Georgia House of Representatives

SESSION REPORT

House Budget & Research Office
(404) 656-5050

2024 Session Report with Vetoes

HB 30 State government; definition of antisemitism; provide

By: Rep. John Carson (46th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 30 provides a definition of antisemitism for purposes of state government, using the advisory definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) on May 26, 2016. The IHRA definition is incorporated by reference in Presidential Executive Order Number 13899, 84 F.R. 68779 Dec. 11, 2019.

An agency that enforces any criminal or noncriminal law or regulation that prohibits discrimination will consider the definition of antisemitism during that enforcement. Nothing in the bill will be construed to infringe upon First Amendment rights or an individual's right to engage in legally protected conduct or activity pertaining to U.S. foreign policy or international affairs.

HB 43 Council on American Indian Concerns; revise membership

By: Rep. Marvin Lim (98th) ***Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 43 adds a requirement to the membership of the Council on American Indian Concerns to include at least one member representing each of the American Indian tribes of Georgia identified in Code. It updates the address list of American Indian tribes recognized by the State of Georgia.

HB 51 Education; local boards of education use vehicles other than school buses for transport of students; authorize

By: Rep. Clay Pirkle (169th) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 51 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-316.3 to ensure athletic associations include and recognize all other voluntary nonprofit school activities associations of Georgia high schools as a member.

Section 2 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-1076 to allow local boards of education to utilize alternative means of transportation other than school buses to transport students to school and school-related activities where appropriate.

HB 63 Insurance; insurers providing policies for groups of 20 or more to furnish claims experience at the request of a group policyholder; require

By: Rep. Noel Williams (148th) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 63 allows group policyholders with at least 20 covered employees to receive claims experience from the insurance company.

HB 82 Income tax; limit eligibility for rural physician tax credit to physicians who qualify on or before December 31, 2023

By: Rep. Mack Jackson (128th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 82 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29, relating to tax credits for rural physicians, limiting eligibility for the current tax credit to rural physicians who qualify on or before May 15, 2023 and repealing the credit on December 31, 2029.

The bill subsequently creates a tax credit of up to $5,000 for rural healthcare professionals, defined as physicians and dentists operating in a rural county. The tax credit may be claimed for up to five years, provided that the healthcare professional continues operating in a rural county. No healthcare professional practicing in a rural county on or before May 15, 2023 is eligible for the tax credit unless they have practiced in a non-rural county for at least three years.

If a healthcare professional qualifies for less than the full 12 months in their first year, they will receive a prorated amount of the credit. The tax credit for this program will not exceed $2 million for any calendar year.

HB 130 Georgia Student Finance Authority; student loan repayment for peace officers; provide
By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 130 establishes a student loan repayment program for eligible full-time peace officers. The total repayment amount must not exceed $20,000 or the total student debt amount, whichever is less. Payments will be provided in annual installments for a period not exceeding five years.

The Georgia Student Finance Authority is authorized to establish rules and regulations to implement the program, and the program is contingent upon appropriation of funds by the General Assembly.

HB 158 Courts; change name of Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit to DeKalb Judicial Circuit
By: Rep. Billy Mitchell (88th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 158 renames the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, which is comprised of DeKalb County, to the DeKalb Judicial Circuit, effective January 1, 2025.

HB 166 Courts; provide for qualification of constables
By: Rep. Karen Mathiak (74th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 166 modifies the eligibility requirements of constables to require an eligible person to be at least 21 years old; a U.S. citizen; a registered voter; and to have obtained a high school diploma or a general educational development (GED) diploma. The bill allows for a locality to impose additional requirements for the office of chief constable, constable, or both. These requirements apply to any constable taking office on or after July 1, 2023.

HB 181 Controlled Substances; mitragynine and hydroxymitragynine are Schedule I; provide
By: Rep. Rick Townsend (179th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: Section 1 of HB 181 adds metabolite 7-hydroxymtaboliteitragynine to the definition of "kratom" and defines a "kratom product" as any product containing any part of the leaf of the mitragyna plant.

Section 2 makes it a crime to knowingly sell or transfer any kratom product or kratom extract to a person under the age of 21. It is also a crime for anyone under 21 to purchase or possess any kratom, kratom product, or kratom extract.

This section bans: 1) ingestion of kratom in a manner that employs a heating element, power source, or other chemical, electronic, or mechanical means, that can be used to produce vapor; or 2) selling, delivering, or assisting in the delivery of kratom that employs a specified heating or electric element. All kratom that is sold must be behind the counter or in a secured display in a store. A violation of these provisions carries a misdemeanor penalty. A first offense is punishable by a maximum fine of $250, a second offense is punishable by a maximum fine of $500, and a third or subsequent is punishable by a maximum fine of $1,000.

Section 3 requires all kratom products that are sold or delivered in the state to be derived from the natural kratom plant. Any plants manufactured or processed cannot be modified to increase the levels of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine beyond the following limits: 150 mg of mitragynine per serving; 0.5 7-hydroxymitragynine per gram; or 1 mg 7-hydroxymitragynine per serving. No product can be sold or delivered in this state above those thresholds.

A kratom processor or retailer cannot sell or distribute a kratom product that is adulterated, contains or uses an unsafe food substance, contains synthetic alkaloids or metabolites within it, or in a form that employs a heating an unlawful heating or electrical element. An entity that manufactures, distributes, sells, or delivers kratom must maintain a registered agent in the state. All kratom products must also contain several warning statements on the label and a recommend serving size and time frame within which safe consumption should occur.

A processor who knowingly or with criminal negligence commits an act in violation of these provisions is guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor as a first offense and a felony on a second or subsequent offense, with a penalty of imprisonment between one to 15 years; a maximum fine of $100,000; or both. A processor who negligently commits an act in violation of these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum fine of $1,000.

A retailer who knowingly or with criminal negligence commits an act in violation of these provisions will be guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor for a first offense and a second offense will be a felony with imprisonment of between one and 15 years, a maximum fine of $100,000, or both. A retailer who negligently commits a violation will be subject to a misdemeanor involving a maximum fine of $250 for a first offense, and a second offense will be subject to a $500 fine. A third offense is punished by a maximum fine of $1,000, with a subsequent offense after the third punished by a high and aggravated misdemeanor with imprisonment of between 10 days and 12 months and a fine of between $1,000 and $5,000.

This bill is effective January 1, 2025, and it applies to offenses committed on or after such date.

HB 206 Local government; creation of Commercial Property Assessed Conservation, Energy, and Resiliency Development Authorities; provide

By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 206 authorizes local government entities to enact ordinances or resolutions to establish commercial property assessed conservation, energy, and resiliency programs, and to enter into agreements with development authorities to carry out such programs.

HB 218 Evidence; sexual assault hearsay for disabled adults and 17 year olds; provide

By: Rep. Scott Hilton (48th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 218 defines the term "mentally incapacitated" and allows for the admission of an out-of-court statement, which is currently hearsay, as testimony in court when a person who is 17 years old or older and who is mentally incapacitated describes any act to a third party of nonconsensual sexual contact, or any act of physical abuse, performed with or on that mentally-incapacitated person. The third party to whom the information was told must be available to be cross-examined.

HB 220 Property; means of enforcement of condominium and property owners' association instruments, rules, and regulations; provide

By: Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 220 permits condominium associations to pursue injunctive relief without first pursuing other remedies after providing notice in accordance with terms of the instrument or 10 days'

written notice if the instrument is silent. Notice will not be required in the event of a violation of the instrument or reasonable rules adopted by the association that presents a clear and imminent danger, or when injunctive relief would become moot if not granted before expiration of a notice period.

Property owners in a planned subdivision containing no fewer than 15 individual plots will comply with all lawful provisions of covenants. Lack of compliance will be grounds for recovery of sums due, damages, injunctive relief, or any other remedy available at law or in equity.

HB 228 ***(Vetoed)*** **Education; tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities; expand definition of approved school – Governor's Veto Statement HERE**

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) ***Through the Higher Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 228 expands tuition equalization grant (TEG) eligibility to include higher education institutions which offer baccalaureate programs in nursing, have at least one instructional campus physically located in Georgia for at least 10 years, have received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and have accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

These institutions must also have a four-year average passage rate of at least 85 percent for the National Council Licensure Examination and admit students who have a high school diploma or equivalency or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. The eligibility granted to such institutions is limited to the tuition equalization grant and does not include eligibility for other programs, such as the HOPE Scholarship.

The bill allows certain proprietary institutions located in the state on or before January 1, 2021, to qualify to receive tuition equalization grant funds.

HB 244 Board of Natural Resources; effective date for certain rules and regulations; extend

By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) ***Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 244 amends O.C.G.A. 27-1-39 by extending the date for which the rules and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources are in effect. The bill amends O.C.G.A. 24-4-136 by requiring licensed seafood dealers to report non-activity to the department in the same manner as provided by rule or regulation.

O.C.G.A. 27-4-188 is revised by defining the term "cage" and stipulates that for a larger outer unit holding smaller units inside, the entire unit should be treated as a single cage. Language is updated to give the department authority over decisions regarding whether or not violators of O.C.G.A. 27-2-25 should have their harvester permit revoked. HB 244 eliminates the current cage fee in effect, and makes it legal to hunt bobcat and fox using electronic calls or sounds.

HB 279 Insurance; discount for property owners who build a new property that better resists tornado, hurricane, or other catastrophic windstorm events; provide

By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 279 provides an insurance premium discount or reduction for a home or commercial property built to fortified standards to better resist catastrophic wind events.

HB 299 Georgia Code; add appropriate references to United States Space Force; provisions
By: Rep. Brad Thomas (21st) ***Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 299 adds the U.S. Space Force to provisions relating to: associate probate court judges; crimes and offense; weapons carry licenses; domestic relations; education; military affairs; and the registration and licensing of motor vehicles.

HB 300 Solar Technology Trust Fund; fund within state treasury; establish
By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) ***Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 300 requires solar power facility agreements to provide procedures for the decommissioning of a solar power facility.

HB 318 Education; reestablishment of Office of Charter School Compliance under State Charter Schools Commission
By: Rep. Scott Hilton (48th) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 318 amends Chapter 2 of Title 20 to re-establish the Office of Charter School Compliance, create the Office of District Flexibility, and require administrative fees held back by the state or local school system for the administration of charter schools to be used solely for that purpose.

The Office of Charter School Compliance is re-established under the State Charter Schools Commission and assists with the administration, review of, and creation of new local charter schools. The bill creates the Office of District Flexibility under the Department of Education to help school systems become and remain a charter system.

Up to three percent of charter school funding may be retained by local boards of education to provide administrative services for the local charter school. The local board of education must spend these funds solely and directly on administrative services performed for the local charter school. Any funds not expended should be remitted to the local charter school each year by June 30.

The Department of Education may retain up to three percent for the administration of state chartered special schools. Any funds not used by June 30th for administration of the state chartered special school will be remitted to the school. The State Charter School Commission must follow the same structure with a November 1 deadline relating to retaining and reimbursing state charter schools for the three percent administrative fee collected.

HB 318 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-262 to revise the eligibility criteria for project-specific capital outlay grants for low-wealth school systems. Under the bill's provisions, the eligibility criteria are that a local school system must be currently, or in the most recent three years, ranked in the bottom 25 percent of school systems in sales tax revenue per full-time equivalent (FTE) student count and value of property per FTE student count.

For local school systems in which the amount of special purpose local option sales tax revenues is ranked in the bottom 25 percent of eligible local school systems receiving such sales tax revenues, that system may submit a request to the department for consideration. The system must commit five years of such revenues to the project.

Educational facilities must be more than 35 years old to be consolidated. Once a local school system has received a capital outlay grant and its need is met as determined by the department, it is not eligible to receive another grant for a period of 10 years. The State Board of Education is required to establish rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this bill.

The legislation updates the definition of energy cost savings measure to include revenue generating alterations and changes "guaranteed energy saving contract" to "guarantee energy savings performance contract".

HB 353 Georgia Lottery for Education Act; administrative procedures regarding coin operated amusement machines shall be subject to Chapter 13 of Title 50; provide
By: Rep. Alan Powell (33rd) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 353 makes any regulations promulgated by the Georgia Lottery Corporation subject to the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act', and makes hearings under O.C.G.A. 50-27-102 subject to the 'Georgia Arbitration Code'.

The bill requires that the Georgia Lottery Corporation must provide for a shortfall reserve that is at least 50 percent of the average amount of net proceeds deposited into the account for the preceding three years, which is defined as the "minimum reserve." Beginning in Fiscal Year 2025, if the total reserve fund balance exceeds the minimum reserve, an amount equal to 10 percent of the excess reserve funds shall be appropriated for educational purposes.

For Class A coin-operated amusement machines, the maximum amount that can be redeemed per play is set at $50. Licenses for manufacturers, distributors, master licensees, or location licensees can be for between one and three years, at the option of the licensee.

From the effective date of the bill to July 1, 2026, nonreloadable gift cards will be allowed for redemption with Class A and B coin-operated amusement machines. Beginning on July 1, 2026, only replays and nonreloadable and reloadable gift cards will be used for redemption for Class A machines. Only replays, lottery products, and nonreloadable and reloadable gift cards will be permitted for redemption for Class B machines.

Further, any time a license is revoked due to settlement, the Georgia Lottery Corporation must put the license up for public auction. The corporation must also create a procedure in which any person can inquire about an official interpretation of a rule or regulation. The bill increases the percentage of net receipts that the corporation must keep for Class B accounting terminations to 13 percent, as well as revising other requirements for master licensees.

HB 384 Insurance; annual notification by insurers to male insureds of coverage for prostate-specific antigen tests; provide
By: Rep. Sharon Henderson (113th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 384 requires insurers to notify covered males about annual prostate-specific antigen tests. This notification applies to covered males who are at least 45 years old and if ordered by a physician, those age 40 years and older.

HB 385 Retirement and pensions; add appropriate references to United States Space Force
By: Rep. Brad Thomas (21st) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 385 expands the definition of "uniformed services" under Title 47 to include the Marine Corps Reserve and the U.S. Space Force. It allows members serving in the Marine Corps Reserve and Space Force to obtain creditable service for any period of time for which their membership in a public retirement system or fund was interrupted.

The employee and employer are required to pay their respective contribution for the period of service time. The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. An actuarial investigation determined there is no cost to enact this legislation.

HB 404 Safe at Home Act; enact

By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 404, relating to landlords and tenants, requires that rental properties are fit for human habitation. The bill includes cooling as a utility that cannot be shut off prior to an eviction action. Landlords are prohibited from requiring a security deposit that exceeds two months' rent. A tenant, when they fail to pay charges owed to landlord, is afforded a three business day written notice period prior to an eviction proceeding being filed. The eviction notice will be posted conspicuously on the property door in a sealed envelope and delivered via any methods agreed to in the rental agreement.

HB 409 Local government; authorize local authorities to dispose of real property in the same manner as county governing authorities

By: Rep. Lauren Daniel (117th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 409 creates 'Addy's Law.' The bill requires public school systems to consider bus routes that do not require a student entering a school bus to cross roadways with a speed limit of 40 miles per hour or greater. Violators in this context are individuals who pass a stopped school bus that is picking up children.

When a violation occurs, the violator will be guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor, and will either be given a fine of no less than $1,000, face confinement of no less than 12 months, or both, upon conviction. The bill allows state charter schools to utilize teachers and other staff from education service providers under specified circumstances.

HB 441 *(Vetoed)* Professions; authorize and regulate teledentistry by licensed dentists pursuant to permits issued by Georgia Board of Dentistry – Governor's Veto Statement HERE

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 441 prevents licensed dentists from providing teledentistry unless the dentist has been issued a permit by the Georgia Board of Dentistry. Permits will only be issued after a licensed dentist proves there is an established referral relationship with a dentist who practices in a physical dental office in Georgia within 50 miles of where the teledentistry interaction will occur or the closest office outside of the 50-mile radius.

The teledentistry permit allows a dentist to: authorize a licensed dental hygienist to perform dental hygiene functions; prescribe medications that are not controlled substances; authorize digital scans; and authorize the transmittal of patient records. The bill includes conditions for providing dental care through teledentistry as well as insurance coverage requirements.

