SUMMARY OF

GENERAL STATUTES ENACTED

AT THE

2nd SESSION OF THE 155th

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA

2020

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 2020 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 2020 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 2020 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.

Rick Ruskell
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.** For a comprehensive list of bills affecting any particular title, reference should be made to the O.C.G.A Index found immediately after the General Statute Summaries. A table of titles appears below. No Acts are listed for those titles which are indicated by an asterisk.

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TITLE 2	AGRICULTURE
TITLE 3	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
TITLE 4	ANIMALS
TITLE 5*	APPEAL AND ERROR
TITLE 6*	AVIATION
TITLE 7	BANKING AND FINANCE
TITLE 8	BUILDINGS AND HOUSING
TITLE 9	CIVIL PRACTICE
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TITLE 14	CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ASSOCIATIONS
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TITLE 16	CRIMES AND OFFENSES
TITLE 17	CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
TITLE 18	DEBTOR AND CREDITOR
TITLE 19*	DOMESTIC RELATIONS
TITLE 20	EDUCATION
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TITLE 22*	EMINENT DOMAIN
TITLE 23*	EQUITY
TITLE 24*	EVIDENCE
TITLE 25	FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY
TITLE 26	FOOD, DRUGS, AND COSMETICS
TITLE 27	GAME AND FISH
TITLE 28*	GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TITLE 29*	GUARDIAN AND WARD
TITLE 30*	HANDICAPPED PERSONS
TITLE 31	HEALTH
TITLE 32	HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, AND FERRIES
TITLE 33	INSURANCE
TITLE 34	LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
TITLE 35	LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES
TITLE 36	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TITLE 37	MENTAL HEALTH
TITLE 38	MILITARY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
TITLE 39*	MINORS

TITLE 40 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
TITLE 41* NUISANCES
TITLE 42 PENAL INSTITUTIONS
TITLE 43 PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES
TITLE 44 PROPERTY
TITLE 45 PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
TITLE 46 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
TITLE 47 RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS
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TITLE 50 STATE GOVERNMENT
TITLE 51 TORTS
TITLE 52 WATERS OF THE STATE
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020 SESSION SUMMARY

HOUSE BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2019 Session	504	24	2	1	24	0
Introduced during the 2020 Session	516	175	4	0	173	2
	1020	199	6	1	197	2

Generals Passed 91
Locals Passed 108
Total Passed ..... 199 Sent to the Governor for approval 199

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2019 Session	89	2	0	0	2	0
Introduced during the 2020 Session	841	729	0	0	6	0
	930	731	0	0	8	0

Generals Adopted 5
Other Non-Privileged Adopted 10
Locals Adopted 0
Constitutional Amendments 2
Privileged Adopted 714
Total Adopted ..... 731 Sent to the Governor for approval 8

SENATE BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2019 Session	179	14	1	1	14	0
Introduced during the 2020 Session	254	70	2	2	68	2
	433	84	3	3	82	2

Generals Passed 67
Locals Passed 17
Total Passed ..... 84 Sent to the Governor for approval 84

SENATE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2019 Session	63	7	1	0	0	0
Introduced during the 2020 Session	517	470	0	2	1	0
	580	477	1	2	1	0

Generals Adopted 1
Other Non-Privileged Adopted 24
Locals Adopted 0
Constitutional Amendments 0
Privileged Adopted 452
Total Adopted ..... 477 Sent to the Governor for approval 1

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TITLE 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Act 581; SB 340

This Act designates September 1 of each year as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day.
The Act enacts Code Section 1-4-23.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 521; SB 429

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 July 29, 2020.

TITLE 2
AGRICULTURE

Act 499; HB 894

This Act provides for staggered terms of commission members of the Seed Development Commission.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 2-4-3.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 557; HB 1093

This Act establishes the Agricultural Commodity Commission for Wine and Grapes and limits assessments by the commission.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-8-11, 2-8-13, 2-8-14, and 2-8-23.1.
Effective August 3, 2020.

Act 505; HB 1057

This Act prohibits domestic septage in fertilizer, liming material, and soil amendments and establishes penalties for violations. The Act also requires an inspection fee and reports related to the distribution of soil amendments and revises provisions regarding the Commissioner of Agriculture's authority to promulgate rules and regulations.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-12-11, 2-12-15, 2-12-20, 2-12-47, 2-12-49, 2-12-50, 2-12-71, 2-12-75, 2-12-80, and 2-12-83.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 484; HB 847

This Act revises the Georgia Hemp Farming Act to comply with federal laws and regulations. The Act amends definitions, defines "key participant," and allows third parties to assist colleges and universities authorized to conduct hemp research. The Act provides requirements for transportation of hemp, testing samples of hemp, and the destruction of noncompliant hemp and excess THC. The Act also provides for enforcement of the state hemp plan, changes the criminal background check process, and increases fees for permit renewal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-23-3 through 2-23-10.

Effective July 22, 2020.

TITLE 3
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Act 558; HB 879

This Act provides for a change in certain regulations regarding the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. The Act provides for certain retailers to make deliveries of alcoholic beverages pursuant to specific terms and conditions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-3-7, 3-3-21, 3-3-26, and 3-4-25, and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 3-2-7.1, 3-3-1.1, 3-3-10, 3-15-1, 3-15-2, 3-15-3, and 3-15-4.

Effective August 3, 2020.

TITLE 4
ANIMALS

Act 515; SB 362

This Act changes the fees allowed, from a set fee to the actual cost, for certain expenses related to impounded livestock that was found running at large or straying.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 4-3-10.

Effective July 29, 2020.

TITLE 7
BANKING AND FINANCE

Act 492; HB 781

This Act makes extensive revisions to Chapter 1 of Title 7. The Act clarifies and removes superfluous language. The Act authorizes the Department of Banking and Finance to approve payment of dividends by a bank or trust company under certain conditions and expands the department's authority to waive the residency requirement for bank or trust company directors. The

Act authorizes a trust company and bank merger under certain circumstances. The Act authorizes Georgia banks to conduct certain activities at representative offices outside of Georgia and changes registration and notice requirements for a bank or bank holding company with a representative office. The Act reduces the number of days the department has to approve or disapprove applications for a branch office. The Act eliminates the department's authority to waive publication requirements for certain procedures. The Act adds night depository to the list of extensions not requiring approval and updates restrictions on location of extensions. The Act removes notification requirements for out-of-state banks establishing or acquiring additional branches. The Act replaces the supervisory committee with the audit committee. The Act changes limitations on loans by credit unions. The Act authorizes the department to promulgate regulations related to allowable credit union loans and obligations and provides for credit union extensions and restrictions. The Act establishes application requirements for credit union branch offices. The Act eliminates notification methods relating to bond cancellation and provides that the unique identifier of certain licensees or registrants is not confidential. The Act reduces the number of days for certain cease and desist orders to become final and repeals Code Section 7-1-1003.1, relating to physical place of business. The Act eliminates the notification requirement for a change in ultimate equitable owner of mortgage brokers or mortgage lenders. The Act changes advertising content requirements for mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers and reduces the number of days for the process related to bond cancellation notice. The Act updates citations to federal regulations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-234, 7-1-460, 7-1-480, 7-1-530, 7-1-591, 7-1-593, 7-1-602, 7-1-603, 7-1-628.6, 7-1-656, 7-1-658, 7-1-664, 7-1-665, 7-1-687, 7-1-689, 7-1-694, 7-1-706, 7-1-1006, 7-1-1007, 7-1-1009, 7-1-1016, 7-1-1018, and 7-6A-2.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Section 7-1-1003.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 409; SB 462

This Act transfers the duties, powers, responsibilities, and other authority relative to industrial loans from the Industrial Loan Commissioner to the Department of Banking and Finance. The Act changes the name of such loans to installment loans. The Act provides for procedures, conditions, and limitations relative to issuing installment loans. The Act provides for new powers and duties of the department. The Act provides for procedures and conditions for and limitations on licensing of installment lenders. The Act provides penalties for violations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 7-1-845, Section 7-1-1001, Chapter 7-3, and Sections 7-4-2, 7-4-19, 10-1-2, 10-1-31, 10-1-33.1, 10-1-42, 10-5-2, 13-1-14, 13-1-15, 16-17-1, 16-17-2, 18-5-3, 45-14-3, and 45-14-5.

