office, meeting requirements, committee appointments, compensation, expense allowances, and a biannual report to the Governor and General Assembly.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 49-9-50 through 49-9-53.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 50
STATE GOVERNMENT**

Act 286; HB 683

This Act amends the 2017-2018 "General Appropriations Act" to change certain appropriations for State Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Effective March 9, 2018.

Act 301; HB 684

This Act, the "General Appropriations Act," provides for the operation of state government for State Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Effective May 2, 2018.

Act 409; HB 930

This Act provides for the funding and governance of transit in the metropolitan Atlanta region. The Act creates the Atlanta-region Transit Link "ATL" Authority for purposes of managing, planning, and coordinating transit services and air quality within certain areas of the state. The Act establishes a method for selection of board members to the ATL authority by certain state and local officials. The Act provides that the board of the ATL authority may exercise jurisdiction for transit purposes over counties which were found to be nonattainment areas for federal air quality standard purposes in 1998 and any county contiguous to such a county through action of the board. The Act also provides for powers, duties, rights, and limits on liability for the ATL authority.

The Act provides for standards for the creation and administration of community improvement districts located within more than one county for the purposes of providing transit

services. The Act allows for a single county to impose an up to 1 percent special purpose local option sales and use tax to be collected for up to 30 years for transit projects when such county is within the jurisdiction of the ATL authority. The Act also allows such special purpose local option sales and use tax to be levied in counties not within the jurisdiction of the ATL authority by entering into an intergovernmental agreement with a neighboring county for transit projects and upon approval by a majority of the voters of such counties.

The Act authorizes the levy of a sales and use tax of up to 0.2 percent in the area outside the jurisdictional limits of the City of Atlanta to fund transit services provided by the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA). The Act requires MARTA to utilize a logo and brand with the feature "ATL" upon certain newly acquired property after 2019 and on all property after 2023. The Act removes a limitation on the amount of state funds that can be contributed to MARTA. The Act provides for conditions on transportation services contracts between MARTA and counties. The Act authorizes and provides for procedure by which Gwinnett County may enter into a rapid transit contract with MARTA for the provision of transit services and which may be funded by the levy of an up to 1 percent sales and use tax. The Act creates a Cobb County Special District for Transit Committee to be composed of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and the members of the General Assembly who represent such county for the purpose of creating a special district map and negotiating terms of a rapid transit contract with MARTA. The Act further authorizes the levy of a sales and use tax of up to 1 percent in such special district to fund transit services to be provided by MARTA. The Act provides for the automatic repeal of the provisions relating to Cobb County and MARTA on December 1, 2019, if such county and MARTA fail to enter into a binding rapid transit contract. The Act provides for the appointment of board members to the MARTA board by Gwinnett County upon the approval of a rapid transit contract.

The Act requires that contracts for transit services to be entered into after January 1, 2019, in counties within the jurisdiction of the ATL authority obtain prior approval from such authority. The Act amends powers and duties of the State Road and Tollway Authority to remove those related to the provision of transit services on July 1, 2021. The Act amends provisions relative to the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority to remove those powers and duties related to transit.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-6-51, 32-9-11, 32-9-13, 32-9-14, 32-10-60, 32-10-63, 32-10-76, 36-1-27, 48-8-6, 48-8-243, 48-8-249, 48-8-250, 48-8-251, 50-23-4, 50-32-2, and 50-32-11; repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 50-32-5 and 50-32-71; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 32-9-1 through 32-9-12, 32-9-15 through 32-9-24, 36-80-26, 45-12-41, 48-8-269.40 through 48-8-269.58, 50-32-55, 50-39-1 through 50-39-5, 50-39-10 through 50-39-18, 50-39-30 through 50-39-40, 50-39-50 through 50-39-53, 50-39-60, and 50-39-61.

Effective May 3, 2018, except that the amendment to O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-6 and the enactment of O.C.G.A. Sections 36-80-26 and 48-8-269.40 through 48-8-269.58 shall become effective on January 1, 2019, and the redesignation of O.C.G.A. Section 32-10-76 shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

Act 423; SB 402

This "Achieving Connectivity Everywhere Act" provides for planning, deployment, and incentives of broadband services and other emerging communications technologies throughout the state. Part II of the Act provides for the Department of Transportation to take actions to enable the rights of way of interstate highways to be used for the deployment of broadband services and other

emerging communications technologies. Part III of the Act requires that a comprehensive plan of a local government include the promotion of the deployment of broadband services. Part IV of the Act provides for certain powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Board of Economic Development, the Department of Community Affairs, and the Georgia Technology Authority. Part V of the Act changes certain definitions relative to the "OneGeorgia Authority Act" to include broadband services and changes the membership of the board of the directors of the OneGeorgia Authority.