HB 451 Public officers and employees; supplemental, illness-specific insurance for certain first responders with occupational post-traumatic stress disorder; require provision

By: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (34th) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 451 requires a public entity to provide supplemental, illness-specific insurance to certain first responders diagnosed with occupational post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Coverage will be available once per one's lifetime, and include a $3,000 cash benefit and an income replacement disability benefit provided 90 days after diagnosis if needed.

HB 455 Professions and businesses; professional programs to address career fatigue and wellness in healthcare professionals; provisions

By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 455 provides that no person or entity is required to report information to a licensing board regarding a healthcare professional who is participating in a professional program that

addresses issues related to career fatigue and wellness in healthcare professionals unless the person or entity determines that there is a reasonable probability that the professional is not competent to practice or is a danger to themselves, patients, or the public.

The bill provides for immunity from civil liability for members of any committee, board, group, or commission that reviews, evaluates, or makes recommendations on these professional programs. The bill provides that proceedings and related documents of a professional program are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil action, with exceptions.

HB 456 Local government; increase term for municipal court judges from one year to two years; provisions

By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 456 increases the term for municipal court judges from one year to two years unless the municipal charter provides for a longer term. If the term is memorialized in a written agreement, the agreement will not include a geographic limitation on the judge's eligibility to serve and will not contain any provision that a judge serve in an at-will capacity.

HB 456 also outlines procedures when a municipality alleges a material breach of the terms and conditions of the judge's appointment, including providing written notice of the breach and providing 30 days for the judge to cure the alleged breach.

HB 461 Revenue and taxation; proceeds to local government regulatory fees be used to pay for regulatory activity and not general operations; require

By: Rep. Brad Thomas (21st) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 461 amends O.C.G.A. 48-13-9, relating to the imposition of regulatory fees by local governments, to require the proceeds of regulatory fees collected by a local government to be used for the related regulatory activity and not the general operations of the local government. Additionally, 'registered investment advisors', 'shooting galleries and firearm ranges', and 'firearms dealers' are added to a list of businesses to which local governments may not charge a regulatory fee.

HB 461 eliminates the ability for a local government to impose a fee for construction projects classified as renovation based on the cost of the project and instead requires the use of square feet for the calculation of a fee for an "extensive renovation project", which is defined as a project valued at $75,000 or more to renovate an existing structure.

HB 481 Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law; provide for a fiduciary duty

By: Rep. John Carson (46th) ***Through the Retirement Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 481 defines the word "fiduciary" as any retirement system or administrator that manages retirement system assets, renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation, and manages administration of a retirement system.

The bill requires fiduciaries to execute their duties in the sole interest of the plan members and beneficiaries, but the fiduciaries are liable if investment decisions were not made in the best interest of the plan members or beneficiaries.

HB 481 requires each fiduciary to vote and execute all voting proxies in the best interest of the system, in favor of confidential proxy balloting, and in support of management. All retirement systems that receive public funds and systems must comply by November 1, 2024. The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

HB 499 Domestic relations; authorize child support and insurance policies for certain disabled children; provisions

By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 499 provides a court the discretion to require either one or both spouses to pay child support for an unmarried, "dependent adult child" who has become an adult but lacks the ability to take care of themself independently. The spouses can be in a divorce proceeding, living separately, or in a state of separation. This proceeding can be brought after the person at issue reaches the age of 17 years and six months by the following parties: either parent; a non-parent custodian; an appointed guardian; or the dependent adult child.

The support will only be paid to the dependent adult child, or their guardian advocate, guardian, or agent under power of attorney, although a court is provided the discretion to assign the support to a special needs trust, as provided for by federal law. The court cannot order that the support be paid to a family support registry, as provided in O.C.G.A. 19-6-33.1.

The amount of support can be modified by a court if it determines there has been a substantial change in the applicable parent's or child's ability to provide support. A judge can also direct one or both of the parents to maintain life insurance for the benefit of the dependent adult child.

HB 500 Crimes and offenses; offense of arson of law enforcement vehicle; provide

By: Rep. Deborah Silcox (53rd) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 500 creates the offense of arson of a law enforcement vehicle. Any person convicted of the offense is punished by a fine up to $100,000 or by imprisonment for a minimum of five years with a maximum of 20 years, or both.

HB 502 Georgia Cosmetic Laser Services Act; revise a definition; revise a provision

By: Rep. Deborah Silcox (53rd) Through the Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 502 revises the definition of "cosmetic laser service" to include energy-based medical procedures using an ultrasound, cryolipolysis, microwave, or radio frequency device. This bill removes language requiring the supervising senior laser practitioner to be on-site.

HB 516 Transportation, Department of; increase minimum amount for a public road construction or maintenance contract that prohibits negotiation

By: Rep. Derrick McCollum (30th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 516 increases the minimum amount for a public road construction or maintenance contract that prohibits negotiation to $500,000. The bill allows for the exemption of the requirement to accept written public comment for 30 days in the event that the public has been afforded the opportunity for comment during the environmental phase of a public-private partnership. If the public is afforded the opportunity for comment during the environmental phase of a public-private partnership, the requirement that the department hold a public hearing is also waived.

HB 516 provides an exception to final approval of the projects by the board when it has previously approved the proposal based on a determination that it provided the apparent best value to the state.

The bill allows for placement of wayfinding kiosks on the public right of way. The kiosks may have a maximum height of 10 feet and a maximum width of four feet, and must be permitted. The legislation provides for removal of any kiosk deemed in violation of law, and thus a safety hazard or public nuisance. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) may issue a maximum of 30 permits. No permit will be issued by the department or any county or municipality on or after July 1, 2026.

HB 516 establishes the term "commercial motor vehicle restricted highway", which means a portion of highway designated by the GDOT as a scenic highway that spans more than one county and has fixed gates installed by the GDOT to prohibit entrance and operation of motor vehicles on such highway during hazardous weather conditions. The bill prohibits operation of a motor vehicle with more than six wheels on a commercial motor vehicle restricted highway.

The legislation removes the population factor in O.C.G.A. 40-6-12 related to maximum speed limits. Highways that are part of the federal interstate system and highways physically divided with full control of access, and that are part of the state highway system have a maximum speed limit of 70 miles per hour. Highways physically divided without full control of access that are part of the state highway system have a maximum speed limit of 65 miles per hour.

The legislation removes the requirement for allocation by formula of the locomotive diesel tax and allows for use of the funds to pay for administrative costs consistent with the Georgia Freight Railroad Program. The allocation must take into consideration the total track miles operated within the state by a common carrier, and any other factors deemed appropriate by the commissioner.

HB 516 extends the effective date of SB 146 (2023 Session) relative to the regulatory authority of the Department of Agriculture, and the taxation of electricity used as motor fuel and electric vehicle charging stations to January 1, 2026.

HB 557 Professions and businesses; authority to certain nurses and physician assistants to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances; authorize

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 557 authorizes advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to prescribe hydrocodone, oxycodone, or their compounds in emergency situations under certain circumstances. These circumstances include good standing with the applicable medical board and at least one year of post-licensure clinical experience. The patient receiving the prescription must be at least 18 years old.

The bill only allows for an initial prescription that does not exceed a five-day supply. Authorization must be included in the provider's nurse protocol agreement and physician assistant's job description.

The bill allows licensed chiropractors, licensed advanced practice registered nurses, and licensed physician assistants to provide an affidavit so that persons with disabilities may be issued temporary, permanent, and special permanent parking permits.

HB 563 Fair Employment Practices Act of 1978; hearing before an administrative law judge; provide

By: Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 563 adjusts sections of the Code from requiring the appointment of a special master for addressing complaints to now providing for a hearing before either a hearing officer or an administrative law judge with the Office of State Administrative Hearings. If the Office of State Administrative Hearings is a respondent, the court will then appoint a special master.

The bill amends the unlawful practices statute to include willfully neglecting or failing to comply with a subpoena or other lawful order from an administrator or hearing officer.

HB 571 Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan; updated every four years; provide
By: Rep. Deborah Silcox (53rd) Through the Public Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 571 revises the membership of the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan Advisory Council to include the chair of the House Committee on Public Health. The council must amend the state plan every four years. Beginning January 1, 2025, and every four years thereafter, the council must provide the governor and the General Assembly with a report that describes the impact of dementia in Georgia and updates the progress of the state plan.

HB 581 Audits and Accounts, Department of; revise deadlines, selection criteria, and required contents for certain annual economic analyses
By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) Through the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 581 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-2, relating to ad valorem taxation, to add a definition for "estimated roll-back rate" to mean the current year's estimated millage rate minus the millage equivalent of the total net assessed value added by reassessments. Language is also struck that required using the most recent arm's length transaction amount in any year as the maximum allowable fair market value for the next taxable year.

The bill sets additional requirements for the ad valorem tax bill that is prepared annually by the county tax commissioner or collector to include the total amount of taxes levied on property owned by the taxpayer, the amount or property tax granted by Act of the 1973 Session of Georgia's General Assembly, and net amount of taxes due for the current year.

HB 581 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-264, relating to duties of the chief appraiser, to require county chief appraisers to reappraise land parcels in their county every three years.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-299, relating to changing real property values established by appeal, to change the length the value of real property is frozen following appeal from three total years to two total years, including the year the value of real property is challenged.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-306, relating to annual notices of current assessment, to require notices to include the current year's estimated roll-back rate.

HB 581 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-6, relating to limitations on local sales and use taxes, by eliminating the current limit of two percent on local sales tax, as well as exceptions that allow local government entities to go beyond the limit.

The bill provides for local sales tax to be levied up to two percent, with the following exceptions: an additional one percent each for an education-related special purpose local option sales tax, a transportation-related sales and use tax of up to one percent, and sales and use taxes allowed under Article 4 of Chapter 8 of Title 48, relating to the municipal option sales tax.

The bill creates a new local option sales tax to be titled a "flexible penny local option sales tax", or FLOST. Following an intergovernmental agreement and voter approval via a referendum, a one percent sales tax can be collected for the purpose of providing property tax relief, provided that all participating counties or municipalities have adopted an adjusted value homestead exemption.

The bill requires the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to not certify the tax digest of a political subdivision that is not in compliance with specified uses of taxes levied in this Code section.

HB 617 Highways, bridges, and ferries; development and maintenance of a state-wide freight and logistics implementation plan; provide

By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 617 adds the development of a statewide freight and logistics implementation plan to the duties of the director of planning at the Department of Transportation.

The statewide freight/logistics implementation plan is based on a 20-year projection. It identifies example project types, specific projects to be programmed, or critical corridors. The plan takes into account foundational investments that ensure: maintenance of existing transportation systems; catalytic investments that strategically expand the transportation system to both support economic development, and improve the mobility of goods/people; and innovative investments that promote industry growth and sustain existing industry use of the freight network.

HB 617 creates the Georgia Freight 2050 Program to be administered by the department to enhance the state's investment in the statewide transportation freight network. The program will fund and support projects included in the freight plans identified in Code Section 32-2-41.4.

Priority is given to capacity enhancements including: widening of interstates and non-interstate arterial roads; interchange, intersection, and other operational improvements; intermodal or multimodal capacity enhancements; railroad crossing access/safety improvements; commercial motor vehicle parking/safety improvements; and projects located in an international ocean trade zone.

HB 663 No Patient Left Alone Act; enact

By: Rep. Matt Hatchett (155th) Through the Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 663 allows for a designated essential caregiver to be present with a patient or resident of a hospital or long-term care facility while they are receiving care. This designated caregiver must adhere to the policies of the hospital or long-term care facility, and their access may be suspended or terminated under outlined circumstances.

HB 808 Ad valorem tax; increase a statewide exemption for tangible personal property

By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (151st) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 808 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-42.1, relating to the personal property tax exemption, to change the ad valorem taxation exemption on tangible personal property from $7,500 to $20,000.

The bill must receive a 2/3 majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and subsequently be approved by Georgia voters during the November 5, 2024 general election.

HB 825 Judicial Retirement System; require certain counties to supplement retirement benefits paid to the circuit's superior court judges and district attorneys; require

By: Rep. Barry Fleming (125th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 825 requires certain judicial circuits to pay a supplemental benefit to district attorneys who retire from the circuit. Any judicial circuit subject to these provisions must pay a supplemental benefit calculated by multiplying the benefit percentage the district attorney earned at retirement from the Judicial Retirement System of Georgia, together with the aggregate county salary supplement being paid to the active district attorney at the date they begin receiving retirement benefits or the supplement paid to the retiring district attorney on their last day of service, whichever is greater.

The bill allows certain state court judges of Fulton County to participate in a county's defined contribution plan in addition to the Georgia Judicial Retirement System. Currently, certain state court judges of Fulton County are prohibited from participating in other retirement systems.

The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation determined there is no cost to this legislation.

HB 827 Crimes and offenses; livestock theft; increased penalties; provide
By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 827 increases the penalty for the crime of livestock theft to between two years and 15 years imprisonment, and increases the maximum fine to $10,000. If the fair market value of the livestock is $100 or less, the punishment is increased to a high and aggravated misdemeanor. The Department of Agriculture commissioner is provided with authority to enforce this crime.

The bill also creates the offense of criminal trespass involving a wild animal. The first degree of the crime occurs when a person enters a zoo cage or area where a wild animal is housed, when the person knows they have no legal right to be there, harasses an animal, and that animal suffers an injury or death.

The penalty for the first degree is a felony and imprisonment for between one and 10 years. The second degree of the crime occurs when a person enters a zoo cage or area where a wild animal is housed and knows they have no legal right to be there. The penalty for the second degree of the crime is a misdemeanor and imprisonment for a maximum of 12 months. A person who commits this crime will also be liable for restitution for the injury or death of the animal.

HB 872 Medical professionals; rural assistance; expand service cancelable loan program for health care providers to include dental students
By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 872 allows for dental students to be eligible for the service cancelable loan program when they agree to practice in rural counties with a population of 50,000 or less.

HB 873 Courts; juvenile treatment court divisions; create
By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) ***Through the Juvenile Justice Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 873 codifies the ability of juvenile courts to establish a juvenile treatment court division as an alternative to the traditional judicial system for juvenile delinquency cases or child in need of services (CHINS) cases. A case may be assigned to these new courts: 1) if the prosecutor or other petitioner consents prior to the entry of adjudication or disposition; 2) as part of a disposition in a case; or 3) upon modification or revocation of probation or a new petition. Each new juvenile treatment court division must establish a planning group to develop a work plan. Planning groups are required to include: judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, public defenders, community supervision officers, and probation officers.

The Council of Accountability Court Judges must establish standards and practices for these divisions taking into account current research and findings published by experts on children's health needs and treatment options. The council will also create and manage a certification and peer review process to ensure local divisions are adhering to standards and practices.

Further, the council will create a waiver process that divisions will need to apply for if they want an exception to standards and practices. The council will also create a certification process to allow a court to demonstrate a need for additional state grant funds for one or more part-time judges to operate these divisions. Divisions established on and after July 1, 2026, will be certified or receive a waiver if they have good cause.

The council is also required to develop and manage an electronic system for performance measurement that accepts data in a consistent manner. On or around July 1, 2026, and every three years afterward, the

council must conduct a performance peer review of the divisions to improve the policies and practices. The court that institutes the division can request that one or more prosecutors and one or more defense attorneys serve in the division, and the clerk of the juvenile court will serve as the clerk of the division.

HB 874 Schools; automated external defibrillators; require

By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) Through the Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 874 requires all public schools to have a functional automated external defibrillator (AED) on site at all times during school hours and during any school-related function.

Each school will ensure that the following requirements are met: designate an internal response team; ensure that all internal response team members and any other expected users receive training; ensure that emergency medical services are aware of the AED's location; ensure the AED is maintained and tested appropriately; ensure involvement of a licensed physician for training, notifications, and maintenance; establish a written emergency action plan; and conduct a minimum of two emergency action practice drills each school year.

HB 876 Banking and finance; update terminology; revise procedures; provisions

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (112th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 876 provides revisions to and updates terminology in Georgia banking law. It updates the definition of subsidiary to identify that a financial institution is deemed to control a company when it has the power to vote more than 50 percent of any class of the company's voting securities, when it controls the election of a majority of the trustees or directors, or after a departmental hearing determining the financial institution exercises a controlling influence.

The bill adds language relevant to departmental approval of transactions and acquisitions so that unless the department has objected to the transaction, the department will forward written confirmation to the Office of Secretary of State that the legal requirements have been satisfied. The bill adds annual registration requirements with the Office of Secretary of State for foreign banks, and includes definitions relevant to merchant acquirer limited purpose banks.