Effective June 30, 2020, and applicable to all installment loan agreements entered into on and after July 1, 2020.

TITLE 8
BUILDINGS AND HOUSING

Act 387; HB 777

This Act directs the Department of Community Affairs to review the 2021 edition of the International Building Code to consider amending the state minimum standard codes to allow tall mass timber construction types.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-23.

Effective June 29, 2020.

Act 406; SB 377

This Act revises certain requirements related to building inspections. The Act provides for an increase in the number of buildings for which a private professional provider may provide required plan reviews and inspections when the county or municipality is unable to provide such services within a certain time period. The Act reduces the number of required elevator inspections per year.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 8-2-26, 8-2-102, and 33-23-11.

Effective June 30, 2020.

Act 555; HB 1008

This Act revises the definition of the term "residential industrial building."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-111.

Effective August 3, 2020.

Act 556; HB 969

This Act revises certain provisions pertaining to unlawful practices in selling or renting dwellings. The Act clarifies how complaints of discriminatory housing practices may be filed. The Act provides for administrative hearing proceedings. The Act revises provisions relating to state actions, appeals, fines, damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 8-3-202, 8-3-205, 8-3-206, 8-3-213, 8-3-214, 8-3-215, 8-3-216, 8-3-217, and 8-3-218.

Effective August 3, 2020.

TITLE 9
CIVIL PRACTICE

Act 380; SB 451

This Act clarifies certain actions that may be brought regarding deficiencies concerning improvements to realty.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 9-3-51.

Effective June 29, 2020.

TITLE 12
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Act 381; SB 473

This Act transfers duties, powers, responsibilities, and other authority relative to historic preservation from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Community Affairs. The Act provides for funds collected from certain special license plates to be disbursed to the Department of Community Affairs and makes conforming changes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-3-50.1, 12-3-50.2, 12-3-55, 12-3-56, 12-3-57, 12-3-58, 25-2-13, 40-2-86, 44-10-25, 44-10-26, 48-5-7.2, 48-5-7.3, 48-7-29.8, 48-7-40.32, 50-16-5.1, and 50-18-72.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 481; HB 897

This Act requires the State Forestry Commission to create a standing timber notification website and authorizes the promulgation of rules and regulations regarding such website. The Act also changes surety bond and letter of credit requirements, provides for claims against bonds and appeals of such claims, and increases the fine for violations of notice requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 12-6-24.

Effective July 22, 2020.

Act 571; HB 966

This Act provides for the regulation of the harvest and sale of palmetto berries. The Act further provides for definitions, legislative findings, certificates of harvest, and records of harvest activities and purchase transactions. The Act prohibits certain acts and provides for enforcement, penalties, and restitution for violations.

The Act enacts Article 7 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 12-6.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 519; SB 445

This Act revises a definition and authorizes certain water authorities and water and sewer authorities to be designated as local issuing authorities for land-disturbing activity permits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-7-3, 12-7-7, and 12-7-8.

Effective July 29, 2020.

Act 376; SB 123

This Act allows expansion of certain municipal solid waste landfills to areas within two miles of military air space used as bombing ranges. The Act revises provisions relating to coal combustion residual surcharges and their disbursement for certain expenditures, requires annual reporting, amends sunset dates, and increases certain tire disposal fees.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-25.3, 12-8-39, and 12-8-40.1.
Effective June 29, 2020.

Act 577; SB 426

This Act requires reporting of any spill or release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources and requires reporting of any such spill or release on the division's website.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-9-6 and 12-9-7.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 562; HB 857

This Act prohibits the burning of certain chemically treated wood products for purposes of commercial energy generation.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 12-9-7.
Effective August 4, 2020.

TITLE 13
CONTRACTS

Act 504; HB 1039

This Act provides additional protections for consumers who enter into service contracts that contain lengthy automatic renewal provisions.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 13-12-3.
Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 14
CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ASSOCIATIONS

Act 487; HB 230

This Act provides for a new article under Chapter 2 of Title 14 relating to benefit corporations. The Act defines a benefit corporation as one whose articles of incorporation contain a public benefit provision and a statement that the corporation is a benefit corporation. The Act provides for naming such corporations. The Act also provides that a stock certificate issued in the name of a benefit corporation must state conspicuously that the corporation is a benefit corporation; that every notice of a shareholder meeting must conspicuously state the corporation is a benefit corporation; for limitations upon certain amendments, transfers, and transactions; for duties and limitations of liability of directors of benefit corporations; for annual public benefit reports; and for the application of the Georgia Business Corporation Code to benefit corporations. The Act changes the definition

of a foreign corporation; provisions relating to the name of a foreign corporation; and provisions relating to the right to dissent.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 14-2-140, 14-2-1302, and 14-2-1506 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 14-2-1801, 14-2-1802, 14-2-1803, 14-2-1804, 14-2-1805, 14-2-1806, and 14-2-1807.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 391; SB 373

This Act changes provisions relating to the responsibilities and standard of care of directors and officers of certain nonprofit corporations, electric membership corporations, and foreign electric cooperatives. The Act clarifies the ability of directors and officers to rely on other individuals in the performance of their duties. The Act provides for a rebuttable presumption when directors and officers act in good faith. The Act applies only to causes of action arising on or after July 1, 2020.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 14-3-830, 14-3-842, 46-3-303, 46-3-303.1, and 46-3-305.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 15
COURTS

Act 493; HB 786

This Act provides for the appointment of superior court judges for the Cobb, Flint, and Ogeechee Judicial Circuits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-6-2.

Effective January 1, 2022.

Act 553; HB 576

This Act provides for the distribution priority of partial payments of fines, bond forfeitures, and costs in cases of partial payments to the court.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-95 and 15-21A-7.

Effective August 3, 2020.

Act 479; SB 439

This Act provides for enhanced notice to and improved participation for foster, preadoptive, and relative caregivers in certain hearings and to provide for the court's consideration of issues relevant to a child's placement, care, well-being, and permanency when raised by such persons.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-109, 15-11-215, 15-11-300, 15-11-320, and 15-11-324.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 16
CRIMES AND OFFENSES

Act 478; HB 823

This Act provides for lifetime disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle by persons convicted of trafficking other persons for labor or sexual servitude.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-46 and 40-5-151.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 377; SB 394

This Act provides for authority of the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute certain crimes and offenses relating to kidnapping, false imprisonment, and related offenses and to employ peace officers for certain purposes.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-46, 45-15-17, and 49-4-146.1.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 480; HB 911

This Act provides for the offenses of improper sexual conduct by a foster parent in the first and second degrees, provides for criminal penalties, and provides that record restriction shall not be appropriate under certain circumstances.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-6-5.1, 35-3-37, 42-5-56, and 49-2-14.1.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 489; HB 341

This Act revises terminology regarding the reproduction of recorded material, transfer, sale, distribution, circulation, civil forfeiture, and restitution matters.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-8-60.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 550; SB 337

This Act revises the offense of invasion of privacy regarding the prohibition against the transmission of photography or videos depicting nudity or sexually explicit conduct of another person, to include falsely created videographic or still images of other persons.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-90.
Effective August 3, 2020.