Part VI of the Act adds a new chapter, defines terms, and provides for the Georgia Technology Authority to create certain policies and programs for the deployment of broadband services and other emerging communications technologies. This part provides for annual reporting of information, a determination of broadband services availability in this state, and publication on the Department of Community Affairs' website of a map showing the unserved areas in this state. This part provides for entities to file a petition with the department to allege areas that should be designated differently than shown on such map. This part provides for the department to develop a certification for broadband ready communities and to create and administer, with the assistance of the Department of Economic Development, the "Georgia Broadband Ready Community Site Designation Program." This part also provides for the department to develop the "Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative" program to provide funding awards to expand broadband services to unserved areas of this state.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-2-2, 50-7-8, 50-8-7.1, 50-25-4, 50-34-2, and 50-34-3, and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-70-6 and O.C.G.A. Chapter 50-39.

Effective May 7, 2018.

Act 289; SB 377

This Act transfers the State Workforce Development Board from the Department of Economic Development to the Technical College System of Georgia. The Act also changes certain duties and obligations of the State Workforce Development Board.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-7-11.1, repeals Article 8 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 50-7, and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 34-14-1 and 34-14-2.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Veto Number 1; HB 354

This Act creates the Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority for purposes of developing and promoting the growth of the state's import and export markets through enhancement to state ports and other modes of transportation to facilitate economic growth by such markets. The Act provides for a principal office for such authority to be located in Chatham County. The Act also provides for initial membership, terms of office, removal, and compensation of members, how vacancies shall be filled, election of officers, and quorum requirements. The Act further provides for the powers, duties, and rights of the authority. The Act repeals the local law enacted in 1995 which created the Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority and transfers all powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, and indebtedness of the authority being repealed by this Act in existence as of July 1, 2018, to the authority being created by this Act.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-7-50 and 50-7-51, repeals an Act creating the Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority (Ga. L. 1995, p. 4499), and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-7-55.

Act 442; SB 356

This Act reassigns the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust from the Office of the Secretary of State to the Department of Community Affairs for administrative purposes. The Act also provides for the design and placement of a Georgia Holocaust Memorial.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-12-131 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-12-134.
Effective May 7, 2018.

Act 454; HB 790

This Act implements recommendations of the Court Reform Council to improve efficiencies and achieve best practices for the administration of justice. The Act amends the definition of the term "agency" relating to administrative procedure. The Act also provides administrative law judges with authority to issue final decisions and requires agencies to forward a request for a hearing to the Office of State Administrative Hearings. The Act further provides administrative law judges with the power to enforce subpoenas and sanction parties.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-13-2, 50-13-20.1, 50-13-41, and 50-13-42.
Effective May 8, 2018.

Veto Number 19; SB 338

This Act modifies the requirements for agency rule making and the provisions for legislative objections to and staying of proposed agency rules.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-13-4.

Act 309; HB 309

This Act exempts organized state militia members engaged in state or federal training or duty from tort liability.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-21-24.
Effective May 3, 2018.

Act 445; SB 331

This Act allows a winner of a lottery prize of at least \$250,000.00 to make a written request to remain confidential.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-27-25.
Effective May 7, 2018.

**TITLE 51
TORTS**

Act 554; HB 904

This Act clarifies the liability incurred, under certain circumstances, by a landowner who charges an admission price or fee for allowing individuals onto such land.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 51-3-25.

Effective July 1, 2018.

**TITLE 53
WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES**

Act 560; SB 301

This Act enacts the "Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act." The Act allows a person to assign a designated recipient to administer his or her digital assets that are held by another and extends a fiduciary's powers to include managing tangible property and digital assets.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-6B-2, 10-6B-40, 15-9-30, 29-3-22, 29-5-23, and 53-12-2; and enacts Chapter 13 of Title 53 of the O.C.G.A.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Act 366; HB 121

This Act revises and modernizes the law relative to trusts and allows for trusts to exist for a longer period of time. The Act changes provisions relating to the validity of a nonvested property interest, minor or unborn beneficiaries, the transfer of property in trust, the power to direct modification and termination of noncharitable trusts, modification or termination of uneconomic trusts, limitations on creditors' rights and creditors' claims against a settlor, the appointment and vacancies of trustees, compensation and extra compensation of trustees, resignation of a trustee, a qualified beneficiary who is not sui juris, and powers of trustees. The Act provides for nonjudicial settlement agreements with respect to a trust, distribution of trust property to another trust, and trust directors. The Act repeals provisions relating to division and consolidation of trusts and termination of trusts.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-6-201, 44-6-203, 44-6-205, 53-12-8, 53-12-25, 53-12-61, 53-12-62, 53-12-65, 53-12-81, 53-12-82, 53-12-201, 53-12-210, 53-12-212, 53-12-220, 53-12-242, 53-12-243, 53-12-261, 53-12-263, 53-12-264, 53-12-303, 53-12-362; repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 53-12-63 and 53-12-64; and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 53-12-9 and Article 18 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 53-12.

Effective July 1, 2018.

Veto Number 3; HB 441

This Act provides for the creation of and transfers to qualified self-settled spendthrift trusts. The Act provides for claims by creditors, claims for relief, vacancies of trustees, standards for such trusts, and standards by which such trusts are to be considered nonrevocable. The Act provides for exceptions for spendthrift provisions of trusts which are not within qualified self-settled spendthrift trusts and excludes such trusts from restrictions on assignment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 11-9-406, 11-9-408, 53-12-80, and 53-12-82; and enacts Article 5A of O.C.G.A. Chapter 53-12.

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