HB 876 repeals language with respect to "registrants" and "registration requirements" while maintaining "licensees" and "license requirements" in Code.

HB 880 Professions and businesses; military spouses to use an existing license in good standing from another state; allow

By: Rep. Bethany Ballard (147th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 880 brings Georgia into compliance with the federal 'Servicemembers Civil Relief Act' and allows the spouse of a servicemember to practice their occupation without a license so long as that spouse: 1) holds a current license to practice the occupation in another state; 2) is in good standing in the other state; 3) has filed an application for an expedited license by endorsement along with the military orders of the servicemember, which can both be filed prior to moving to Georgia; 4) is hired by an in-state employer that may lawfully hire the spouse to engage in the occupation; and 5) has their information verified by the in-state employer.

If a spouse is not issued a license by endorsement within 30 days of filing the application, then they can continue to work for the in-state employer without being licensed. If the spouse is denied an expedited license by endorsement, then that spouse will no longer qualify to engage in the practice of the occupation.

A professional licensing board is permitted to investigate any persons exempted under this bill and to revoke that person's exemption if the spouse violated any of the recognized standards of the occupation or knowingly made any misleading or deceptive representations in their application.

HB 896 Domestic relations; process by which individuals may change their married surname to previous surname following divorce; provide

By: Rep. Kimberly New (64th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 896 permits a former spouse after divorce to petition the court by motion ex parte to restore their legal surname to the given surname on their birth certificate. The motion may be filed at any time after the judgment and decree of divorce is entered, with no publication in a legal organ required.

HB 906 Tifton Judicial Circuit; provide for a third judge

By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 906 increases the number of superior court judges in the Tifton Judicial Circuit from two to three. The third judge will be appointed for a term beginning July 1, 2024, continuing through December 31, 2026. Their successor will be elected at the nonpartisan judicial election in 2026.

HB 915 Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

By: Rep. Jon Burns (159th) ***Through the Appropriations Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 915, the Amended Fiscal Year 2024 budget, is set by a revised revenue estimate of $37.9 billion. In addition to revenue growth, the governor's revenue estimate for the Amended Fiscal Year 2024 budget includes $2 billion in surplus funds for a total infusion of $5.4 billion, or an increase of 16.9 percent over the original estimate. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website.

HB 916 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 – Governor's Signing Statement HERE

By: Rep. Jon Burns (159th) ***Through the Appropriations Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 916, the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, is set by a revised revenue estimate of $36.1 billion, an increase of $3.7 billion or 11.4 percent over the FY 2024 original budget. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website.

HB 926 Second Chance Workforce Act; enact

By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 926, the 'Second Chance Workforce Act', allows a traffic court judge to reinstate an accused person's license when it was suspended because of a failure to appear, and they subsequently have scheduled a new date to appear before the court; have appeared in court for a hearing, arraignment, or waiver of arraignment and entry of plea; or when the charge has been fully adjudicated.

The bill strikes an exception to the Class C drivers' license that provided for a combination of vehicles with a gross weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less that is controlled and operated by a farmer or used for agricultural purposes.

The bill also adds battery against a healthcare worker or emergency health worker to the list of crimes that constitute a "serious delinquent act" by a minor and must be considered when determining whether to detain the child.

Further, reports of incidents of family violence must include the existence of any protective orders, and the number and nature of prior complaints of family violence.

HB 934 Self-service storage facilities; enforcement of unsigned rental agreements under certain circumstances; provide

By: Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 934 permits a self-service storage facility rental agreement to be executed and delivered electronically. If the occupant fails to sign the rental agreement within 14 days of delivery, the continued use of the storage space will be deemed an acceptance of the rental agreement and that rental agreement will be enforced against the occupant as if it had been signed, provided the agreement includes notice that the occupant's continued use is deemed an acceptance of the agreement and will be enforced against the occupant as if it has been signed.

If notice has been provided to the occupant of the agreement's termination or nonrenewal, an occupant has not less than 14 days after notice to remove all personal property from the facility. Prior to the occupant's removal, the owner may place reasonable restrictions on the occupant's use of the facility, including denying access to the facility except to remove personal property during normal business hours.

HB 935 Motor vehicles; standards for a conviction through the use of speed devices; provide

By: Rep. Kenneth Vance (133rd) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 935 creates a Back the Blue Fund for the purpose of providing bonuses to deputy sheriffs and jailers. An option will be provided to contribute $5 to the fund upon issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle car tag. The commissioner of the Department of Revenue will be the custodian of the fund and administer to sheriffs' offices through the Georgia Sheriff's Association.

HB 946 Special district mass transportation sales and use tax; intergovernmental agreements; revise requirements

By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 946 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-5A, relating to special district mass transportation sales and use tax, to allow a county and one or more municipalities that comprise at least one-half of the total population of the territory of qualified municipalities to enter into an intergovernmental agreement that would allow the special district to establish a tax rate of up to one percent.

The agreement must provide for the proceeds to be received by municipalities in the district that have not entered into the agreement, for which a calculation for the absent municipality minimum percentage is provided. The agreement can exist for a maximum of five years with an option for a sixth year if municipalities representing 100 percent of the district's population enter into the agreement.

The bill removes language allowing for a sales and use tax related to this Code section to be established without an intergovernmental agreement.

HB 970 Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship; victims of human trafficking are eligible; provide

By: Rep. Robert Dickey (145th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 970 expands eligibility of the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) scholarship to victims of human trafficking. The bill authorizes REACH participating school systems to designate REACH scholars each school year, subject to available appropriations.

HB 970 requires participating school systems to provide $1,000 and the authority to provide $9,000 for each REACH scholar enrolled in the school system.

HB 974 Secretary of State; establish and maintain a state-wide system for the posting of scanned paper ballots; require

By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 974 requires ballots to be printed on security paper that includes a visible watermark. The bill requires the secretary of state to maintain a state-wide program for the posting of digital images of election ballots. The bill requires a minimum scan resolution of 200 dots per inch (DPI) for scanned paper ballots and 600 DPI, or the highest resolution possible within the certified voting system, for scanned absentee ballots.

The bill sets the risk-limiting audit probability limit at a decreasing percentage beginning with eight percent in 2024 and concluding with a rate of five percent or less in 2028. The bill clarifies which contests, in addition to specified top of the ballot contests, must be selected for a risk-limiting audit and how they are selected.

HB 974 requires the secretary of state to create a pilot program for the auditing of paper ballot images using optical character recognition or related technology to verify the human-readable text portion of a ballot.

HB 982 State Workforce Development Board; publish a High-demand Career List most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs; require

By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) ***Through the Higher Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 982 authorizes the State Workforce Development Board to develop and approve a high-demand career list. The list will be composed of the careers that are most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs and will be updated annually. The bill requires specified government entities to utilize the list to inform certain decisions on the usage of federal and state funding for secondary, postsecondary, and adult education programs.

HB 984 Insurance, Department of; Office of the Safety Fire Commissioner; update practices

By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 984 allows certified law enforcement officers employed by the office of safety fire commissioner to use a department vehicle while off-duty under certain circumstances. The bill also repeals O.C.G.A. 33-10-13 to comply with National Association of Insurance Commissioners accreditation standards.

HB 984 allows for developmentally or physically disabled individuals to remain on their parent or guardian's insurance beyond the cutoff age.

Lastly, the bill changes the default communication from insurers to consumers from paper to electronic format under certain circumstances.

HB 985 Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation; abolish

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) ***Through the Higher Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 985 abolishes the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation, and transfers any obligations, liabilities, or assets to the Georgia Student Finance Authority. The bill reinstates the Private Colleges and Universities Authority.

HB 991 Hospital Medicaid Financing Program; extend sunset provision

By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) ***Through the Appropriations Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 991 reauthorizes the Hospital Medicaid Financing Program until June 30, 2030.

HB 992 Houston Judicial Circuit; provide for fourth judge

By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 992 increases the number of superior court judges for the Houston Circuit from three to four, with the additional judge being appointed for a term beginning July 1, 2024, and the first election for that judgeship taking place at the 2026 nonpartisan judicial election.

HB 993 Crimes and offenses; grooming a minor for indecent purposes; provide for offense

By: Rep. Alan Powell (33rd) ***Through the Juvenile Justice Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 993 creates a criminal penalty for those who groom a minor through a pattern of activity or communication, and either through a third party or through the use of electronic means to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce that minor to engage in a sexual offense, human trafficking, or any other offense within Chapter 6 of Title 16.

A person who commits this crime will be subject to felony imprisonment of one to five years. This crime only applies to a person over the age of 18 and who is not within four years of age of the alleged victim. This applies to conduct completed within or outside of the state or conduct aimed at a minor outside of this state if the actions occurred within this state.

HB 994 Torts; negligent operations of a vessel; revise liability

By: Rep. Alan Powell (33rd) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 994 provides that boat operators are liable for injury or damage when negligence occurs on the part of the operator. A rented boat operator is liable for negligent operation. Boat livery owners are required to carry insurance with coverage of at least $500,000 per person per occurrence and $1,000,000 per event.

HB 995 Education; administration of a nationally recognized multiple-aptitude battery assessment that predicts success in the military to certain public school students; require

By: Rep. Josh Bonner (73rd) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 995 creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-281.2, which requires local school systems to provide an optional nationally recognized multiple-aptitude battery assessment to predict future academic and occupational success in the military to students in grades 11 and 12. This assessment will be provided to students during school hours at least once per school year.

HB 997 Motor vehicles; require disqualification to operate a commercial motor vehicle upon receipt of notification from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration of a positive drug test

By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 997 requires an individual disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle by notice from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to be reinstated only when they have received notification from the FMCSA.

HB 1010 Public officers and employees; increase number of hours permitted for paid parental leave

By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1010 increases the number of hours of annual paid parental leave for state employees and employees of local education agencies from 120 to 240 hours. Paid parental leave can be used for the birth of a child or the foster and adoption placement of a child. Employers are required to provide notice of such benefits to eligible employees once hired and annually thereafter.

HB 1015 Income tax; reduce rate of tax

By: Rep. Lauren McDonald (26th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1015 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-20, relating to individual income tax rates, to lower the individual income tax rate effective on January 1, 2024 from 5.49 percent to 5.39 percent.

HB 1017 Georgia Squatter Reform Act; enact

By: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (34th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1017 creates the offense of unlawful squatting when someone enters and resides upon the land or premises of the owner without the owner or rightful occupant's knowledge or consent. A person who violates this provision will receive a citation advising them to present documentation within three business days authorizing their presence on the land or premises.

If the person is unable to provide documentation, the person will be subject to arrest for criminal trespass and will be guilty of a misdemeanor. If a person does provide documentation, a hearing will be set within seven days of submitting the documentation to determine its validity. If the documentation is found to be improperly executed or fraudulent, that person will be subject to demand for possession and removal, subject to arrest, and assessed an additional fine based on the fair market monthly rental rate of the premises. A law enforcement official will exhibit an affidavit regarding a person's claim to the property at least three days prior to turning that person out of possession.

HB 1018 Georgia Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act; enact

By: Rep. Jason Ridley (6th) ***Through the Banks & Banking Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1018, the 'Georgia Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act', makes it an unlawful discriminatory practice for a financial institution to require the usage of a firearms code in a way that distinguishes a firearms retailer in the state from other merchandise retailers, or for a financial institution to decline a lawful payment card transaction based solely on the assignment or nonassignment of a firearms code. A firearms code is defined as Merchant Category Code 5723, approved by the International Organization for Standardization or any other merchant code distinguishing a firearms retailer or purchase.

A financial institution will not disclose a financial record, including a firearms code, unless the disclosure was based on a good faith conclusion that it was required by law or regulation. No action will be brought by the attorney general until the violator has received written notice of the alleged violation and has failed to cease the violating activity within 30 days of receiving notice. No person or government entity will create or maintain a multijurisdictional database of persons who have applied for weapons carry licenses or a record of privately owned firearms.

HB 1019 *(Vetoed)* Revenue and taxation; statewide homestead exemption from certain ad valorem taxes; increase– Governor's Veto Statement HERE

By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1019 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-44, relating to homestead exemptions, to increase the statewide homestead exemption from $2,000 to $4,000, provided the owner resides in the home as their primary residence.

HB 1021 Income tax; increase amount of dependent exemption

By: Rep. Lauren Daniel (117th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1021 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-26, relating to personal exemptions, to increase the personal exemption for each dependent from $3,000 to $4,000.

HB 1023 Income tax; match tax rate imposed on corporations to that imposed on individual taxpayers

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson 112th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1023 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-21, relating to taxation of corporations, to change the rate of taxable net income for corporations from 5.75 percent to the same rate as the individual income tax rate in the corresponding year.

The bill further amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-57, relating filing dates and failure to file for corporate taxpayers, to allow for an additional month to file a state return beyond an extension provided related to a federal income tax return.

HB 1026 State government; Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as official soap box derby of the State of Georgia; designate

By: Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th) ***Through the Special Rules Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1026 designates the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby in Lyons as the official soap box derby of the State of Georgia.

It also establishes the 'Richard H. Smith Georgia CHIPS Advancement in Research and Development Act'. The bill creates a fund to provide grant and loan programs to attract semiconductor companies to Georgia, and a fund for workforce education and training grants related to careers in semiconductors, microelectronics, and respective laboratories.

A consortium of higher education institutions is created to serve as an advisory panel and is overseen by an executive committee consisting of three members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the president of the Senate, two members appointed by the speaker of the House, the chancellor of the University System of Georgia or their designee, and the president of the Technical College System of Georgia or their designee.

HB 1028 Education; repeal requirement of screening of public school children for scoliosis; provisions

By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1028 clarifies certain rules and regulations relating to the Department of Public Health including adding certain conditions to the definition of sexually transmitted diseases, adding opioid antagonists and post-exposure prophylaxis drugs to the commissioner's standing order, and removing certain outdated Code sections.

HB 1033 Utility Worker Protection Act; enact

By: Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1033 is the 'Utility Worker Protection Act', which adds enhanced penalties for protection of utility workers harmed while acting within the scope of their employment or while performing official duties. The bill includes a definition for "utility worker", which includes independent contractors and applies to both private and public entities.

The sentencing enhancement is added to the following crimes: simple assault, making it a high and aggravated misdemeanor; aggravated assault, making the term of imprisonment between three and 20

years; simple battery, making it a high and aggravated misdemeanor; aggravated battery, making the term of imprisonment between one and 20 years; and battery, making the crime a high and aggravated misdemeanor. These enhancements apply to all offenses committed on or after July 1, 2024.

HB 1041 Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority; maximum amount of bonded indebtedness of the authority; increase

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1041 increases the maximum bond indebtedness of the Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority from $50 million to $400 million.

HB 1046 Health; advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order home healthcare services; authorize

By: Rep. David Clark (100th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1046 allows advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to complete and sign death certificates under the authority of a physician. These healthcare professionals must complete biennial continuing education as approved by the board. There must also be a selection box added to the death certificate to indicate whether a physician or non-physician completed the certificate.

Additionally, HB 1046 creates the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health to make policy recommendations regarding perinatal care programs and develop quality metrics. The commission will consist of 14 members with six appointed by the governor, three by the lieutenant governor, and three by the speaker of the House of Representatives. The commissioner of the Department of Public Health and chief executive officer of the Georgia Research Alliance will also serve as members. A report of findings and recommendations is due on July 1, 2026 and the commission will be repealed.

HB 1049 Insurance Business Transfer Act; enact

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (112th) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1049, also known as the 'Insurance Business Transfer Act', allows insurance companies to transfer lines of business to other parties. Required reviews will be conducted by the Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner and the Fulton County Superior Court.

HB 1053 State government; prohibit governmental agencies from using central bank digital currency as payment

By: Rep. Carter Barrett (24th) ***Through the Banks & Banking Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1053 prohibits governmental agencies from accepting a payment using a digital currency issued by a federal reserve bank or foreign central bank, and prohibits governmental agencies from participating in any test of a central bank digital currency.

HB 1058 Motor vehicles; federal regulations regarding safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles; update reference date

By: Rep. Lauren McDonald (26th) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1058 addresses federal regulations for safe operations for drivers and vehicles transporting hazardous materials, changing the effective date from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024.