Act 483; SB 375

This Act provides that the age limit be increased to 21 for individuals to whom the sale or distribution of cigarettes, tobacco products, tobacco related objects, alternative nicotine products,

and vapor products is prohibited. The Act provides for an excise tax of vapor devices and for the offense of using vapor products in a school safety zone. The Act provides for licensed dealers to make deliveries of cigars, cigarettes, loose or smokeless tobacco, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products pursuant to certain terms and conditions.

The Act amends Article 7 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 16-12 and O.C.G.A. Chapter 48-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 48-11-4.1 and 48-11-4.2.

Effective July 22, 2020, except O.C.G.A. Chapter 48-11 shall become effective on January 1, 2021.

Act 372; HB 759

This Act revises certain provisions relating to Schedule IV controlled substances and revises the definition of dangerous drug.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-28 and 16-13-71.

Effective June 29, 2020.

TITLE 17
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Act 578; SB 477

This Act revises the terminology used in determining whom to arrest regarding the investigation of family violence. The Act provides a definition for the term "predominant aggressor."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 17-4-20.1.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 547; SB 402

This Act provides for conditions for the unsecured judicial release on a person's own recognizance regarding certain offenses and circumstances. The Act revises definitions and provides for full-face bond requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-507, 16-10-51, 17-6-1, 17-6-12, 42-3-74, and 52-7-26.

Effective August 3, 2020.

Act 520; SB 446

This Act provides for unclaimed cash bonds and revises the time period regarding the disposal of unclaimed bonds.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 17-6-4.

Effective July 29, 2020.

Act 503; HB 984

This Act revises provisions relating to sentencing and the commencement of a sentence when a case has been appealed.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 17-10-1, 17-10-9, and 17-10-11.

Effective July 29, 2020.

Act 329; HB 426

This Act repeals certain provisions regarding the sentencing of defendants for crimes involving bias or prejudice. The Act revises the criteria for the imposition of punishment for defendants who select their victims based upon certain biases or prejudices. The Act provides for reporting of bias motivated crimes and the attributes of the parties.

The Act repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Section 17-10-17 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 17-4-20.2.

Effective June 26, 2020.

Act 392; SB 435

This Act provides criteria for the court to consider regarding relief for convictions and sentences of defendants who obtained such convictions and sentences as a direct result of being victims of trafficking for labor or sexual servitude. The Act also provides for petitions under seal and remote electronic testimony. The Act further provides for the restriction of the access to criminal history record information of individuals where such criminal convictions were obtained as a direct result of being victims of trafficking for labor or sexual servitude.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 35-3-37 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 17-10-21.

Effective June 29, 2020.

TITLE 18
DEBTOR AND CREDITOR

Act 574; SB 443

This Act provides for uniform procedures for garnishment actions. The Act limits the maximum part of disposable earnings subject to garnishment in relation to certain educational or student loans. The Act provides a fixed time for continuous garnishments. The Act also provides for voluntary reductions of payments; litigation procedures for parties to garnishment actions; procedures for default judgments; disbursement of funds; and procedural forms of garnishment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 18-4-1, 18-4-2, 18-4-3, 18-4-4, 18-4-5, 18-4-8, 18-4-9, 18-4-10, 18-4-11, 18-4-12, 18-4-14, 18-4-15, 18-4-16, 18-4-19, 18-4-20, 18-4-23, 18-4-24, 18-4-40, 18-4-41, 18-4-42, 18-4-54, 18-4-55, 18-4-70, 18-4-72, 18-4-73, 18-4-74, 18-4-76, 18-4-78, 18-4-80, 18-4-82, 18-4-84, 18-4-85, 18-4-86, 18-4-87, 20-3-236, and 20-3-316 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 18-4-90.

Effective August 5, 2020.

TITLE 20
EDUCATION

Act 389; SB 68

This Act strengthens provisions relating to the financial management of local school systems, including provisions for training local board of education members and local school superintendents on financial management and for monthly reporting to the local board of education on the financial stability of the local school system. The Act provides for designation by the Department of Audits and Accounts of high-risk local school systems and moderate-risk local school systems based on annual audits. The Act provides for financial management provisions in flexibility contracts and system charters. The Act provides for appointment of the Chief Turnaround Officer by the Governor and for annual reporting by the Chief Turnaround Officer. The Act provides for the role of the State School Superintendent in identifying turnaround eligible schools. The Act provides that the Education Turnaround Advisory Council shall report to the State School Superintendent. The Act repeals a provision relating to grants to assist schools with demonstrated financial need. The Act provides for a separate appeals process for certain performance ratings contained in personnel evaluations for teachers who accepted a school year contract for the fourth or subsequent consecutive school year. The Act provides for appeals hearings to be conducted by independent third parties or system administrators. The Act requires local units of administration to submit copies of their appeals process to the Department of Education. The Act requires local boards of education to have a public comment period at every meeting.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-49, 20-2-51, 20-2-58, 20-2-61, 20-2-67, 20-2-73, 20-2-82, 20-2-83, 20-2-84.2, 20-2-103, 20-2-109, 20-2-230, 20-2-989.7, 20-2-2063.2, 20-2-2063.3, 20-14-41, 20-14-43, 20-14-44, 20-14-45, 20-14-46, 20-14-48, 20-14-49, and 20-14-49.1.

Effective July 1, 2021.

Act 497; HB 855

This Act includes legislative findings that foster care students are particularly vulnerable to exposure to traumatic events and situations and that a foster care student's exposure to trauma can be exacerbated by changing schools, particularly when the student may be eligible for special education and related services. The Act requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules, regulations, and protocols for the immediate and deliberate assessment of whether exposure to trauma has adversely impacted a foster care student's educational performance; requires the Department of Education to provide guidance to local school systems; and requires local school systems to immediately and deliberately assess newly enrolled foster care students. The Act provides definitions for the terms "foster care student" and "trauma."

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-152.2.

Effective July 1, 2021.

Act 327; HB 444

This Act changes the name of the "Move on When Ready Act" to the "Dual Enrollment Act." The Act provides for caps on the number of hours of eligible dual credit courses that eligible high school

students may take. The Act provides that eligible high school students with 18 or fewer semester hours, or the equivalent amount of quarter hours, of dual credit courses funded on or before June 30, 2020, shall be limited to a total of 30 semester hours, or the equivalent amount of quarter hours, of eligible dual credit courses; and eligible high school students with 19 or more semester hours, or the equivalent amount of quarter hours, of dual credit courses funded on or before June 30, 2020, shall be limited to 12 additional semester hours, or the equivalent amount of quarter hours, of eligible dual credit courses. The Act provides for definitions, including definitions of "eligible dual credit course" and "eligible high school student." The Act provides that the maximum credit hour caps do not apply to certain students who have taken dual credit courses in pursuit of a high school diploma on or before June 30, 2020. The Act provides that high school students are not prohibited from taking noncovered dual credit courses at their own expense. The Act provides for responsibilities of the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the Office of Planning and Budget.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-11-127.1 and 20-2-161.3.

Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 518; SB 431

This Act provides for a limited definition of "on-time graduation rate."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-210.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 485; SB 367

This Act reduces the number of state-mandated student assessments, eliminates the end-of-grade assessment for grade five social studies, and provides that writing performance shall be assessed at least once during grades nine through 12 rather than specifying grade 11. The Act provides for when assessments must be administered and provides for analysis of locally implemented assessments.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-281.

Effective August 1, 2020.

Act 379; SB 430

This Act authorizes home study students and private school students to take courses at a college and career academy which is geographically located within the student's resident school system, so long as space is available in such course or courses. The Act provides that home study students and private school students enrolled in courses in college and career academies shall meet all of the same requirements for enrollment and participation in a course; shall be subject to all rules, including the school's code of conduct; and shall be subject to any fees for a course which are applicable to the public school students enrolled in the college and career academy. The Act provides that a local board of education shall earn FTE funds for each home study student and private school student enrolled in one or more courses at a college and career academy that has a charter with such local board of education. The Act provides for definitions and directs the State Board of Education to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of the Act.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-319.5.

Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 375; HB 957

This Act provides that certain charter school employees shall be included in the health insurance fund for public school teachers, provides that local start-up charter schools and state charter schools shall require proof of residency either at the time of application or enrollment, extends the terms of members appointed to the State Charter Schools Commission, provides for ownership and handling of student records by state charter schools, and revises the deadline for the virtual school performance audit.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-880, 20-2-2066, 20-2-2082, and 20-2-2093 and enacts 20-2-2088.1.

Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 546; HB 86

This Act provides for a separate appeals process for "Unsatisfactory" and "Ineffective" summative performance ratings contained in personnel evaluations for teachers who accepted a school year contract for the fourth or subsequent consecutive school year, for the establishment of appeals policies by local units of administration, and for appeals hearings to be conducted by independent third parties or system administrators. The Act requires local units of administration to submit copies of their complaint policies to the Department of Education.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-989.7.

Effective July 1, 2021.

Act 552; HB 755

This Act requires that each local board of education provide its local charter schools with preliminary allotment sheets for the upcoming fiscal year within 45 calendar days of receiving its preliminary allotment sheet from the Department of Education and that each local board of education shall publish in a prominent location on its website the calculation of earnings to each local charter school. The Act requires that when a local board of education determines that an adjustment to the allocation for a local charter school is necessary, it shall provide the local charter school with 30 days' notice before the allocation is adjusted, provide an amended itemized allotment sheet to the local charter school, and publish the amended itemized allotment sheet in a prominent location on its website. The Act also requires local school systems to post required information regarding intradistrict transfers, including relevant dates and deadlines, in a prominent location on its website.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-2068.1 and 20-2-2131.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 25
FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY

Act 542; SB 342

This Act provides for certificates of compliance, requirements, and training and standards for local fire departments. The Act establishes the Georgia Volunteer Fire Service Council. The Act also provides for qualifications for volunteer firefighters and revises a definition related to temporary disability compensation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 25-3-22, 25-3-23, 25-3-25, 25-4-2, 25-4-4, 25-4-5, 25-4-6, 25-4-7, 25-4-7.1, 25-4-9, 25-4-10, and 45-9-101 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 24-4-3.1 and 25-4-8.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 26
FOOD, DRUGS, AND COSMETICS

Act 591; SB 345

This Act revises the Georgia Food Act to authorize local governments to issue permits allowing nonprofit organizations to operate free food programs over the summer and during certain times of the school year. The Act also revises requirements for food items prepared by nonprofits and eliminates the right to appeal orders or actions of a county board of health or district health director.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-2-21, 26-2-62, and 26-2-370 and Article 14 of Chapter 26-2.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 517; SB 381

This Act provides that certain information obtained by the Department of Agriculture from the federal Food and Drug Administration is deemed confidential and not subject to disclosure.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 26-2-34.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 486; SB 211

This Act makes it unlawful to represent nonanimal products and non-slaughtered animal flesh as meat.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 26-2-152.

Effective December 31, 2020.

Act 564; HB 918

This Act revises various provisions relating to the practice of pharmacy. The Act repeals provisions relating to required licensure as a pharmacy by pharmacy benefits managers engaging in the practice of pharmacy, revises "The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights," revises pharmacy anti-steering provisions, and makes conforming changes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-118, 26-4-119, 33-64-10, 33-64-11, and 49-4-148 and repeals O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-110.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 27
GAME AND FISH

Act 600; HB 998

This Act extends the term of the Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority, designates the shoal bass as the official Georgia state riverine sport fish, and changes the date on which rules and regulations must be in effect for establishing criminal violations. The Act also adds and updates terms related to hunting and boating under the influence, extends a sunset date regarding air guns for hunting, and eliminates requirements to report deer killed to the General Assembly.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-3-311, 27-1-39, 27-3-4, 27-3-7, 27-3-15, 52-7-3, 52-7-12, and 52-7-12.5 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-3-89.

Effective August 5, 2020.

TITLE 31
HEALTH

Act 403; HB 987

This Act provides for additional measures for the protection of elderly persons through the "Disabled Adults and Elder Persons Act." The Act prohibits retaliation against a person reporting that a disabled or elderly person is in need of protective services or has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or exploitation and increases maximum fines for violation by health care facilities. The Act renames the State Board of Nursing Home Administrators to the State Board of Long-Term Care Facility Administrators. The Act further requires licensure of assisted living community administrators and certain personal care home administrators.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-2-4, 31-2-8, 31-7-3.2, 31-7-12, 31-7-12.2, 31-7-12.3, 43-27-1, 43-27-2, 43-27-3, 43-27-4, 43-27-5, 43-27-6, 43-27-7, 43-27-8, 43-27-9, 43-27-10, and 43-27-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 30-5-4.1, 31-7-12.4, 31-7-12.5, and 31-7-12.6.

Effective June 30, 2020.

Veto Number 2; HB 991

VETOED

This Act, the "Healthcare Transparency and Accountability Act," provides for transparency relating to state healthcare plans and to contractors for such plans. The Act provides for an oversight committee regarding state healthcare plans.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-2-17.

Act 388; SB 372

This Act updates and clarifies certain provisions regarding public health. The Act revises provisions relating to certain dangerous drugs. The Act revises provisions requiring certain defendants to submit to HIV tests for AIDS transmitting crimes. The Act authorizes the Department of Health to create rules regarding premarital fact sheets. The Act revises provisions regarding the transfer of vital records to State Archives. The Act revises provisions regarding the care and treatment of chronic renal disease patients. The Act updates terminology relating to sexually transmitted diseases.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-71, 17-10-15, 19-3-41.1, 26-3-13, 31-2A-5, 31-2A-8, 31-10-25, O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-16, and O.C.G.A. Sections 31-17-1, 31-17-2, 31-17-3, 31-17-6, 31-17-7, 31-21-3, 31-26-2, 31-36A-7, and 42-1-7.

Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 471; SB 395

This Act revises the standard of indigency regarding the portioning of proceeds from the sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-7-75.1 and 31-7-83.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 410; HB 993

This Act provides for vital records reports and data from the state registrar relating to child abuse reports. The Act repeals the central child abuse registry.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-133.1, 15-11-710, 19-9-124, 19-9-134, and 49-5-41; repeals Article 8 of Chapter 49-5; and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-10-9.2.

Effective July 1, 2020.