HB 1072 Health; drug repository program; revise definitions; provide for pharmacist to pharmacy technician ratios

By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (45th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1072 allows for the increase of closed-door pharmacies. Additionally, this bill addresses pharmaceutical expiration dates, as well as the ratios of pharmacy technician to pharmacists in connection with the drug repository program. This bill states the General Assembly's intent that settlement proceeds related to prescription drugs that are not controlled substances and subsequent appropriations should be proportionately distributed based on program participation rates.

HB 1073 Local government; zoning; repeal additional hearing and notice provisions regarding halfway houses, drug rehabilitation centers, or other facilities for treatment of drug dependency

By: Rep. Dale Washburn (144th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1073 repeals hearing and notice provisions relating to zoning decisions for halfway houses, drug rehabilitation centers, or drug dependency treatment centers. The bill allows municipalities to permit sales of alcohol for consumption in special entertainment districts during specified times. The bill prohibits local governments from requiring video surveillance in the exterior or interior of businesses where automotive gasoline is sold.

HB 1078 Community Health, Department of; Georgia Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE); establish and implement

By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) Through the Human Relations & Aging Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1078 excludes the Georgia Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) as an applicable service within the definition of "adult day health services". The bill provides additional opportunities with Georgia's Medicaid program to provide comprehensive acute and long-term healthcare services to ensure continued community living for qualifying individuals.

HB 1083 Community Health, Department of; adult residential mental health services licensing; extend grace periods

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (112th) Through the Public Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1083 extends deadlines for the implementation of updated adult mental health licensure rules and regulations.

HB 1100 Revenue, Department of; authorize use of electronic notifications and communications to motor vehicle owners; provisions

By: Rep. Kimberly New (64th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1100 allows the Department of Revenue to contact an individual with an interest in or title to a vehicle 30, 20, and 10 days prior to the date of an insurance suspension via electronic means.

HB 1105 The Georgia Criminal Alien Track and Report Act of 2024; enact

By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1105 is the 'Georgia Criminal Alien Track and Report Act of 2024'.

The bill requires Georgia law enforcement officials to work in conjunction with federal immigration authorities and to send, receive, and maintain information relating to the immigration status of any individual as reasonably needed for public safety purposes. Any sheriff's office or law enforcement agency of a local governing body that acts in violation is subject to the withholding of state funding or state-administered federal funding other than to provide services required in subsection (d) of O.C.G.A. 50-36-1.

As a condition of funding, the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Transportation, or any other state agency that provides funding to local governing bodies will require certification of compliance with requirements in Code Section 50-36-4 for submission of annual immigration compliance reports. Any funding withheld from a sheriff's office is remitted to the county.

The legislation provides standard procedures for booking of aliens and foreign nationals, and requires jailers to prepare quarterly reports outlining several categories of information for each jail jurisdiction. The bill provides that a first violation of the requirements in this Code section is a misdemeanor. Any second or subsequent violation is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

HB 1114 Data Analysis for Tort Reform Act; enact

By: Rep. Will Wade (9th) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1114 allows the Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner to collect and analyze anonymous data from insurers related to tort-related risks. A report is required to be submitted to the governor, the House Committee on Insurance, and the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee by November 1, 2024. This Code section will be repealed on January 1, 2030.

HB 1122 Education; provide for funding requirements to apply to local agencies; charter schools; provisions

By: Rep. Scott Hilton (48th) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1122 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-186, which outlines specific funding criteria based on student enrollment for state charter schools to earn a superintendent, and state and local charter schools to earn principals.

Section 2 includes part-time teachers and paraprofessionals as allowable employees in O.C.G.A. 20-2-239 to enroll a student in a school other than the student's residence if the student's parent works at the school.

Section 3 includes full-time or part-time paraprofessionals as allowable employees in O.C.G.A. 20-2-2066 to enroll a student at a start-up charter school, a conversion charter school, or a state-chartered special school as the parent of such student.

Section 4 prohibits state charter school governing board members from being an officer, member, or executive-level employee of a local board of education or a local school system.

Section 5 provides additional requirements for schools relating to publishing the Office of Student Achievement's school rating.

HB 1123 *(Vetoed)* Handicapped persons; require establishment of an Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team in each judicial circuit – Governor's Veto Statement HERE

By: Rep. Carter Barrett (24th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1123 requires district attorneys to establish an Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team subject to funding through the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council.

The bill creates the elder justice coalition, which is required to meet at least twice each year, to create a law enforcement protocol, train officers when responding to instances of abuse of disabled adults or elder persons, conduct training related to disability, partner with state agencies and organizations to promote awareness of holistic care, and provide a report to the governor and General Assembly outlining areas of opportunity and recommendations to prevent and respond to abuse of disabled adults and elder persons.

HB 1146 Natural Resources, Department of; EPD to issue water permits to private companies in areas where no public service can be provided within a period of 12 months; require

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1146 allows an individual, given authority by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, to provide consumable water within coastal aquifers of the state without a letter of concurrence from any public entity or local government, given certain conditions are met. This Code section will be repealed on January 1, 2029.

HB 1149 Local government; require local constitutional officers to annually report audits of discretionary funds to the General Assembly

By: Rep. Mesha Mainor (56th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1149 requires the annual audit reports of counties and consolidated city-county governments to include the financial statements of the supplemental official income of each county officer under the county governing authority.

HB 1162 Internal Revenue Code and Internal Revenue Code of 1986; revise terms and incorporate certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law

By: Rep. David Knight (134th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1162 amends O.C.G.A. 48-1-2, relating to income tax definitions, by providing an update to the definition of "Internal Revenue Code" to include provisions from the 'Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024' and the 'Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022'.

HB 1165 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; replace chairperson of the Governor's Office of Children and Families with the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

By: Rep. Mesha Mainor (56th) ***Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1165 replaces the chairperson of the Governor's Office for Children and Families with the commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

HB 1172 Water rights; public trust doctrine; remove references

By: Rep. James Burchett (176th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1172 amends O.C.G.A. 44-8-5 by removing direct references to the public trust doctrine and stating that by the common law, citizens have an inherent right to use for passage and for hunting and fishing all navigable streams from low-water mark to low-water mark. Entry upon privately owned land adjacent to navigable streams is not permitted.

HB 1181 Income tax; limit carry-forward periods of certain income tax credits

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1181 amends various Code sections in Chapter 7 of Title 48, relating to income taxes, to change carry-forward periods for select tax credit programs to three or five years and sunsets select tax credit programs after five years, or December 31, 2029.

HB 1183 Education; local school systems to provide certain information to parents and guardians of students in grades six through 12 on Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes; require

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1183 requires school boards that provide certain health information to parents and guardians to include information about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Information includes risk factors, warning signs, and recommended screenings.

HB 1192 *(Vetoed)* Sales and use tax; certain high-technology data center equipment; prohibit issuance of new certificates of exemption – Governor's Veto Statement HERE

By: Rep. John Carson (46th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1192 amends 48-8-3, relating to exemptions from sales and use tax, to require the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to stop issuing new certificates of exemption related to certain high-technology data center equipment, beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2026. Any high-technology data center or high-technology data center customer that is in an active contract prior to July 1, 2024 is exempt from this provision.

The bill amends the definition for "new quality jobs" to include employment located in the state, has a regular work week of at least 30 hours, is not a job already located in Georgia, and pays at least 150 percent of the county's average wage.

The Special Commission on Data Center Energy Planning is created, composed of 14 members. The commission will review existing electric grid and energy supply, and make recommendations for data center location and expanded grid capacity. The special commission shall stand repealed on June 30, 2026.

HB 1193 Motor vehicles; require operation of flashing or revolving amber lights upon certain vehicles

By: Rep. Lauren McDonald (26th) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1193 revises Code Section 40-6-16 to allow the display of a revolving light on a stationary towing or recovery vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle, or utility service vehicle. Red lights are removed as being one of the potential colors to be flashed or revolved. Further, the bill defines what vehicles should utilize flashing or revolving lights, and under what circumstances.

HB 1201 Criminal procedure; vacating of sentences of victims of trafficking; provisions

By: Rep. Houston Gaines (120th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1201 allows a victim of human trafficking to have their sentence vacated when sentenced pursuant to O.C.G.A. 42-8-60, relating to probation, or O.C.G.A. 16-13-2, relating to conditional discharge of possession of controlled substances as a first offense, so long as the crime was a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.

The bill also defines the term "commercial sexual exploitation recovery center" and includes the term within the definition of "child-caring institution" in O.C.G.A. 49-5-3, while specifying that the definition of "maternity home" does not include a commercial sexual exploitation recovery center.

HB 1203 Dispossessory proceedings; authorize landlords to use certain off-duty sheriffs, constables, or marshals to execute writs of possession; provisions

By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1203 entitles a landlord to use an off-duty sheriff, sheriff's deputy, marshal, or Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) certified officer with jurisdiction to execute a writ of possession at the landlord's sole cost and expense when an on-duty official is unable to execute the writ within 14 days of the landlord's application or request for execution. The landlord will have access to a list of authorized off-duty personnel, and provide written notice to the sheriff, constable, or marshal of the time of execution of the writ at last five calendar days in advance of the execution.

HB 1207 Elections; proofing of ballots by local superintendents in certain races; provide
By: Rep. Tim Fleming (114th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1207 requires any person employed by a county election superintendent for election-related duties to be a United States citizen. It provides guidelines for reopening the candidate qualifying period in specified circumstances.

The bill requires election superintendents to make a ballot proof available to any candidate appearing on the ballot in order for the candidate to verify the information within 24 hours. It allows election superintendents to take specified conditions into consideration when planning for the number of voting booths or enclosures to provide for each election.

HB 1207 provides access to poll watchers for specified voting locations and activities. The bill prohibits the use or threats of violence that would prevent or interfere with the ability of election officials or poll watchers to execute election duties.

HB 1223 Georgia Soil Amendment Act of 1976; provide for a new prohibited act
By: Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1223 updates the 'Georgia Soil Amendment Act of 1976' to prohibit the application or distribution of soil amendments when the site is currently under consent orders by the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), when a notice of a violation has been issued by the EPD, and when the department has notified the owner of such site that the application of soil amendments must stop.

HB 1231 *(Vetoed)* Postsecondary education; allow academically successful students to use the full number of hours of HOPE scholarship eligibility – Governor's Veto Statement HERE
By: Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st) ***Through the Higher Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1231 allows students who are concurrently seeking a baccalaureate degree and a first professional degree, and students who meet achievement standards and commence a graduate program at an eligible institution within 18 months of earning a baccalaureate degree to use the full number of hours of HOPE scholarship eligibility.

The bill expands the definition of "approved school" as it relates to Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) eligibility. The bill provides HOPE Scholarship eligibility to former foster youth in specified instances.

HB 1237 Agriculture; agricultural commodity commissions; revise a definition
By: Rep. Charles Cannon (172nd) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1237 revises the "producer" definition as it relates to agricultural commodity commissions.

HB 1240 Uniform Commercial Code Modernization Act of 2024; enact
By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1240 provides amendments to the Uniform Commercial Code and updates its terminology. It updates Article 12 of the Uniform Commercial Code to deal with a new category of digital assets known as "controllable electronic records" (CER), which include virtual currencies and non-fungible tokens, and enacts rules that determine the rights of persons who receive CER and how to perfect a security interest in CER.

HB 1240 also updates the definition of "money" in the Uniform Commercial Code to include virtual currency authorized or adopted by a domestic or foreign government, regardless of whether the currency existed prior to being adopted by a government as its currency.

The bill includes provisions related to innocent parties who accept in good faith digital assets and electronic money in exchange for value without knowledge of any other property claim to the assets. Provisions in the bill address security interests in commercial tort claims and when those interests may attach, even if the claim is not described in the security agreement.

The bill includes amendments to definitions in the Uniform Commercial Code, reflecting updates to terminology in light of modern forms of transactions or changes in how transactions are conducted.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2024, with existing perfect security interests remaining valid until July 1, 2025. After that date, security interests remain enforceable only if perfected in accordance with the new Uniform Commercial Code.

HB 1267 Georgia Tax Court Act of 2025; enact

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1267 provides enabling legislation for creating the Georgia Tax Court, subject to ratification of a constitutional amendment by voters at the November 2024 general election. The chief judge will serve a five-year term, appointed by the governor and subject to approval by the Senate and House Judiciary Committees. Actions may be commenced before the court on and after September 1, 2026, with actions requiring the filing of a petition with the court naming the state revenue commissioner as respondent in their official capacity.

The 'Georgia Civil Practice Act' will govern proceedings before the Georgia Tax Court, and trials in proceedings before the court will be without a jury. A small claims division of the court will be established, with court judges sitting as judges of that division.

A taxpayer may elect to have the small claims division have jurisdiction over their case, provided the amount in controversy is less than a threshold amount determined by court rules. A salary for a judge of the court is provided in the bill. Additional conforming language related to moving from the Georgia Tax Tribunal to the Georgia Tax Court is also included in the bill.

HB 1292 Property; clerks of superior courts obtain photographic identification cards of individuals who present deeds or other instruments for recording; require

By: Rep. Gabe Okoye (102nd) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1292 requires an individual presenting a deed or other interest in real property to produce a government-issued photographic identification card to a clerk of the superior court for recording. The clerk will make a photocopy of the card and document on the photocopy information relating to the specific deed or instrument. The photocopy and information will be treated as confidential and released only in response to a subpoena, to peace officers when investigating potential crimes, to an individual who holds a recorded interest in the real property in question, or to an individual named as a grantor or grantee on the instrument.

This procedure is not applicable to a person licensed to practice law or to a licensed agent of a financial institution or credit union. An owner of real property may bring an action against an individual who knowingly filed a false or forged deed or instrument. The owner can recover actual damages caused by the fraudulent filing or $5,000, whichever is greater, and reasonable attorney's fees.
HB 1292 also requires that unrequested solicitations for property that include monetary offers to include notice that the offer may or not be the fair market value of the property. When the offer is less than the property's prior year assessed value, the notice will state that the offer is less than the county assessed value for the property.

HB 1312 Agriculture, Department of; regulation and taxation of electricity used as motor fuel and electric vehicle charging stations; extend effective date of provisions

By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1312 addresses delayed 2022 and 2024 Public Service Commission (PSC) elections, and sets a schedule for elections for each of the five PSC districts in order to maintain staggered terms of the commissioners.

HB 1326 Crimes and offenses; Schedule I, Schedule III, and Schedule IV controlled substances; provide certain provisions

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1326 updates the list of controlled substances and their associated schedules.

HB 1335 Health; personal care homes, assisted living communities, and memory care centers; revise staffing requirements

By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1335 requires personal care homes to have at least two on-site administrators or direct care staff at all times. For personal care homes and assisted living communities, a staff person is required to be on every occupied floor unless the facility has implemented a medical alert system.

HB 1339 Health; certificate of need; revise

By: Rep. Butch Parrish (158th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1339 modifies and updates statutes relating to the state's certificate of need (CON) processes. The Department of Community Health (DCH) is required to review and update the state health plan every five years. The time period to submit a letter of intent is reduced from 30 to 25 days before application submission. The 120-day period for DCH to review the application begins upon receipt of the application and within 30 days of receipt, an applicant will be provided an opportunity to meet and review with DCH. Opposition is required to be submitted within 30 days of receipt of the application. Additionally, expenditure thresholds for the construction, remodeling, and installation of capital projects are removed.

HB 1339 expands several provisions relating to CON exemptions. The expansion of hospital bed capacity up to 10 beds or 20 percent within a three-year period when occupancy exceeds 60 percent for the previous 12 months is exempt. The maximum distance for certain healthcare facilities to relocate without a CON is extended from a three-mile radius to a five-mile radius of the original location.

Psychiatric or substance abuse inpatient programs or beds for Medicaid and uninsured patients are now exempt when an agreement is reached with a nearby hospital. New or expanded rural hospital perinatal services are exempt when an agreement is reached with a nearby hospital, including new or expanded birthing centers.

New acute care facilities in rural counties are exempt under certain circumstances. New short-stay general hospitals are exempt if the new facility is replacing a closed facility within a 48-month timeframe and within five miles of the main campus of a medical school. Transfers of existing beds and services are exempt when they occur within the same hospital system and are within a 15-mile radius of the original campus.

DCH and the General Assembly's Office of Legislative Counsel will review and make recommendations to update and rewrite Title 31, Chapter 6 and other such provisions relating to CON in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Recommendations will be made to the General Assembly by December 1, 2024.

Penalties associated with delayed or unsubmitted reports are increased from $500 to $2,000 per day up to 30 days, and from $1,000 to $5,000 per day for every day after 30 days. The maximum limit on the rural hospital tax credit is increased from $75 million to $100 million per taxable year and the sunset is extended from December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2029.

HB 1339 creates the Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission, which will advise the General Assembly, governor, and DCH on matters related to the quality of and access to healthcare by low-income and uninsured populations, including reimbursement, funding, quality improvement, and service delivery enhancement opportunities.

The commission will consist of nine members including: a chairperson appointed by the governor; three non-legislative members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; three non-legislative members appointed by the president of the Senate; one non-legislative member appointed by the House minority leader; and one non-legislative member appointed by the Senate minority leader.

The commission's initial report will be submitted no later than December 1, 2024 and the commission will be abolished on December 3, 2026.

HB 1341 State symbols; white shrimp as official state crustacean; designate

By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) ***Through the Special Rules Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1341 designates the white shrimp as the official crustacean of the State of Georgia.

HB 1344 Behavioral Health Coordinating Council; allow for certain officials on to be represented by a delegate or agent

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1344 revises provisions related to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. The commissioners of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Early Care and Learning, Department of Community Health, Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Corrections, Department of Community Supervision, Department of Community Affairs, Technical College System of Georgia, Department of Labor, the State School Superintendent, and the chairperson of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles will be authorized to attend or send a delegate to attend meetings.

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists can waive experience requirements for licensure applicants from other jurisdictions when their license is in good standing for at least two years.

HB 1407 Local government; establishing service delivery strategies; revise provisions

By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 1407 provides guidelines and requirements for development and implementation of local government service delivery strategies by counties and municipalities.

The bill revises the mediation and arbitration processes related to service delivery strategy negotiations. The bill requires the Department of Community Affairs to develop statewide mapping standards in consultation with the Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council to be utilized when maps are included in any service delivery strategy.

HB 1409 Torts; mental health care providers; limit liability under certain circumstances
By: Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) Through the Public Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1409 pertains to the legal liability of inpatient mental health providers in the delivery of care to individuals under the age of 21 who are in the custody of the Department of Human Services.

Mental health care providers will not be held liable unless gross negligence occurs. In such cases, the jury will be instructed to consider the patient's medical history, previous provider-patient relationships, and circumstances surrounding delivery and provision of services.

HB 1410 State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Act; enact
By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) Through the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1410 establishes a separate classification in the State Housing Trust Fund and all funds appropriated, donated, or received for the specific purpose of state housing accountability programs must be used exclusively for those programs.

The bill details qualifications for organizations and agencies to participate in state housing accountability programs, and includes criteria such as: providing voluntary, immediate, and stable housing to a homeless person; limiting the length of residency to 18 months or whenever the tenant can find affordable housing, whichever is earlier; and providing ongoing assistance to each resident for obtaining long-term affordable housing.

The housing accountability programs must require residents to show proof of residency, participate in relevant job training and educational opportunities, search for employment, and submit to regular drug and alcohol testing among other requirements.

Currently, the governor appoints seven of the nine members of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission. In the bill, the seven members appointed by the governor are now three members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the lieutenant governor, and two members appointed by the speaker of the House.

The state auditor must conduct a performance audit of spending on homeless programs in the state, including expenditures by the state, expenditures by municipalities and counties with substantial homeless populations, and the expenditure of federal funds allocated to the state on homelessness by December 31, 2024.

HR 449 Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day; fourth Wednesday in February; designate
By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (45th) Through the Public Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 449 recognizes the fourth Wednesday in February as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day.

HR 473 **House Study Committee on Safety and Consumer Protection in the Tree Care Industry; create**

By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 473 creates the House Study Committee on Safety and Consumer Protection in the Tree Care Industry to study the need for standards, regulations, and licensure for the tree care industry. The committee will be composed of five members of the House of Representatives that are appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and will stand abolished December 1, 2024.

HR 598 **Georgia Tax Tribunal; vest judicial power; provide for venue and jurisdiction - CA**

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 598 proposes an amendment to the Constitution to allow the Georgia Tax Court to exercise judicial power in the state, with the court exercising state-wide jurisdiction. Georgia Tax Court judges will serve four-year terms and be appointed by the governor subject to approval by the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

HR 854 **Keith Jackson Memorial Intersection "Whoa Nellie"; Carroll County; dedicate**

By: Rep. David Huddleston (72nd) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 854 is the House of Representatives road dedication package. The dedications included are:

HR 854, dedicating the intersection of U.S. Highway 27 and State Route 5 in Carroll County as the Keith Jackson Memorial Intersection "Whoa Nellie";

HR 919, dedicating the bridge on U.S. 82 East over the Little Ichawaynochaway Creek in Terrell County as the Charlie Curry Memorial Bridge;

HR 937, dedicating the portion of State Route 98 from Sunset Avenue to State Route 164 in Banks County, Jackson County, and Madison County as the Georgia Grown Trail;

HR 938, dedicating the interchange at Interstate 85 and Buena Vista Road Interchange in Muscogee County as the State Representative Maretta Mitchell Taylor Interchange;

HR 939, dedicating the intersection of I-185 and Macon Road Interchange in Muscogee County as the State Representative Calvin Smyre Interchange;

HR 979, dedicating the bridge on State Route 260 over Interstate 20 in DeKalb County as the Reverend Dr. William E. Flippin, Sr. Bridge;

HR 996, dedicating the portion of State Route 30 from Mile Marker 7 to Mile Marker 8.7 in Crisp County as the Deputy Tyee Browne Memorial 1.7 Miles;

HR 1020, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 285 and Riverside Drive in Fulton County as the Representative Joe Wilkinson Interchange;

HR 1040, dedicating State Route 6 Business from U.S. Route 278 to Paris Road in Paulding County as the Sam Clark Memorial Highway;

HR 1067, dedicating State Route 282 from Old Highway 5 to Old Tails Creek Road in Gilmer County as the Mike Gibbs Memorial Highway;

HR 1084, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 20 and State Route 77 (Exit 138) in Greene County as the Clarence Lee "Mutt" Rhodes, Jr. Memorial Interchange;

HR 1109, dedicating the bridge on State Route 32 over Big Creek in Irwin County as the Neal "Waldo" McIntyre Jr. Memorial Bridge;

HR 1110, dedicating the bridge on State Route 32 over the Alapaha River in Irwin County as the Clyde Vernon Moore Memorial Bridge;

HR 1111, dedicating the portion of State Route 113 from Johnson Road to Langley Drive in Gwinnett County as the Percy Scott, Jr. Memorial Highway;

HR 1112, dedicating the interchange of State Route 316 and State Route 120 in Gwinnett County as the Stephen Day Memorial Interchange;

HR 1117, dedicating the intersection of State Route 13 and Thunder Road in Gwinnett County as the Logan Wade Memorial Intersection;

HR 1154, dedicating the portion of State Route 113 from Interstate 75 to U.S. Route 41 in Bartow County as the Gene Tilley Highway;

HR 1155, dedicating the intersection of U.S. Route 78 and Rose Avenue in Douglas County as the Scot Hudson Memorial Intersection;

SR 653, dedicating the intersection of U.S. 441/S.R. 23 and U.S. 76/S.R. 2 in Rabun County as the Courtney Faith Zajdowicz Memorial Intersection; and

SR 655, dedicating the bridge on State Route 52 over Town Branch River in Murray County as the Tim Howard Bridge.

HR 918 Golden Isle Greenway; official corridor in Georgia; designate

By: Rep. Danny Mathis (149th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 918 designates the Golden Isle Greenway Corridor as an official greenway corridor in Georgia.

HR 1019 America's borders; support increased protections

By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 1019 establishes the Georgia House of Representatives' support for increased protection for America's borders in the pursuit of ending illegal immigration and smuggling that has long threatened Americans.

HR 1022 Local government; option to offer a state-wide homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes when current year assessed value exceeds the inflation rate; provide - CA

By: Rep. Beth Camp (135th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 1022 amends the Constitution to allow the General Assembly to provide a state-wide homestead exemption that is uniformly applicable to all counties and other local governmental entities by general law.

HR 1066 Iranian people; desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear Republic of Iran; express support

By: Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th) Through the Special Rules Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 1066 expresses support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear Republic of Iran, and recognizes the people of Iran who are defending their rights for freedom.

The resolution condemns state-sponsored terrorism by the Iranian government and the killing of Iranian protestors, as well as U.S. citizens. The resolution calls on U.S. government agencies to work with European allies to hold Iran accountable, and to prevent malign activities during the regime's diplomatic missions.

HR 1113 Property; granting of nonexclusive easements; authorize

By: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (31st) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 1113 authorizes the State of Georgia, acting through the State Properties Commission, to grant easements over certain state-owned properties in 17 counties as listed below:

Article 1 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors and assigns approximately 1.45 acres, located in Appling County, under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) at Coastal Pines Technical College, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines, pad mount transformer, and associated required facilities for a new Career Lab for $10.

Article 2 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 12 acres, located in Barrow County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources at Fort Yargo State Park, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber optic cable lines for fair market value no less than $650.

Article 3 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.128 of an acre, located in Barrow County, under the custody of the Department of Defense at Winder Readiness Center, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of three-phase overhead and underground distribution lines, and associated equipment to serve a new educational building for $10.

Article 4 grants an easement to the Department of Transportation or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.915 of an acre, located in Bartow County, under the custody of the State Properties Commission, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of road widening and a bridge for a fair market value no less than $650.

Article 5 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.092 of an acre, located in Clarke County, under the custody of the TCSG at Athens Technical College, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of three-phase underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve TCSG-365 Industrial System Building for $10.

Article 6 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.6 of an acre, located in Colquitt County, under the custody of the TCSG, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the TCSG - 378 Technical and Industrial Education Building for $10.

Article 7 grants an easement to City of Marietta Board of Lights and Water or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.53 of an acre, located in Cobb County, under the custody of the Department of Defense at the Marietta Readiness Center, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a new sanitary sewer line to support emergency room expansion at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital for $13,799.

Article 8 grants an easement to Trenton Telephone Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 8.5 acres, located in Dade County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources at Cloudland Canyon State Park, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber optic cable lines and associated equipment to provide WiFi for $10.

Article 9 grants an easement to Heron Mill Apartments, LLC or its successors. and assigns approximately 0.54 of an acre, located in Douglas County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources at Sweetwater Creek State Park, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground sanitary sewer lines to serve an adjacent development for a fair market value no less than $650.

Article 10 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 5.19 acres, located in Douglas County, under the custody of the Department of Public Safety, for the installation of underground fiber optic lines with existing powerline right-of-way for a fair market value no less than $650.

Article 11 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.6 of an acre, located in Fulton County, under the custody of the Department of Public Safety at the Public Safety Headquarters, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve DPS-043 Main Entrance and a Guard Shack for $10.

Article 12 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.21 of an acre, located in Fulton County, under the custody of the Department of Economic Development at the World Congress Center, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve Clear Channel Billboard for a fair market value no less than $650.

Article 13 grants an easement to Hart County or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.04 of an acre, located in Hart County, under the custody of the Department of Corrections, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a force main sewer connection for a fair market value no less than $650.

Article 14 grants an easement to Little Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.14 of an acre, located in Laurens County, under the custody of the TCSG, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve TCSG-382 GEER II CDL Range for $10.

Article 15 grants an easement to the United States of America for the use and benefit of the Tennessee Valley, or its successors, and assigns approximately 60 acres, located in Murray County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, for the relocation, construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of the radio repeater for $10.

Article 16 grants an easement to the City of Covington or its successors and assigns approximately 0.72 of an acre, located in Newton County, under the custody of the TCSG, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve D Building and Conference Center for $10.

Article 17 grants an easement to the City of Covington or its successors, and assigns approximately 3.1 acres, located in Newton County, under the custody of the TCSG, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground sanitary sewer lines and associated equipment to serve an adjacent development for a fair market value no less than $650.

Article 18 grants an easement to Atlanta Gas Light or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.086 of an acre, located in Paulding County, under the custody of the TCSG, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground gas distribution lines to serve TCSG-363 Aviation Academy for $10.

Article 19 grants an easement to ASF Holdings I, LLC or its successors, and assigns approximately 2.051 acres, located in Stewart County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources at Providence Canyon State Park, for ingress egress action for fair market value no less than $650.

Article 20 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.34 of an acre, located in Sumter County, under the custody of the TCSG, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines to serve traffic cameras for Americus-Sumter High School for fair market value no less than $650.

Article 21 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.13 of an acre, located in Tattnall County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve a new laundry room for $10.

Article 22 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.13 of an acre, located in Tattnall County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve a new addition to the Visitor Center for $10.

Article 23 grants an easement to Telesystem or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.66 of an acre, located in Telfair County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources at Little Ocmulgee State Park, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber optic cables to serve the park and lodges for $10.

Article 24 grants an easement to Georgia Transmission Corporation or its successors, and assigns approximately 56.3 acres, located in Troup County, under custody of the Department of Economic Development at the Kia Plant, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground and overhead electrical transmission distribution lines and associated facilities for the LaGrange Primary-Oseligee Creek 230kV Project for fair market value no less than $650

Article 25 grants an easement to Walton Electric Membership Corporation or its successors, and assigns approximately 1.78 acres, located in Walton County, under the custody of the Department of Economic Development at the Rivian Site, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical lines and associated electrical infrastructure improvements to serve the Rivian Site for $10.

Article 26 grants an easement to the Tennessee Department of Transportation or its successors, and assigns approximately 116 acres, located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, under the custody of the State Properties Commission, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of various road improvement projects over the Western and Atlantic Railroad for $10.

HR 1116 Property; conveyance of certain state owned property; authorize
By: Rep. Clay Pirkle (169th) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 1116 is a conveyance resolution for properties located in nine counties, conveying property owned by the State of Georgia or amending those conveyances, as follows:

Article 1 leases approximately 97.2 acres of land located in Barrow County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, to Camp Twin Lakes, Inc. for a term of 25 years and for a consideration of $10 annually.

Article 2, to resolve any and all disputes of ownership and real property and all present and former littoral, wharfing, and other rights and interests in and to the property and adjoining tidally influenced water bottoms of the Savannah River, conveys approximately 0.187 of an acre of state-owned filled area to East River Street, LLC in exchange for the conveyance of property from East River Street, LLC, the property being approximately 0.35 of an acre, measuring from the property line to not less than three feet in width adjoining the south face of the sheetpile bulkhead along the Savannah River. Payment for the conveyance of said land shall be made to the state for a fair market value of no less than $650 for any real property.

Article 3 conveys approximately 30 acres, known as the Guy Minick Youth Sports Complex and located in Chatham County, under the custody of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, to a local government or state entity for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of $10, so long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity.

Article 4 conveys approximately 4.99 acres of land, known as the former Eastman RYDC and located in Dodge County, to a local government or state entity for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of $10, so long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity.

Article 5 conveys approximately 1.30 acres to Marriott International, Inc., or a wholly owned subsidiary for the consideration of $50,000,000 and such further terms and conditions as determined by the State Properties Commission to be in the best interest of the State of Georgia. Jamestown Shopping Center, Inc. now known as Westin Portman Peachtree I (managed by Marriott International) leased the property, formerly known as the Old Governor's Mansion and the Henry Grady Hotel, from the state since 1969 for a term of 99 years. The current rental rate after the June 2022 reset is $2,820,000 annually with an escalation factor of one percent.

Article 6 conveys approximately 2.31 acres of land, known as the Atlanta Transitional Center and located in Fulton County, under the custody of the Department of Corrections, by a competitive bid for fair market value, or to a local government or state entity for fair market value, or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of $10 as long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity.

Article 7 conveys approximately 256 acres of land located in Houston County, under the custody of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the consideration of $10 as long as the property is used for the development and operation of an agricultural demonstration farm.

Article 8 conveys approximately 3 acres of land located in Houston County, under the custody of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, to the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority for a consideration of $10.

Article 9 conveys approximately 14.114 acres in fee and approximately 3.095 acres of temporary easement, being a portion of the Rivian Project Tract, under the custody of the Department of Economic Development, to the Department of Transportation for a consideration of $10.