TITLE 32
HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, AND FERRIES

Act 507; HB 1098

This Act provides for development of a state-wide strategic transportation plan and provides for updating and reporting of the plan. The Act requires the Department of Transportation to develop a procedure for appealing the rejection of a contract bid and expands the department's authority to

acquire property for future public road purposes. The Act provides for the reconstruction or payment for outdoor advertising signs in certain instances and requires payment or the issuance of variances to zoning and land disturbance permits in certain instances. The Act also provides for definitions, makes conforming changes, and extends the use of the Consumer Price Index for calculating the excise tax rate on motor fuel to 2025.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-2-41.1, 32-2-69, 32-2-80, 32-3-1, 32-3-3.1, 48-8-243, 48-9-3, and 50-13-41 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 32-3-3.2.

Effective July 29, 2020.

Act 593; HB 820

This Act creates the Georgia Freight Railroad Program, which, if funds are appropriated, will allow state investment in freight rail projects and to support a safe and balanced transportation system. The Act provides for subprograms, annual reporting, and expenditures of the Georgia Freight Railroad Program and for the administration of same. The Act provides a definition.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 32-2-41.3.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 594; SB 371

This Act creates the Georgia Freight Railroad Program, which, if funds are appropriated, will allow state investment in freight rail projects and to support a safe and balanced transportation system. The Act provides for enhancement projects, annual reporting, and expenditures of the Georgia Freight Railroad Program and for the administration of same. The Act provides a definition.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 32-2-41.3.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 33
INSURANCE

Act 407: HB 893

This Act provides for a reduction in the frequency of assessments related to the Special Insurance Fraud Fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-1-17.

Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 580; SB 482

This Act provides for the establishment of the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database and a director of health strategy and coordination. The Act provides for definitions related to the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database. The Act provides for the establishment of an advisory committee to provide recommendations to the director. The Act provides for private and public funding of the

database. The Act provides for the collection and compilation of health related information. The Act provides for a public website and annual report. The Act further provides that the failure to submit claims data to the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database shall constitute a violation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-6-4 and enacts Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-53.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 470; HB 888

This Act, the "Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act," provides for certain consumer protections against surprise billing. The Act provides for definitions related to healthcare plans and services. The Act provides for mechanisms to resolve payment disputes between insurers and out-of-network providers or facilities regarding the provision of healthcare services, including an arbitration process. The Act requires the department to provide for the maintenance of an all-payer health claims data base. The Act further requires the Commissioner to contract with one or more dispute resolution organizations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-6-34 and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 33-20E.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 408; SB 188

This Act incorporates the National Association of Commissioners reinsurance model law into the Georgia Insurance Code. The Act provides domestic ceding insurers credit as either an asset or a deduction in liability on account of reinsurance purchased only when the purchase meets new requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-7-14.

Effective July 1, 2020, and applies to all cessions after the effective date of this Act under reinsurance agreements that have an inception, anniversary, or renewal date not less than one year after the effective date of this Act.

Act 475; HB 789

This Act, the "Surprise Bill Transparency Act," provides for the creation of a surprise bill rating system based upon the number of certain types of hospital based physician specialty groups within a health insurer's network. The Act provides for definitions related to healthcare providers and services. The Act provides for a requirement that insurers include health benefit plan surprise bill ratings online and in print provider directories. The Act provides for a requirement that each insurer that advertises any health benefit plan shall disclose such surprise bill rating within such advertisement. The Act further provides for reporting.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-20C-1, 33-20C-4, and 33-20C-5 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-20C-7.

Effective November 1, 2020.

Act 565; HB 716

This Act provides that carriers issuing a health benefit plan in this state through an agent shall file proposed commission rates with the department. The Act further provides that carriers that do not pay commission during special enrollments shall, upon policy renewals, pay such commission along with renewal commission.

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

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 472; SB 28

This Act provides that copayments for certain health benefit plans shall be reasonable in relation to the covered benefits to which they apply. The Act provides for the definition of health benefit plan.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.25.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 590; HB 791

This Act, the "Early Prescription Refills During Emergencies Act," requires health insurers to provide coverage for early refills of a 30 day supply of certain prescription medications under certain emergency situations. The Act provides for legislative findings. The Act provides for a definition for health care insurer. The Act provides the Commissioner with authority to waive time restrictions on such refills. The Act allows pharmacists to dispense certain refill prescription medications under certain circumstances. The Act also authorizes a pharmacist to dispense up to a 90 day supply of a maintenance medication under certain conditions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-80 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.27.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 589; SB 391

This Act, the "Early Prescription Refills During Emergencies Act," requires health insurers to provide coverage for early refills of a 30 day supply of certain prescription medications under certain emergency situations. The Act provides the Commissioner with the authority to waive time restrictions on such refills. The Act allows pharmacists to dispense certain refill prescription medications under certain circumstances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-80 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.27.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 567; SB 303

This Act, the "Georgia Right to Shop Act," provides for greater transparency of prices for nonemergency health care services. The Act requires the disclosure of certain pricing information through insurer websites to allow consumers to compare prices. The Act further provides that

insurers may use third parties to comply with the new requirement. The Act provides for definitions related to health care coverage and services.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.27.

Effective July 1, 2021.

Act 405; HB 1050

This Act extends Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association protections to certain persons receiving insurance coverage from health maintenance organization subscriber contracts or health care corporation plans. The Act provides for modernization and updates. The Act provides for revisions to the assessment formula on long-term care insurance written by impaired or insolvent insurers. The Act further provides for the recoupment of assessments on certain members through a surcharge on premiums as approved by the Commissioner.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-38-1, 33-38-2, 33-38-4, 33-38-5, 33-38-6, 33-38-7, 33-38-9, 33-38-10, 33-38-15, 33-38-16, 33-38-17, 33-38-21, and 33-38-22.

Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 583; HB 946

This Act provides extensive revisions regarding pharmacy benefits managers. The Act revises definitions relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers. The Act revises provisions related to license requirements and filing fees. The Act revises a provision regarding the prohibition on the practice of medicine by a pharmacy benefits manager. The Act provides additional authority for the Commissioner to regulate pharmacy benefits managers and revises provisions relating to rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers and to the administration of claims. The Act further revises provisions related to prohibited activities and provides for surcharges on certain practices.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-64-1, 33-64-2, 33-64-4, 33-64-7, 33-64-10, and 33-64-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 33-64-9.1, 33-64-12, and 33-64-13.

Effective January 1, 2021, except that Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

Act 584; SB 313

This Act provides extensive revisions regarding the regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers. The Act revises a provision regarding the prohibition on the practice of medicine by pharmacy benefits managers. The Act provides the Commissioner with additional authority. The Act revises provisions relating to rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers, as well as provisions relating to the administration of claims and prohibited activities. The Act provides for surcharges on certain practices.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-64-1, 33-64-2, 33-64-4, 33-64-7, 33-64-10, and 33-64-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 33-64-9.1, 33-64-12, and 33-64-13.

Effective January 1, 2021, except that Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

TITLE 34
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Act 378; SB 408

This Act provides certain benefits and procedures affecting employment and separation from employment. The Act extends the sunset provision relating to use of sick leave for care of immediate family. The Act changes the definition of the term "deductible earnings." The Act provides for emergency adjustments to the "Employment Security Law" during a state-wide emergency declared by the Governor. The Act extends the maximum benefit weeks. The Act provides the Commissioner with the authority to establish a short-term compensation program.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 34-1-10, 34-8-30, 34-8-70, and 34-8-193 and enacts O.C.G.A Section 34-8-290.

Effective June 29, 2020.