Article 10 leases approximately 0.15 of an acre of land located in Paulding County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, to Paulding County, Georgia for a 25-year term for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a 911 communications tower.

Article 11 leases an approximate 28,517 square foot portion of a building located at Building 500 on the Walker County Campus of Georgia Northwestern Technical College, under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the Walker County Board of Education for a term of 10 years with one 10-year renewal option for $10 annually.

Article 12 leases of approximately 4.93 acres of land located in White County, under custody of the Department of Natural Resources, to Extenet Systems for a lease term from commencement to expiration on December 31, 2027, with two five-year renewal options, and for the consideration of $1,800 annually.

HR 1135 House Study Committee on Credit Card Fee on State Sales and Excise Tax and Their Impact on Georgia Merchants and Consumers; create

By: Rep. Todd Jones (25th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1135 creates the House Study Committee on Credit Card Fees on State Sales and Excise Tax and Their Impact on Georgia Merchants and Consumers. The committee shall be composed of ten members, all of which are appointed by the speaker of the House: four members of the House of Representatives (one which shall serve as chairperson, one which is the chairperson of the House Banks and Banking Committee, and one which is the chairperson of the House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee) and six non-legislative members. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

HR 1164 Honorable Richard H. Smith Memorial Interchange; Muscogee County; dedicate

By: Rep. Carolyn Hugley (141st) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1164 dedicates the interchange of Interstate 185 at U.S. 27 Alternate/Manchester Expressway in Muscogee County as the Honorable Richard H. Smith Memorial Interchange.

HR 1166 House Study Committee on the Exchange, Storage, and Bond Coverage of Agricultural Products, Grain, and Livestock; create

By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1166 creates the House Study Committee on the Exchange, Storage, and Bond Coverage of Agricultural Products, Grain, and Livestock and shall be comprised of seven members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

HR 1215 Speaker David E. Ralston Interstate Connector; Fannin County; dedicate

By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1215 dedicates the portion of State Route 5/McCaysville Bypass in Fannin County as the Speaker David E. Ralston Interstate Connector.

The new bridge over the Toccoa/Ocoee River in Fannin County is dedicated as the Speaker David E. Ralston Memorial Bridge, and State Route 52 in Gilmer County from the Murray County line to just south of its intersection with Aaron Road as the Speaker David E. Ralston Memorial Highway.

HR 1229 United States Department of Veterans Affairs; additional resources for elder care, nursing home access, and expanded disabled residential programs; urge; provide

By: Rep. Lynn Gladney (130th) ***Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1229 urges the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to address elder care, nursing home access, and residential programs for disabled veterans.

HR 1283 House Study Committee on Safety and Consumer Protection of Nicotine Vapor Products; create

By: Rep. Alan Powell (33rd) ***Through the Regulated Industries Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1283 creates a five-member study committee to review the conditions, needs, issues, and problems associated with the safety and consumer protection of nicotine vapor products. The bill authorizes five days for meetings, and the committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

HR 1360 House Study Committee on Alternatives to Opioids for Pain Management; create

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1360 creates the House Study Committee on Alternatives to Opioids for Pain Management. This committee will be made up of 14 members, seven members of the House of Representatives, five non-legislative members, and two agency representatives. This committee stand abolished December 1, 2024.

HR 1384 House Study Committee on Assessing the Semester and Quarter Systems at USG and TCSG Institutions; create

By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) ***Through the Higher Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1384 creates the House Study Committee on Assessing the Semester and Quarter Systems at University System of Georgia (USG) and Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Institutions.

The committee will be composed of five members of the House of Representatives, the USG chancellor, and the TCSG commissioner. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

HR 1432 House Disaster Mitigation and Resilience Study Committee; create

By: Rep. Clint Crowe (118th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1432 creates the House Disaster Mitigation and Resilience Study Committee. The committee will be composed of four members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker, including the chair of the Natural Resources and Environment Committee, and the chair of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

HR 1435 Economic Development, Department of; support Vince Dooley Battlefield Preservation Fund; urge

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1435 urges the State of Georgia and the Department of Economic Development to support the Vince Dooley Battlefield Preservation Fund as part of the Georgia US250 Committee's observance of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

HR 1498 House Study Committee on Private Water Systems; create

By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1498 creates the House Study Committee on Private Water Systems. The committee will be comprised of eight members: one chairperson, four members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, the chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment, and the chair of the Public Service Commission. This committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

HR 1554 House Study Committee on Navigable Streams and Related Matters; create

By Rep. Lynn Smith (70th) ***Through the Natural Resources & Environmental Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 1554 creates the House Study Committee on Navigable Streams and Related Matters. The study committee will be composed of the following seven members: the chair of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee; the majority whip of the House of Representatives; four members of the House of Representatives as appointed by the speaker; and an attorney with experience in water rights and property rights. The study committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

SB 10 Offenses Against Public Order And Motor Vehicles and Traffic; knowingly attending and facilitating an illegal drag race or a laying drags exhibition; punishment; provide

By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 10 makes it a misdemeanor offense to knowingly be present and facilitate a drag race, which can include using a vehicle to block a portion of the roadway nearest to the race. The bill adds the crime of reckless stunt driving to the list of charges that prevent progress from Class D to Class C license.

It also increases fines for reckless stunt driving from $300-$750 to $500-$1,000 for a first offense in 10 years, $600-$1,000 to $750-$1,500 for a second offense (90 days to one year imprisonment), $1,000-$5,000 to $2,500-$5,000 (six months to one year imprisonment) for a third offense, and $1,000-$5,000 to $5,000-$7,500 (one to five years imprisonment) for a fourth or subsequent offense in a 10-year period (one to five years imprisonment).

Further, when an injury or damage of more than $1,000 results from a fourth or subsequent offense of reckless stunt driving, the first 12 months will not be suspended, probated, deferred, or withheld.

Any motor vehicle of a person arrested for reckless stunt driving after a previous conviction of the same offense is declared contraband and subject to civil asset forfeiture.

SB 19 Courts; collection of passport application and processing fees by clerks of superior courts and probate court judges; provide

By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 19 enacts reporting requirements for fees, sums, or other remuneration for the performance of passport duties performed by clerks of superior courts and probate judges. Both clerks and probate judges will issue written reports to counties on a quarterly basis disclosing the total amount of fees received by the clerks or probate judges during the previous quarter.

SB 26 State Government; meetings and public hearings of development authorities and community improvement districts to be held by teleconference; permit

By: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 26 creates the 'Georgia Electric Vehicle Future Act'. The bill authorizes the Department of Economic Development to establish and support a statewide electric vehicle manufacturing program to advance the electric vehicle industry in the state. The bill creates and provides guidelines for the Georgia Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Commission.

The bill authorizes specified local workforce development boards, development authorities, community improvement districts, and the governing bodies of any large retirement systems to hold meetings via teleconference.

SB 35 Special License Plates; specialty license plate honoring Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc; establish

By: Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 35 requires the Department of Community Health to cover continuous glucose monitors through Medicaid as a pharmacy benefit. Eligibility for coverage includes a diagnosis of diabetes mellitus, and patient or caregiver training. Additionally, a patient must have use of daily insulin or a history of problematic hypoglycemia to receive the benefit. An in-person or telehealth visit is required within six months prior to and every six months after initial prescription.

SB 37 Sheriffs; qualification requirements for the office of sheriff; revise

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 37 provides for a sheriff who serves in more than one court to receive salary for up to two courts, and that salary would not be increased by any state cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or general performance-based increases.

The bill establishes the law enforcement unit within the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, and charges the unit with preserving public order, protecting life and property, and preventing crime. This unit enforces laws on all properties controlled by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and enforces state laws and protects life and property when ordered by the governor or requested by a sheriff or police chief.

SB 37 authorizes jailers certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council as having successfully completed the course of training require by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act to arrest any person who is in violation of a criminal law which occurs in the jail or within the perimeter of the guardlines of the jail. The jailer may also arrest anyone who has a complaint or arrest warrant pending and surrenders themselves.

SB 50 Education; local boards of education which operate a school with grades nine through 12 may provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety; provide

By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 50 requires the State Board of Education to create content standards in lifeguard and aquatic safety beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Local boards of education may adopt curriculum and provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety. Curriculum should provide sufficient training to allow students to successfully complete certification as a lifeguard upon course completion.

SB 63 Bonds and Recognizances; setting of bonds and schedules of bails; provide

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 63 prohibits a local jurisdiction from creating a bail schedule or policy that mandates releasing a person from jail on unsecured judicial release. It also modifies the definition of "bail" in the Code section.

The bill modifies the list of crimes under "bail-restricted offenses" to include various crimes, including misdemeanors and second or subsequent violations of certain crimes. No person is eligible to be released on unsecured judicial release if they were charged with a bail-restricted offense. Those individuals are only eligible for release through the use of secured means, professional bondsmen, and approved

property. Any person arrested for any offense who has previously been convicted of a felony within the past seven years is not eligible for an unsecured judicial release.

The bill removes the exemption for those who were deported from the country by the federal government, meaning that a judgment can be made by a court on a forfeiture of an appearance bond if the person at issue was deported and could not attend court for that reason. A surety is now released from liability if, prior to a judgment, the person at issue participates in an accountability court or enters into a pretrial release program.

The bill increases the amount that bail recovery agents can charge for continuing legal education programs, the timeline for when sureties are relived from liability due to a failure to timely file a bench warrant and forfeiture of bond, and the amount of remission of a bond to be paid to the surety.

SB 73 Telephone Services; class action suits and for damages against certain persons for violating provisions relating to telephone solicitations; provide

By: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 73 allows citizens on the Do Not Call List who receive more than one unauthorized telephone solicitation within any 12-month period to bring an action against the person or entity that made the solicitations and/or the person or entity the telephone solicitations were made on behalf of for injunctive relief and damages.

The bill directs the State Bar of Georgia to establish rules regulating solicitations in media relative to legal services. The rules will include prohibitions on false representations, depictions of individuals that can be construed to be employees or clients of such solicitor, and require the disclosure of the location of place of business of the solicitor. Any firm, person, or entity found to be in violation of this Code will incur a penalty of $10,000.

SB 83 Stalking; eligibility for restraining orders; revise

By: Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 83 provides that any offer to settle a tort claim for personal injury or death, other than a product liability claim, arising from a motor vehicle collision will be an offer to enter into a contract, and must be in writing between the period of when the incident occurred and when all named defendants have filed their initial answers. Further, an offer to settle must include a date by which payment will be delivered, although it cannot be less than 40 days from when the recipient would receive the offer, which is a material term. The offer must also include a requirement, which is a material term, that the recipient of the offer provide a statement that is under oath regarding whether all liability and casualty insurance that provides, or may provide, coverage for the claim at issue has been disclosed to the offeror. This provision also requires that the recipient disclose a date by which such statement that is under oath will be delivered, which cannot be less than 40 days from the receipt of the offer. This provision governing insurance can be waived by the offeror.

The bill also provides that no party can require another to waive O.C.G.A. 9-11-67.1 in a contract. The bill specifically does not provide for a civil cause of action when a recipient of an offer violates an immaterial term of the offer when accepting.

SB 105 Public School Employees Retirement System; the minimum and maximum allowable benefit multiplier for current and future retirees; revise

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 105 increases the benefit multiplier for Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) members from $16.50 to a minimum of $17.00 per month for each year of creditable

service. This bill also removes the benefit multiplier for members, including those members who retired after August 1, 2012.

The bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation estimates the annual employer contribution rate will increase from $983.94 to $1,160.67 per active member, for a total state cost of $5,625,000.

SB 144 Adjutant General; include a roster of all commissioned officers in the organized militia in the annual report to the Governor; remove the requirement

By: Sen. Nabilah Islam Parkes (7th) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 144 removes the requirement that a roster of all commissioned officers in the organized militia be included in the adjutant general's annual report to the governor.

SB 159 Correctional Institutions of States and Counties; wireless communications and stand-alone electronic devices behind guard lines; prohibit

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 159 enhances penalties for a person who brings prohibited items beyond a guard line for purposes of providing items to inmates. The bill provides a penalty for any employee or contractor of the Department of Corrections who is found guilty of bringing prohibited items into the facility for an inmate punishable by a 10-year term of imprisonment.

SB 169 Public Schools; extension of hearing dates for student discipline tribunals; provide for limits

By: Sen. Chuck Payne (54th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 169 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-754, which revises the hearing dates for suspensions. A hearing should be held no later than 10 school days from the beginning of the suspension unless there is an agreement between the parents and school system, in which case the hearing must be no later than 15 days after the beginning of the suspension. A hearing can be held later than 15 days upon written request to the school system by a parent or guardian.

SB 171 Development Authorities; the length of a director's hold-over period following expiration of term of office; limit

By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 171 requires directors or members of the governing board or body of a development authority to complete ongoing training.

SB 189 Elections; text portions of ballots shall be counted for vote tabulation and recounts purposes; provide

By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 189 removes the secretary of state as an ex officio nonvoting member of the State Election Board. The bill prohibits specified statewide and local election officials with a conflict of interest from transacting election-related business in certain instances. The bill allows any political party that has obtained ballot access for the office of presidential elector in at least 20 other states to qualify candidates and access the general election ballot for such office. The bill allows homeless electors to utilize the registrar's office in their county as their mailing address for election purposes. The bill revises certain provisions relating to residency changes. The bill establishes provisions related to challenging electors.

SB 189 allows counties, in certain instances, to utilize physical ballots for specified types of elections. The bill requires the official tabulation count of ballots to rely solely on the text portion or machine mark of a ballot rather than any QR code, bar code, or other machine coding. The bill requires all verified and

accepted absentee ballots and all ballots cast during advance voting to be tabulated, with the results reported, no later than 8:00 PM or within one hour of polls closing, whichever is later, on election day.

The bill provides for the documentation, custody, secure storage, and tabulation of absentee ballots. The bill provides guidelines for superintendents receiving requests for high-resolution scanned ballot images. The bill requires the secretary of state to create a pilot program for auditing paper ballot images using optical character recognition technology to verify the human-readable text portion of the ballot.

SB 195 "Freedom to Work Act"; enact

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: Section 1 and 2 of SB 195 enter Georgia into the 'Social Work Licensure Compact'.

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists will be the administrators of this compact while rulemaking is overseen by the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission, made up of members of all existing member states. The purposes of the compact include increasing public access to social workers, reducing the multiple licenses required between different member states, and promoting mobility between member states to lessen the current workforce shortage for social workers.

All member states must also meet criteria to be eligible for the compact, including certain graduation requirements, licensure of one of three license categories, and a completed period of supervision for participating social workers. A multistate license is available under this compact for social workers who meet the applicable requirements. The requirements take into account education, background, and other regulatory measures usually required in attaining a standard social worker license. The criteria will also include any differing requirements the participating states may require. A social worker must comply with all laws and regulations of the host state in which the services are being provided.

Any active military member or their spouse can designate any member state to be their "home state", and retain their designation during the period that the service member is on active duty. The compact will have the state join a data system maintained by the commission, that will have member data including identifying information, licensure data, and other non-confidential information.

If a state is deemed by the commission to be in default or non-compliance of the compact, the commission is responsible for sending them a written notice detailing the default. After all courses of action have been exhausted, the defaulting state may be terminated from the compact by a majority vote of the commission.

The executive and judicial branches of each participating state will be responsible for enforcing the compact. Withdrawal from the compact requires a statute repealing the compact, and will not take effect until 180 days after the enactment of that statute. The compact will become effective after a seventh member state joins the compact.

Section 3 removes the requirement that an applicant has moved from another state to apply for a license by endorsement.

Section 4 modifies the requirements for a soil classifier license.

Section 5 removes a reference to O.C.G.A. 43-15-2, relating to surveyor intern certificates.

Section 6 repeals a section related to surveyor intern certificates.

Section 7 provides for requirements for a person to be licensed as a professional land surveyor, which can be completed in three different ways. This section also provides requirements for those applying for a land surveyor intern certificate.

SB 198 (Vetoed) **Georgians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Innovation Commission; create – Governor's Veto Statement HERE**

By: Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 198 requires pharmacy benefits managers in contract with the state health benefit plan (SHBP) to reimburse independent pharmacies at a minimum of the average reimbursement for retail chain pharmacies for the same drug. Pharmacy benefit managers are also required to provide annual compliance certification to the Department of Community Health and make records available to the department upon written demand.