TITLE 35
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES

Act 569; HB 838

This Act renames the Office of Public Safety Officer Support to the Office of Public Safety Support. The Act provides peace officers the right to bring suit. The Act prohibits bias motivated intimidation against first responders.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 24-5-510, 35-2-160, 35-2-161, and 35-2-163 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 35-8-7.3 and 35-8-7.4.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 390; SB 393

This Act codifies the Legal Division of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The Act expands the jurisdiction of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation regarding street gang terrorism and prevention.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 35-3-3 and 35-3-4.

Effective June 29, 2020.

Act 582; SB 288

This Act provides for the expansion of the ability for certain individuals to request record restriction for certain misdemeanor and conditional discharges. The Act prohibits the introduction of criminal history record information of an employee in an action against an employer based upon the conduct of such employee under certain circumstances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-3-23.1, 10-1-393.5, 16-13-2, 35-3-34, 35-3-35, and 35-3-37 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 24-4-419.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 513; SB 341

This Act provides for the re-employment of retired peace officers and correctional officers during disasters and emergencies. The Act further provides for training, immunities and powers of arrest, and compensation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 35-8-2 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 35-8-21.1.

Effective July 29, 2020.

TITLE 36
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Act 608; SB 38

This Act provides for a method for the abolition of a county police department and returning the law enforcement functions of such department to the sheriff of the county. The Act includes a sunset provision January 1, 2022.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-8-6.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 549; SB 20

This Act provides for the establishment of banking improvement zones to encourage opening of banks in areas underserved by banks; for applications and standards of approval for banking improvement zones; and for the establishment of an agreement for the deposit of public funds in banks within a banking improvement zone.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-60-27.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 586; SB 43

This Act revises the definition of the term "undertaking" as it relates to gas or electric systems.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-82-61.

Effective August 5, 2020.

TITLE 37
MENTAL HEALTH

Act 510; SB 176

This Act requires certain public employers to make employer and employee contributions to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia on behalf of retired members employed by such employers either directly or indirectly.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 37-2-6.1, 47-2-110, and 47-2-290 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-2-112.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 38
MILITARY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Act 575; HB 487

This Act, the "Robert Argo Disaster Volunteer Relief Act," authorizes certain employees of state agencies to be granted leave from work with pay in order to participate in specialized disaster relief services.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 38-3-93.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 500; HB 907

This Act expands the definition of war veteran to include certain individuals who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or in a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States during the period beginning January 1, 1947, and ending on June 26, 1950.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 38-4-50.

Effective July 29, 2020.

TITLE 40
MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Act 468; HB 463

This Act allows notice of the suspension of certain driver's licenses or privileges to operate a motor vehicle to be sent via a certificate of mailing. The Act allows the commissioner of driver services to enter into certain reciprocal agreements with political subdivisions of foreign countries and provides related exemptions from licensing and testing requirements. The Act provides for an exemption for signatures on traffic citations in lieu of personal court appearance. The Act further provides for the issuance, use, and display of driver's licenses and identification cards in electronic format and defines related terms. The Act also provides that the display of an electronic driver's license or identification card does not equate to consent to a search of a person's wireless telecommunications device.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-11-9.3, 40-1-1, 40-2-88, 40-5-5, 40-5-21, 40-5-27, 40-5-28, 40-5-29, 40-5-54.1, 40-5-56, 40-5-100, and 40-13-2.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-5-106.

Effective June 30, 2020.

Act 374; HB 861

This Act amends the definition of "commercial motor vehicle" and 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. Sections 40-1-1 and 40-1-8.

Effective June 29, 2020.

Act 498; HB 877

This Act provides for standards for issuance of a Georgia certificate of title for certain motor vehicles converted from original manufacturer condition in order to comply with certain state and federal requirements. The Act provides for exceptions to certain federal standards for such motor vehicles and revises definitions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-1-1, 40-2-27, 40-3-30, and 40-3-30.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 490; HB 758

This Act prohibits the consideration of the use of a motor carrier safety improvement in determining an individual's employment status with a motor carrier.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-1-58.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 488; HB 337

This Act, the "Georgia Peer-to-Peer Car-Sharing Program Act," provides for peer-to-peer car-sharing programs. The Act defines terms and establishes requirements for such programs.

The Act enacts Part 5 of Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 40-1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 568; HB 819

This Act repeals a provision relating to storage of an unlicensed vehicle. The Act also authorizes the issuance of veterans' licenses to any person who is a United States citizen and resident of Georgia who served in the military for an ally of the United States during a time of war or other conflict.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-8 and 40-5-36.

Effective August 4, 2020.

Act 560; SB 336

This Act makes recipients of a military honor, the Meritorious Service Medal, eligible for special and distinctive license plates and provides for special and distinctive license plates for United States Army Rangers. The Act provides for the issuance of certain special license plates for motorcycles

and establishes a special and distinct license plate honoring the Georgia Tennis Foundation, the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Inc., and the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network, Inc.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-85.1, 40-2-86, and 40-2-86.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-85.4.

Effective August 4, 2020.

Act 494; HB 799

This Act repeals a prohibition regarding the eligibility of certain violators to receive early reinstatement of their driver's licenses and limited driving permits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-5-75.

Effective July 29, 2020.

TITLE 42
PENAL INSTITUTIONS

Act 554; HB 983

This Act revises the required information to be provided by sexual offenders when they register on the state sexual offender registry. The Act provides that, with approval from the county sheriff, a sexual offender who is in a state or privately operated hospice facility, skilled nursing home, or residential health care facility be allowed to register anytime during the sexual offender's birth month and removes the fingerprinting requirement of such offenders.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 42-1-12.

Effective August 3, 2020.

Act 511; SB 301

This Act provides that a county sheriff may request an inmate of the state penal system awaiting trial to remain in state custody in certain circumstances. The Act also provides the commissioner of corrections the authority to grant such request. The Act further provides for the prohibition of the transfer of such inmates.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 42-5-51.1.

Effective July 29, 2020.

TITLE 43
PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES

Act 607; HB 914

This Act allows military spouses licensed in other states to practice certain professions and occupations to obtain a license by endorsement to practice in Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-1-34, 43-10-8, 43-14-16, 43-41-19, and 43-50-42 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-1-34.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 477; HB 521

This Act authorizes temporary, limited licenses for dentists and dental hygienists licensed in good standing in other states to provide free dental care to low-income patients in this state on a volunteer basis.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-11-53.

Effective July 16, 2020.

Act 561; SB 310

This Act provides for the regulation of the profession of structural engineers and provides for the registration of such structural engineers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-15-2, 43-15-6, 43-15-7, 43-15-10, 43-15-16, 43-15-18, 43-15-22, 43-15-24, 43-15-29, and 43-15-30 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-15-9.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 548; HB 752

This Act provides for national background checks by the submission of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Georgia Crime Information Center for licensing to practice as a physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, or psychologist. The Act revises provisions relating to criminal background checks for physicians and certain other health care professionals.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-33-10, 43-33-12, 43-33-13, 43-34-13, and 43-39-6.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 563; SB 321

This Act authorizes the delegation by a physician to an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations. The Act revises definitions and provisions relating to the delegation of authority to physician assistants.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-34-25 and 43-34-103.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 474; HB 932

This Act revises a definition relating to podiatric medicine and allows Doctors of Podiatric Medicine to join professional corporations with Doctors of Medicine or Doctors of Osteopathy. The Act requires criminal background checks to be licensed to practice and authorizes the State Board of Podiatry Examiners to conduct such background checks.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 14-7-4, 43-35-3, and 43-35-12 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-35-12.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Veto Number 3; SB 306

VETOED

This Act enters Georgia into the "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact." The Act requires background checks and authorizes the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to administer the interstate compact and to conduct such background checks.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-44-3, 43-44-6, and 43-44-8 and enacts Article 2 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-44.

Act 566; HB 417

This Act provides for the comprehensive regulation of trauma scene cleanup services. The Act also provides for rules and regulations, registration requirements, and penalties for violations regarding such services.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-46A.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 514; SB 346

This Act increases the membership of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine and authorizes a registered veterinary technician member. The Act provides for a professional health program for impaired veterinarians and requires confidentiality of certain records.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-50-20 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-50-21.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 44
PROPERTY

Act 506; HB 1070

This Act requires condominium associations to disclose insurance information related to water damage.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 44-3-107.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 573; SB 442

This Act prohibits amendments to property owners' association instruments and covenants that restrict rental of residential lots and plots.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 44-3-226.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 576; SB 315

This Act limits the applicability of waivers and releases of liens and bond claims against mechanics and materialmen and revises related forms and procedures.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-366.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 45
PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Act 595; HB 1090

This Act provides for employers, including state entities and local governments, to satisfy certain requirements for break times to allow employees to express breast milk. The Act also changes certain provisions and provides certain benefits and procedures affecting employment and separation from employment; revises and provides for definitions, including a change to the definition of the term "deductible earnings"; provides for emergency adjustments to the "Employment Security Law" during a state-wide emergency declared by the Governor; extends the maximum benefit weeks; and provides the Labor Commissioner with the authority to establish a short-time compensation program.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 34-1-6, 34-8-30, 34-8-70, and 34-8-193 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 34-8-290 and 45-1-7.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 469; SB 416

This Act reduces the 2021 fiscal year salaries of the Lieutenant Governor by an amount equal to 14 percent of the amount received for such office during the 2020 fiscal year and of the members of the General Assembly by an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount received for such office during the 2020 fiscal year.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-7-4.

Effective July 14, 2020.

Act 385; HB 1017

This Act revises the circumstances under which individuals qualify for a payment of indemnification for death or organic brain damage under the Georgia State Indemnification Fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-9-85.

Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 587; HB 1125

This Act provides for information and screening coverage for individuals with a high risk for breast cancer, including coverage under the state health benefit plan for additional screening for

individuals at high risk for breast cancer, and for information to be posted on the internet and distributed to physicians.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 31-1-18 and 45-18-4.1.

Effective August 5, 2020.

TITLE 46
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Act 502; HB 972

This Act provides for penalties for violations of pipeline safety standards and regulations prescribed and enforced by the Public Service Commission. The Act provides for a definition.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 46-2-91.

Effective July 29, 2020.

Act 592; HB 244

This Act, the "Georgia Broadband Opportunity Act," requires electric membership corporations to comply with certain requirements in determining the rates, fees, terms, conditions, and specifications for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers. The Act provides for certain rates, fees, terms, conditions, and specifications for such attachments to be determined by the Public Service Commission. The Act provides for definitions and for the commission to promulgate certain rules and regulations. The Act provides for jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission over all electric membership corporations relating to the provisions of the Act and provides for adjudication relative to noncompliance. The Act also provides for mutual agreements and existing agreements between electric membership corporations and communications service providers.

The Act repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Section 46-3-200.4.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 516; SB 370

This Act provides for compliance with certain safety and permit requirements when electric easements are utilized for broadband services.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 46-3-205.

Effective July 29, 2020.

TITLE 47
RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS

Act 386; SB 26

This Act provides for creditable service in the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia for prior service as a member of the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan. The Act provides for application and payment of the full actuarial cost of such creditable service.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-2-99 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-2-101.

Effective July 1, 2020, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 370; HB 195

This Act increases the benefit amount payable to beneficiaries of the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund after the member's death from $5,000.00 to $10,000.00.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-7-103.

Effective July 1, 2020, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50. The Governor signed this bill on August 3, 2020. The status, effective date, and applicability of this Act are unclear at this time.

Act 551; SB 249

This Act renders certain certified jail officers eligible for membership in the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The Act revises the authority of the Board of Commissioners of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund to increase the monthly maximum benefit amount payable by the fund. The Act further increases members' monthly dues and authorizes the board to increase or decrease such dues under certain conditions. The Act further revises provisions relating to retiring prior to the full payment of dues owed and to the purchase of certain creditable service, revises amounts collected from certain fines and forfeitures in criminal and quasi-criminal cases, and increases the monthly benefit allowed upon retirement.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-17-1, 47-17-44, 47-17-60, and 47-17-80.

Effective July 1, 2020, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 467; HB 245

This Act removes a provision requiring certain benefits payable to a surviving spouse to terminate if such surviving spouse remarries.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-17-80.

Effective July 1, 2020, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 522; SB 294

This Act permits the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia to invest in alternative investments.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-20-87.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 402; HB 292

This Act eliminates certain remittances required to be made by the University System of Georgia to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Section 47-21-5.

Effective July 1, 2020, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 383; HB 664

This Act provides for participation in the Georgia Judicial Retirement System by full-time attorneys employed pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 28-4-3.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-100 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-43.1.

Effective July 1, 2020, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 371; HB 663

This Act provides for participation in the Georgia Judicial Retirement System by each judge employed full time in the state-wide business court.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-100 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-49.

Effective July 1, 2020, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

TITLE 48
REVENUE AND TAXATION

Act 411; HB 846

This Act defines the terms "Internal Revenue Code" and "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" and thereby incorporates certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law. The Act allows political subdivisions to repay over time certain final refund amounts for refunds of local significance due to overpayment of sales and use taxes. The Act also requires the Department of Revenue to implement a direct pay permit program to facilitate repayment by political subdivisions. The Act further provides a tax credit for certain personal protective equipment manufacturers. The Act revises the use and calculation of certain tax credits for certain taxable years.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-1-2, 48-2-35, 48-2-35.1, 48-7-40, 48-7-40.1, and 48-7-40.17, and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-40.1A and 48-8-49.1.

Effective June 30, 2020, provided that Section 1-1 of the Act applies to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019; Sections 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 of the Act shall become effective on September 1, 2020; the revisions to paragraph (2) of subsection (h) of Code Section 48-2-35 in Section 1-2 of the Act shall apply to notices for final refund amounts received by a political subdivision on or after September 1, 2020; and the interest rate provided in Section 1-3 of the Act shall apply to interest accruing on or after September 1, 2020.

Act 543; SB 295

This Act revises the cost-of-living and general performance based increases for clerks of superior courts, judges of probate courts, sheriffs, and tax collectors and tax commissioners.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-88, 15-9-63, 15-16-20, and 48-5-183.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 482; SB 410

This Act authorizes virtual ad valorem tax appeal hearings and provides an alternative means of recovering costs of litigation and attorney's fees in such appeals. The Act also requires electronic transmission of returns to the Department of Revenue by public utilities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-311 and 48-5-511.

Effective July 22, 2020, and applicable to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

Act 373; HB 779

This Act revises the distribution of the proceeds of alternative ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles among local governments.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5C-1.

Effective June 29, 2020.

Act 495; HB 808

This Act revises the defined term "loaner vehicle" for purposes of alternative ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5C-1.

Effective July 29, 2020.