The department has discretion to determine the definition of independent pharmacies and retail chain pharmacies, how the average drug price is calculated, and how to proceed if an independent pharmacy is under-reimbursed.

SB 203 (Vetoed) **"Trucking Opportunity Act of 2023"; enact – Governor's Veto Statement HERE**

By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) ***Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 203 requires that industry services training programs relating to operation of commercial motor vehicles be tuition free, for which honorably discharged veterans will be eligible.

SB 205 **Funeral Directors and Embalmers; reinstatement of a lapsed funeral director's license; change provisions**

By: Sen. Rick Williams (25th) ***Through the Regulated Industries Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 205 provides that the State Board of Funeral Service must reinstate the funeral director license of a licensee who has previously allowed a license to lapse for 10 years or less, and who has applied for reinstatement.

SB 212 **Probate Court Judges; relating to elections; end activities and duties**

By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 212 removes election activities and duties from the powers of probate judges. The bill directs any county with a probate judge acting as the election superintendent to create a board of elections and registration. The bill provides for the composition and administration of such boards.

SB 232 **Courts; provide for probate court fees; funding of the State Children's Trust Fund; requirement of permit for conduct of fireworks display; amend**

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 232 modifies the types and dollar amounts of fees charged and collected by probate court judges and clerks contained in O.C.G.A. 15-9-60. These fees are charged for filings such as petitions, motions, claims, and certificates, as well as for different applications, licenses, and certified copies. Conforming language in other sections of the Code relating to filing fees, license fees, and fireworks applications is contained in the bill.

SB 233 **'The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act'; establishment of promise scholarship accounts**

By: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary:: SB 233 creates the Georgia Education Savings Authority and the 'Georgia Promise Scholarship Act'; changes program weights in the Quality Basic Education formula; allows capital outlays funds to be used for pre-kindergarten programs; caps tuition fees for out of district student transfers; revises grants to low-performing schools; and amends the tax credit for qualified education donations.

Section 1-1 creates the Georgia Education Savings Authority to establish and administer student assistance programs. The powers, duties, functions, and organization of the authority are outlined in the newly created Title 20, Chapter 2B, Article 1.

Section 2-1 creates the 'Georgia Promise Scholarship Act', which would provide $6,500 per student to families for qualified education-related expenses outside of the public school system. Qualified education expenses include: tuition at a participating school; tutoring; purchase of curriculum; professional services; transportation; fees for the management of account funds; other expenses authorized by the State Board of Education or the Georgia Education Savings Authority; or individual education expenses authorized by the parent review committee under Code Section 20-2B-25.

Funds will go into an account controlled by a parent to be used for qualified education expenses. In order to allow parents and taxpayers to measure the achievements of this program, students participating must take nationally norm-referenced tests that measure student academic progress in math and language arts or a state-wide assessment annually.

The Education Savings Authority will report annually to the General Assembly on the number and demographics of participating students and schools, student performance on assessments, parental satisfaction, percentage of funds utilized for each qualified education expenses, and the fiscal impact of the program on the state and school systems.

Section 3-1 revises the weights under the Quality Basic Education formula for instructional programs.

Section 3-2 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-260(5), relating to capital outlay funds, to include Georgia's pre-kindergarten programs provided and operated by the local school system to be included as an allowable use. School systems are currently unable to use capital outlay funds for this purpose.

Section 4-1 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-293 relating to a student attending a school in a system other than the system of the student's residence. Beginning July 1, 2026, if a student attends a school outside of the student's local school system, the new school system cannot charge more than the local share of funding for tuition to transfer students.

Section 5-1 amends the Georgia Foundation for Public Education to provide that schools in the lowest 25 percent of schools should be prioritized to receive funding to implement academic and organizational innovations to improve student achievement.

Section 5-2 increases the maximum allowable income tax credit for individuals and businesses for qualified education donations for grants to public schools. The tax credit cap will increase from $5 million in 2023 to $15 million in 2024.

SB 259 Superior Court of Banks County; move from the Piedmont Judicial Circuit to the Mountain Judicial Circuit

By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 259 transfers Banks County from the Piedmont Judicial Circuit to the Mountain Judicial Circuit effective January 1, 2025. Pending proceedings and litigations will be transferred to the

Mountain Judicial Circuit, and county governing authorities will enter into intergovernmental agreements concerning costs and expenses of each judicial circuit by December 31, 2024.

SB 293 County Boards of Health; operational policies and procedures of the Department of Public Health apply to local personnel; provide

By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 293 revises the selection and qualifications of district health directors. The commissioner of the Department of Public Health will appoint district health directors to serve as chief executive officers of each local health department in the respective district. The director must be licensed to practice medicine or have a master's degree in public health or a related field.

If the director is not licensed to practice medicine, then a licensed physician must serve as the chief medical officer. If a position for district health director becomes vacant, the commissioner can appoint an interim without board approval until a permanent director is appointed and approved by the county boards of health.

SB 322 Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia; increase in dues; provide

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) ***Through the Retirement Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 322 increases the cost to purchase creditable service in the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia from $37.50 to $65 per month, increases membership dues from $45 to $65 per month, increases the amount collected in each civil proceeding from $1 to $5, and increases the member death benefit from $15,000 to $25,000 per year.

The bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuary has determined an appropriation is not required to implement the changes set forth in this bill.

SB 324 State Printing and Documents; a victim centered address confidentiality program; provide

By: Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 324 prohibits courts from issuing or approving mutual protective orders in certain instances. The bill provides for the issuance of dating violence protective orders. The bill creates a victim-centered address confidentiality program within the Office of the Secretary of State.

The program allows certified participants to utilize an address confidentiality card in lieu of disclosing their address to governmental entities to prevent the publication of a confidential address.

SB 328 Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; provisions; revise

By: Sen. John Albers (56th) ***Through the Retirement Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 328 amends several provisions under the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The bill increases the minimum monthly dues from $25 to $35 and the maximum monthly dues from $50 to $70; requires members to pay the full actuarial cost of creditable service for service prior to becoming a member of the fund; increases the normal death benefit from $3,000 to $5,000; increases the death benefit if an officer is killed in the line of duty from $5,000 to $10,000; and increases the disability benefit from $257 to $455 per month.

This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuary has determined an appropriation is not required to implement the changes set forth in this bill.

SB 332 **Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission; promulgate standards of conduct and rules for the commission's governance; provide**
By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 332 removes the requirement that the rules of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission be approved by the Supreme Court of Georgia.

SB 333 **City of Mulberry; incorporate**
By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 333 authorizes a local referendum for the creation of the City of Mulberry. The referendum will be voted on by call of the Gwinnett County election superintendent in a special election on the date of the general primary election in 2024. The call must be made at least 30 days prior to the election date.

The government for the city is composed of a city council consisting of five council members each serving four-year terms. The mayor is appointed from and by the city council. The city council members are elected through a non-partisan municipal general election in odd-numbered years held every four years. Council members will not serve more than two consecutive four-year terms.

The city council is authorized to appoint directors of departments and agencies. The charter creates the Municipal Court of the City of Mulberry to be presided over by a chief judge.

SB 334 **"Helping Firefighters Beat Cancer Act"; enact**
By: Sen. John Albers (56th) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 334 allows benefits received by eligible firefighters under the 'Helping Firefighters Beat Cancer Act' to be transferred when an employee transfers to another fire department within the state.

SB 335 **"Safeguarding Adopted Children from Sexual Violence Act"; enact**
By: Sen. John Albers (56th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 335 is known as the 'Safeguarding Adopted Children from Sexual Violence Act' and expands the crime of incest to include those whose familial relationships are created by adoption.

SB 337 **Georgia Colonel; appoint honorary title for life; authorize the Governor**
By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) ***Through the Special Rules Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 337 authorizes the governor to appoint honorary Georgia colonels and the General Assembly to appoint Georgia lieutenant colonels for the lifetime of the honorees. The rank of aide-de-camp is removed.

SB 340 **Sales and Use Taxes; firearm safes and firearm safety devices; exempt**
By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 340 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3.3, related to the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption, to extend the sales and use exemption to diesel exhaust fluid used for agricultural purposes.

SB 341 **Official Code of Georgia Annotated; relating to inactive boards, panels, authorities, centers, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, and other such bodies and certain procedures of the General Assembly; repeal**

By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 341 amends the Code by revising committee names and authority titles while repealing specific inactive authorities, committees, advisory councils, offices, and commissions. The bill specifies how assets of certain entities are devolved following repeal. Language relating to prefiling of legislation is repealed. The bill includes communications between specified individuals and staff members as privileged and confidential.

The bill provides for administrative changes related to the Legislative Services Committee, the Office of Legislative Counsel, and the legislative fiscal officer. The bill adds specified individuals and staff members to provisions of the legislative leave policy.

SB 342 **Child Abuse Records; child abuse and neglect registries; authorize the disclosure**

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) ***Through the Juvenile Justice Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 342 allows the Department of Human Services to use records of child abuse or neglect from the child abuse and neglect registry, or from another state, to locate, recover, or provide services to a child who is determined by the department to be missing or a victim of sexual exploitation. It also amends who can have reasonable access to records of child abuse to include the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

SB 344 **Sales and Use Taxes; firearms, ammunition, gun safes, and related accessories during an 11 day period each year; exempt**

By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 344 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-27, relating to computation of taxable net income, to exclude any grants for investments in broadband infrastructure received as part of 47 U.S.C. 1702, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, or the 'American Rescue Plan Act of 2021'. This Code section expires January 1, 2029.

SB 348 **Notification of Suspicious or Unusual Deaths; individual had not been seen by a physician prior to death; revise the period**

By: Sen. Rick Williams (25th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 348 changes the timeframe from 180 days to 60 days for an individual to be considered unattended by a physician in an untimely or suspicious death circumstance. The bill clarifies no individual will be deemed unattended by a physician while they are a resident of a long-term care facility.

SB 351 **"Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act of 2024"; enact**

By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 351 creates the 'Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act of 2024' in Section 1-1.

Section 2-1 adds to the character education program relating to bullying a new requirement to teach "responsible digital citizenship and the safe and appropriate use of technology, the internet, and social media" beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

Section 2-2 requires the Department of Education to develop model programs regarding online safety for grades six through 12, and post on its website recommended curricula and instructional materials. The model programs should be re-evaluated periodically to reflect changes in internet and social media use.

Section 2-3 revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-234 relating to internet safety and requires local governing bodies to adopt an acceptable-use policy for internet use by October 1, 2025. Schools should implement technology protection measures to block access to prohibited materials. The department will provide guidance and assistance to local schools and school systems to comply with these requirements. The State Board of Education will have the authority to withhold state funding if a local governing body fails to comply with this Code section.

Section 2-4 requires local governing bodies to adopt a social media policy by April 1, 2026. The department will assist in the creation of social media policies, and have the authority to withhold a portion of state funding if a local governing body fails to comply with this Code section or fails to enforce its social media policy.

Section 2-5 requires the department to include cyberbullying in its model policy regarding bullying by July 1, 2026. The department will post on its website resources for online and local in-person providers throughout the state available to families for students who have been found to be perpetrating bullying and those who have been targets of bullying.

Section 3-1 requires providers of social media platforms to make commercially reasonable efforts to verify the age of account holders. Any person under the age of 16 will be treated as a minor by social media platforms, and the platform must obtain the express consent of such minor's parent or guardian for use of the platform. The attorney general has the exclusive authority to enforce Chapter 6 of Title 39.

Section 3-2 requires a commercial entity to use a reasonable age verification method before allowing access to a public website that contains a substantial portion of material that is harmful to minors. It holds that a commercial entity liable for damages and a fine of up to $10,000 per violation if it fails to perform reasonable age verification, namely that the individual is at least 18 years of age, of the individual attempting to access the material.

When performing a reasonable age verification, the commercial entity will not retain any identifying information after access to the material has been granted.

SB 352 Motor Vehicle Equipment and Inspection; standards for the alteration and operation of motor vehicles with modified suspension systems; provide

By: Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 352 revises Code Section 40-8-6, no longer making it unlawful to alter the suspension system of a motor vehicle by more than two inches above or below the factory recommendation of said vehicle.

SB 353 Highways, Bridges, and Ferries; duties when death results from an accident upon a highway in certain instances; allow for delegation

By: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 353 allows for the call of a caucus for a State Transportation Board election to be sent via email rather than by mail. The bill clarifies language relating to contracting for public-private partnerships and alternative contracting methods.

The bill amends the Code governing the length of modular unit transporters to allow for an increased length from 80 feet to 84 feet when a permit is purchased. Code Section 45-16-23 is amended to allow any coroner or county medical examiner to delegate to medical personnel the power to perform the

duties of the coroner or county medical examiner when an accident on an interstate highway or limited-access road results in a death and a significant disruption to the flow of traffic.

The Department of Transportation is added to the Code section relating to when public disclosure is not required by a state agency, and adds the data of vehicle information, or personally identifiable information, to those records that are not required to be disclosed.

SB 354 Cosmetologists and Barbers; persons performing certain limited responsibilities; exempt from licensure

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 354 removes cosmetology licensing requirements for employees who only shampoo or blow-dry style hair. The bill also revises the exemption for cosmetics so that a person who solely applies cosmetics is no longer required to be licensed.

SB 362 State Government; employee representation by a labor organization for employers to receive certain economic development incentives from the state; provide requirements

By: Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 362 prohibits companies that receive economic development incentives from: voluntarily granting recognition rights for the employees solely on the basis of signed labor organization authorization cards, if a secret ballot could have been used; voluntarily disclosing an employee's personal contact information to a labor organization without prior consent; or requiring a subcontractor to engage in these activities.

Any employer who receives economic incentives and engages in any of the prohibited conduct will be required to repay all economic incentives received over the life of the project. This applies to any agreement between the state and an employer starting on January 1, 2025. The Department of Community Affairs is authorized to investigate allegations of prohibited conduct if the company receives economic incentives.

SB 366 "Tax Expenditures Transparency Act of 2024"; enact

By: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 366 amends O.C.G.A. 28-5-4 to require that the general appropriations bill be referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee upon its first reading in the Senate and, if amended or passed by committee substitute, will not be considered until the bill has been placed on members' desks for at least 24 hours.

The bill also requires governor's budget report to be made available by the House Budget and Research Office and Senate Budget and Evaluation Office to their respective chambers.

SB 366 amends O.C.G.A. 28-5-41.1 to increase the number of annual economic analyses from 10 to 12. The bill clarifies that an economic analysis must be conducted if the sunset date of a tax credit or exemption is within two years and is a state expenditure of at least $20 million, according to the most recent Tax Expenditure Report. Selections for any excess reports will be equally divided between the chairs of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees.

SB 366 requires the Department of Audits and Accounts to post a list of economic analyses to be conducted and establish a mechanism to collect relevant data from stakeholders. The department will share the data to the contracted researchers, but neither the department nor the contracted researchers are bound to utilize all provided data in the completed economic analyses. The bill further clarifies the

criteria with which the Department of Audits and contracted researchers may review and evaluate the selected tax incentive programs.

SB 366 amends O.C.G.A. 28-12-1 to require the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committees to meet by January 31 of each year to review economic analyses completed the prior year.

SB 368 *(Vetoed)* **Government Transparency and Campaign Finance; foreign nationals from contributing to candidates or campaign committees; prohibit – Governor's Veto Statement HERE**
By: Sen. Rick Williams (25th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 368 prohibits foreign nationals from making contributions to a candidate, campaign committee, independent committee, or political action committee, as well as prohibiting those entities from accepting contributions from foreign nationals.

The bill prohibits persons from acting as agents of a foreign principal unless they have properly registered themselves with a proper registration statement. Whenever an agent of a foreign principal appears before an elected official, agency, officer, or General Assembly committee to testify or advocate for the interests of the foreign principal, the agent will affirmatively state they are acting as an agent and disclose the identity of the foreign principal.

SB 369 **Motor Vehicles; issuance of license plates commemorating the United States of America's semiquincentennial; provide**
By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 369 creates a license plate celebrating the United States' semiquincentennial. The design will be selected from civic education student submissions.

SB 370 **Human Trafficking Hotline Information; certain establishments to post human trafficking hotline information; require**
By: Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) ***Through the Regulated Industries Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 370 adds convenience stores, body art studios, manufacturing facilities, and medical offices to the list of establishments that must post a notice containing the human trafficking hotline information.