Act 606; HB 105

This Act exempts from state income tax certain income received by taxpayers from a federal disaster relief or assistance grant program administered in connection with Hurricane Michael. The Act exempts from all sales and use taxes certain sales of transportation subject to an excise tax, provides for a new excise tax on certain sales of transportation, and provides for the intended disposition of the proceeds of such tax. The Act also provides for the disbursement of certain fees related to motor vehicles and rooms, lodgings, and accommodations. The Act further exempts certain reports from public disclosure.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-151.1, 48-7-27, 48-8-3, 48-13-50.3, and 50-18-72, and enacts Article 8 of Chapter 13 of Title 48 of the O.C.G.A.

Effective August 5, 2020, provided that Part 2 of the Act shall become effective on April 1, 2020 and shall apply to sales of transportation on or after April 1, 2020.

Act 559; HB 1037

This Act amends the "Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act" to move certain sound recordings from qualified production activities to production expenditures. The Act reinforces the disallowance of the additional 10 percent credit allowed for including a qualifying Georgia promotion for certain productions and holds the issuance of such credit until public distribution of the project, limits the recapture of certain tax credits, and changes the timing when a tax credit can be claimed and its carry forward period. The Act also requires expenditures with vendors to include W-9 forms, provides for applications for certificates of final certification, requires an audit prior to issuance of a final certification by the Department of Revenue and phases in such requirement, provides for certification of accountants as eligible auditors for conducting such audits, provides for recouping of certain audit costs, and prescribes actions to be taken by the Department of Revenue.

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

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 322; HB 276

This Act requires collection and remittance of sales tax by marketplace facilitators and sellers. The Act also prohibits certain class action suits.

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

Effective April 1, 2020, and applicable to all sales occurring on or after April 1, 2020.

Act 585; SB 104

This Act repeals sunset provisions relating to certain tax exemptions, exempts sales to organ procurement organizations from sales and use tax, and expands the exemption for the use of food and food ingredients donated to qualified nonprofit agencies to include disaster relief.

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

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 570; HB 1102

This Act provides for a revised homestead option sales tax. The Act also provides for a revised distribution of the proceeds from the levy of an equalized homestead option sales and use tax and provides for elector petitions and referenda.

The Act enacts Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the O.C.G.A.

Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 509; SB 144

This Act provides for special event tobacco permits for off-premises sales of certain tobacco products.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-11-4.

Effective July 29, 2020.

TITLE 49
SOCIAL SERVICES

Act 476; HB 578

This Act provides for the review of certain law enforcement conviction data to aid in determining the fitness and suitability of persons seeking to become volunteers, interns, students, or employees.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-2-14.

Effective July 16, 2020.

Act 473; HB 1114

This Act provides for Medicaid coverage for lactation care and services and postpartum care. The Act further provides for the submission of a state plan amendment or waiver, if necessary.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 49-4-159.

Effective July 16, 2020.

Act 466; HB 912

This Act provides for reporting of certain data from juvenile court clerks regarding foster children who are alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of services or a delinquent child. The Act also

provides for attorney conflict resolution in certain juvenile court hearings. The Act authorizes the Department of Human Services to partner with child-placing agencies to assist with casework services. The Act requires varying levels of training for experienced foster parents or respite caregivers and authorizes foster parents to arrange for short-term babysitting.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-64, 15-11-110, 15-11-340, and 49-5-8 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-8.1.

Effective June 30, 2020.

TITLE 50
STATE GOVERNMENT

Act 326; HB 792

This Act amends the 2019-2020 "General Appropriations Act" to change certain appropriations for State Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Effective March 17, 2020.

Act 404; HB 793

This Act, the "General Appropriations Act," provides for the operation of state government for State Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Effective June 30, 2020.

Act 598; SB 358

This Act designates the muscadine grape as the official state grape.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-3-89.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 501; HB 953

This Act authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to enter into or authorize agreements with cooperative purchasing organizations. The Act prohibits certain terms in certain state contracts, provides that such terms are void and unenforceable, and requires the Department of Administrative Services to provide such information on its website. The Act also specifies that registers of bids, offers, and proposals for certain state contracts are available for public inspection in accordance with the state's open records laws.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-5-51 and 50-5-67 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-5-64.1.

Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 496; HB 848

This Act changes certain definitions to provide the Department of Administrative Services additional options when disposing of surplus property.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-5-143 and 50-5-144.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 382; SB 474

This Act requires the Department of Natural Resources to construct, operate, maintain, and supply informational materials at welcome centers assigned to it by the Governor. The Act also provides the Department of Natural Resources authorization to install and operate vending, automated teller, and cash-dispensing machines and to sell certain merchandise at the welcome centers assigned to it.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-7-12 and 50-7-14.
Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 579; SB 134

This Act reassigns the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for administrative purposes.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-12-131.
Effective August 5, 2020.

Act 491; HB 780

This Act allows the State Properties Commission to use an opinion of value in the valuation of state property where a conveyance of the property by the state is for the sole and direct benefit of the state.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-16-34.
Effective January 1, 2021.

Act 545; HB 901

This Act authorizes the state treasurer to invest in mutual funds and authorizes the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to make loan commitments and loans to local governments and nongovernment entities for certain projects that permanently protect land and water.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-17-63 and 50-23-5.
Effective August 3, 2020.

Act 572; HB 511

This Act revises provisions related to the Atlanta-region Transit Link "ATL" Authority. The Act changes the membership, structure, and operation of the Authority, transfers the Authority to the Department of Transportation for administrative purposes, and establishes logo requirements. The Act also extends the use of the Consumer Price Index for calculating the excise tax rate on motor fuel to 2025.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-9-3, 50-39-2, 50-39-4, 50-39-10, 50-39-11, and 50-39-12.
Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 51
TORTS

Act 588; SB 359

This Act, the "Georgia COVID-19 Pandemic Business Safety Act," provides liability protections for businesses for claims related to COVID-19. The Act defines related terms, establishes the presumption of assumption of the risk by a claimant if notice is given, and provides legislative findings regarding healthcare institutions, facilities, and workers.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 51-16.

Effective August 5, 2020, and only applies to causes of action that accrue through July 14, 2021.

TITLE 52
WATERS OF THE STATE

Act 384; HB 833

This Act revises provisions related to anchoring vessels. The Act prohibits certain overnight anchoring, prohibits certain long-term anchoring without a permit, removes record-keeping requirements, and allows exemptions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 52-7-8.4.

Effective July 1, 2020.

Act 512; SB 308

This Act removes certain redundant processes regarding unattended vessels in public waters.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 52-7-71 and 52-7-72.

Effective January 1, 2021.

TITLE 53
WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES

Act 508; HB 865

This Act revises and updates provisions of the "Revised Probate Code" of 1998. The Act provides for and revises provisions regarding the judicial determination of heirs and their interests. The Act provides for and revises provisions regarding court jurisdiction. The Act provides for and revises provisions regarding wills, trusts, and the administration of estates.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 5-6-16, 7-1-239, 9-4-4, 9-4-5, 9-11-17, 10-6-4, 10-6-86, 10-6B-3, 10-6B-40, 10-6B-52, 13-5-30, 15-9-4, 15-9-17, 15-9-47, 15-9-60, 15-9-86, 15-9-122, 15-9-123, 15-9-126, 15-9-127, 19-3-65, 19-3-66, 23-2-58, 50-27-21, 50-27-102, 53-2-20, 53-2-27, 53-3-1, 53-3-4, 53-3-5, 53-3-6, 53-3-7, 53-3-8, 53-3-12, 53-3-13, 53-4-63, 53-4-68, 53-5-2, 53-5-3, 53-5-17, 53-5-19, 53-5-20, 53-5-21, 53-5-22, 53-5-25, 53-5-50, 53-5-51, 53-6-14, 53-6-15, 53-6-22,

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Effective January 1, 2021.

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