The bill also requires that each board member of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy complete at least 30 minutes of training on human trafficking awareness. A massage therapy licensee must now attach a two-inch by two-inch photograph of the licensee taken within the last two years to the copy of the license displayed in a public space at the location.

SB 373 **Licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy; issuance of expedited licenses by endorsement for marriage and family therapists; provide**
By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) ***Through the Regulated Industries Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 373 amends the definition of "supervisor" related to professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists to remove the requirement that an applicant be a psychiatrist or a psychologist. It also removes the requirement that applicants to become a professional counselor have a doctoral degree in order to be licensed. Further, an associate professional counselor is required to have 90 quarter hours in relevant education rather than 80 hours in order to be licensed.

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists is required to issue expedited licenses by endorsement within 30 days from the date of application for those individuals who have the same type of license in another state and meet other

requirements, such as being in good standing. This will not apply to licenses for an associate marriage and family therapist.

SB 375 Behavioral Health Coordinating Council; add commissioner of veterans service
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Public Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 375 adds the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Service to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.

SB 376 Juvenile Code; improve timely permanent placement of a child removed from their home; clarify requirements
By: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 376 amends various Code sections related to dependency proceedings to require that a court determine whether the parent has made substantial progress towards completion of the case plan at the initial 75-day periodic review.

During a review that is after an initial 75-day review, the bill requires the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to develop a case plan within 14 days of the review. The bill would also require that the court review and adopt the revised case plan within 45 days of the review or at a previously-scheduled hearing. O.C.G.A. 15-11-232 is revised to correct a reference involving a court's written findings during a permanency plan hearing involving a child who has attained the age of 14.

The bill revises O.C.G.A. 15-11-233, relating to termination of parental rights, to narrow one of the situations in which termination of parental rights may not be in the best interests of a child adjudicated as a dependent. The bill limits that situation to only include when a relative intends to be a permanent placement for that child as part of a permanency plan, and in which the timeline is consistent with the developmental needs of the child.

SB 376 requires the court, at least 30 days prior to the 15th month that a child has been in foster care and when the court deems appropriate, to review DFCS's determination that terminating the parental rights would not be in the best interests of the child. The court can appoint an attorney guardian ad litem who can file a petition to terminate parental rights on behalf of the child. The court is also permitted to make additional rulings at its own discretion.

SB 377 Courts and Social Services; licensing of qualified residential treatment programs; provide
By: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) Through the Public Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 377 defines and clarifies qualified residential treatment programs as a type of licensed child-caring institution.

SB 384 Public Officers and Employees; development and administration of the State of Georgia as a Model Employer (GAME) Program; provide
By: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 384 makes it the policy of the state to become a model employer for hiring individuals with disabilities. The bill creates the Georgia as a Model Employer (GAME) Program, and requires the program to be developed and implemented by the state's Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act coordinator.

The program is designed to boost employment of individuals with disabilities in state government by developing and implementing reasonable accommodation policies and procedures, creating a reporting

system for tracking progress of state agencies, developing evaluation forms and reports for data collection, and creating training and technical assistance for state agency human resources personnel.

Each state agency must submit a plan involving data of jobs filled, an analysis of barriers to existing employment, description of the education and training provided, and an evaluation of whether resources are being properly spent to the ADA coordinator by September 1, 2025, and by September 1 of each year afterward. The state ADA coordinator must submit a report on the progress of state agencies by December 15, 2025, and by December 15 of each year afterward.

SB 387 Identification Cards; certain applicants who are either homeless or in the legal custody of the Division of Family and Children Services do not require signatures; provide
By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 387 allows an eligible child who is between the ages of 14 and 17, and who does not have an address or is in the custody of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), to apply for an identification card without having a parent, guardian, or other adult sign or verify the application. The bill prohibits the Department of Driver Services (DDS) from collecting a fee for an identification card from a child who is in DFCS custody or who is receiving extended care youth services from DFCS.

The bill authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide each child who has entered foster care with a photo of themselves within 90 days of entrance. If the child is under 14 years old, then the foster parent or placement will be provided with the photograph of the child. DFCS is required to ensure that each child receives a photograph, and each child is also required to receive an identification card.

SB 389 Georgia National Guard; adjutant general to be the official sponsor of the state sponsored life insurance program; provide
By: Sen. Chuck Payne (54th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 389 provides state-sponsored life insurance for members of the Georgia National Guard.

SB 395 Education; the possession of opioid antagonists in schools; authorize
By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 395 amends O.C.G.A. 16-13-71 by making any opioid antagonist exempt from classification as a dangerous drug when used for overdose prevention.

Section 2 creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-776.5 known as 'Wesley's Law', to allow for visitors and school employees to possess and administer an opioid antagonist if the person believes someone is suffering from a drug overdose on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. No cause of action can be brought whether a school personnel administers or chooses not to administer an opioid antagonist when this decision is brought in good faith.

Section 3 clarifies that prescription drugs may not be dispensed by a vending machine in O.C.G.A. 26-4-89.

Section 4 allows for the sale and supply of opioid antagonists in vending machines. Additionally, persons and harm reduction organizations that dispense, supply, and administer opioid antagonists are immune from liability when acting in good faith.

Section 5 requires government buildings, courthouses, and schools with automated external defibrillators provide opioid antagonists to assist in the event of an opioid overdose.

SB 398 Georgia Joint Defense Commission; commission's operations; revise
By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 398 revises operations related to the Georgia Joint Defense Commission. The number of members is increased from 19 to 23 with the addition of the chancellor of the University System of Georgia, a representative of a defense industry contractor designated by the president of the Senate, a member of the public appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and a representative of an organization engaged in military or defense research designated by the governor.

The director of the Governor's Defense Initiative is also replaced by the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, who will serve as the committee chairperson.

SB 399 Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia; to enter into and amend existing agreements with the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; encourage and state expectations
By: Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 399 requires the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) commissioner to collaborate with the University System of Georgia (USG) chancellor to provide a report on specified information related to courses, transfers, degree completion, and the high-demand career list to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives, and certain legislative committee chairs.

The bill provides expectations to the Board of Regents, units of USG, and local boards of education to enter into and amend agreements with TCSG related to transferability of credits.

SB 401 Senate Foster Care and Adoption Study Committee; implement recommendations
By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 401 requires each juvenile court to collect data on all cases in which a child is alleged or adjudicated to be a dependent child placed in foster care. This data will be incorporated into the Georgia Juvenile Data Exchange, and the form of entry will be specified by the Administrative Office of the Courts. This data will include various dates related to the disposition of cases and deadlines imposed by statute.

The bill requires each juvenile court to maintain a "ready-accessible docket" that is accessible by the parties and to utilize its local case management system to collect required data. By April 15, 2025, the Administrative Office of the Courts must put together a report for the General Assembly. Further, a petition to terminate parental rights must be immediately filed and docketed when presented to the clerk of a juvenile court.

SB 410 Licensing of Veterinarians; certain sterilization services performed by out-of-state veterinarians from licensing requirements; exempt
By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 410 requires the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to adopt rules and regulations to implement the process in which an individual with an active veterinary license or veterinary technician license from another state may have the ability to acquire a one-time, six-month temporary license to practice in certain shelters or clinics.

SB 412 Professions and Businesses; administrative and civil sanctions against charitable organizations, paid solicitors, and solicitor agents for certain violations; change provisions

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) ***Through the Regulated Industries Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 412 increases the fines that the Office of the Secretary of State can issue to charitable organizations that violate relevant rules. A willful violation can have a maximum fine of $10,000 issued for a single violation or a maximum fine of $100,000 for multiple violations in a single proceeding or series of proceedings. The secretary of state can seek to impose these penalties through an administrative manner directly or through a superior court.

SB 414 "Personal Privacy Protection Act"; enact

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 414 creates the 'Personal Privacy Protection Act'. The bill prohibits public agencies from collecting, publicizing, disclosing, or requesting specified personal information related to nonprofit organizations, with exceptions. The bill creates the misdemeanor crime of improper collection or disclosure of personal information.

SB 417 Reporting of Accidents; timing and documentation of such reports; provide

By: Sen. John Albers (56th) ***Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 417 requires reports for accidents on elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, manlifts, or moving walks to be filed by the end of the next business day, reduced from seven days.

The bill creates a new misdemeanor for detonating fireworks within 150 feet of an emergency medical technician, firefighter, or law enforcement officer when detonation is for the purpose of hindering or disrupting that first responder's duties.

SB 417 revises licensing requirements relating to the display of fireworks and pyrotechnics, requires a license for the use of certain special effects in production of a motion picture or television production, and prohibits certain fire-propelled devices.

The legislation revises inspection and certification requirements relative to boilers and pressure vessels. The bill allows for the dissemination of certain information related to hazardous chemicals in written or electronic format to public employees.

SB 420 Agriculture; acquisition of possessory interest in certain land by certain foreign persons and entities; prohibit

By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 420 prohibits a person who is not a U.S. citizen or legal resident, is an agent of a foreign government designated as a foreign adversary pursuant to 15 C.F.R. Section 7.4., and has been out of the country for a period of time preceding the acquisition of land from acquiring directly or indirectly any possessory interest in agricultural land or land within a 10-mile radius of a military installation, excluding residential property.

Any possessory interest in agricultural land acquired by a nonresident alien through inheritance will be disposed of within one year after acquisition, and any interest acquired in the collection of debts will be disposed of within two years after acquisition. A broker will timely disclose to their client the requirements regarding relevant land acquisition. Violations will be considered a felony with punishment of a fine of less than $15,000 and imprisonment of between one to two years.

SB 420 allows an interest in real estate to be transferred through a transfer-on-death deed, permitting a deed to transfer ownership of an interest upon death of the record owner. The transfer-on-death deed will be executed, acknowledged, and recorded in the office of the clerk of superior court of the county where the real estate is located prior to the death of the record owner. A transfer-on-death form is provided in the bill.

SB 421 Obstruction of Public Administration; offense of transmitting a false public alarm; enhance penalties

By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 421 increases the penalties for a third or subsequent conviction of the offense of making an unlawful request for emergency services assistance in O.C.G.A. 16-10-28 to between 10 and 15 years imprisonment, a minimum fine of $25,000, or both. If the location of response is a person's home or a place of worship, then a first violation is now treated as a felony with imprisonment of between one and 10 years, a minimum fine of $5,000, or both. A person who is convicted of this crime is now automatically liable for restitution to any affected natural person or public or private entity for reasonable costs or damages associated with the offense, including damage to property and expenses to treat bodily injuries.

Part II of SB 421 broadens the crime of aggravated assault to include when someone discharges a firearm, without legal justification, after immediately exiting a vehicle towards another vehicle or an occupied building.

The crime of criminal damage to property in the first degree is broadened to include when someone discharges a firearm, without legal justification, while inside a vehicle or after immediately exiting and when that person causes damage to a building.

The bill creates a new crime of drive-by shooting when a person who is either in a motor vehicle or is close to a motor vehicle that they used to drive to the location, discharges a firearm at another person, motor vehicle, occupied dwelling, or dwelling that the person should have known to be occupied, with the intent to injure or damage the property of another. The penalty is imprisonment of between five and 20 years.

The crime of drive-by shooting is added to the list of crimes within the definition of "racketeering activity" under the criminal gang statute.

SB 422 Public Utilities and Public Transportation; percentage limitation as to the amount of the investments an electric membership corporation may make; modify

By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) ***Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 422 increases the limit on the amount of investments an electric membership corporation can make or maintain in a gas affiliate from 15 to 25 percent of its net utility plant.

SB 424 West Georgia Judicial Circuit; create

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 424 creates the West Georgia Judicial Circuit, composed of Carroll County and Heard County, out of the Coweta Judicial Circuit, which is currently composed of Carroll County, Coweta County, Heard County, Meriwether County, and Troup County.

The district attorney of the new circuit will be appointed by the governor for a term beginning January 1, 2025, with the first election held at the 2026 general election. The allocation of judges, the transfer of cases, county supplements, and circuit-wide costs paid by each county are provided in the bill.

SB 426 Motor Vehicles and Traffic; requirements for joining of a motor carrier and motor carrier's insurer to a cause of action; revise
By: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 426 permits a claimant to join a motor carrier and an insurance carrier in the same action only when one or more motor carriers in question are insolvent or bankrupt, or personal service against the driver of the vehicle or the motor carrier cannot be carried out after reasonable diligence. An amended complaint joining an insurance carrier will be served on the insurance carrier with the insurance carrier able to file an answer within 30 days of service.

SB 430 COVID-19 Pandemic Business Safety; provisions for rebuttable presumptions of risk by claimants in certain COVID-19 liability claims; revise
By: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 430 repeals requirements for COVID-19 liability warning signs placed either at the entrances of premises or on entry tickets issued for public gatherings.

SB 433 Nonprofit Corporations; enact "Donor Intent Protection Act"; provide definitions; charitable organizations from violating the terms of charitable contributions; prohibit
By: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 433, the 'Donor Intent Protection Act', requires a charitable organization or trust that accepts a contribution pursuant to an endowment agreement to not violate the terms of any donor imposed restriction. If a donor-imposed restriction is violated, the donor, the donor's lineal descendants, or the donor's legal representative may bring a civil action within four years after discovering a breach of the endowment agreement.

If a court finds a violation, the court is authorized to order a remedy consistent with the charitable purposes expressed in the endowment agreement. The court, however, will not be authorized to order the return of the contribution.

SB 436 Farm Use Vehicles; define a term
By: Sen. Sam Watson (11th) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 436 revises the definition "implement of husbandry" and adds a definition in the Code section for "operator" as it relates to the operation of farm use vehicles.

SB 440 'Accelerated Career Diploma Program'; ACE Grants pilot program; establish and provide
By: Sen. Matt Brass (28th) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 440 revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-149.2, known as the Accelerated Career Diploma program, to simplify the dual enrollment program and allow for academic flexibility to better align with pathway programs. This diploma path is only available for an associate degree for applied science within the Technical College System of Georgia.

The Dual Enrollment ACE (Accelerated Career Education) grant program creates a grant for students participating in the Accelerated Career Diploma program. These students will not be subject to the 30-hour dual enrollment cap, and will allow dual enrollment funding to distinguish between academic and technical students. The sunset for this program is June 30, 2027.

SB 443 Abatement of Nuisances; inclusion of claims against promoters and organizers for costs incurred by local governments due to unpermitted events: provide

By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 443 allows for a district attorney, solicitor general, city attorney, or county attorney to file a public nuisance under O.C.G.A. 41-2-2, and seek to recover from a promoter or organizer of an unpermitted event the expenses incurred by a local government for public safety.

SB 448 Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions in, and reenact the statutory portion of said Code, as amended, in furtherance of the work of the Code Revision Commission

By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) ***Through the Code Revision Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 448 is the annual Code revision bill to revise, modernize, and correct errors or omissions to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The bill reflects the work of the Code Revision Commission to repeal portions of the Code that are obsolete, declared unconstitutional, or pre-empted or superseded by subsequent laws. Lastly, the bill provides for other matters relating to revision, reenactment, and publication of the Code.

SB 449 Certified Nursing Aid; certain military medical personnel from an examination requirement; exempt

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) ***Through the Regulated Industries Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 449 requires the Department of Community Health, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Service, to create a program in which military medical personnel can be certified as nurse aides, paramedics, cardiac technicians, emergency medical technicians, or licensed practical nurses without having to meet certain additional requirements.

The term "military medical personnel" is added by the bill and relates to those who have relevant experience within the past 24 months prior to seeking certification or recertification as a medic, medical technician, or corpsman, within the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, or Coast Guard.

The bill amends the definition of "advanced practice registered nurse" (APRN) to specify that APRNs engage in advanced nursing within one of the following roles: certified nurse midwife, certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse anesthetist, or a clinical nurse specialist.

The bill revises the requirements for those applying to become an APRN, starting on September 1, 2025. The license must be renewed every two years, and it is a misdemeanor offense to practice as an APRN without a proper license. Further, the bill provides that any reference to a rural hospital organization within the chapter of the Code will include a hospital located in any county that satisfies the definition of rural hospital organization in O.C.G.A. 31-8-9.1.

SB 450 Courts; property, and wills, trusts, and administration of estates; neither superior court nor a state court shall have appellate jurisdiction pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 5; clarify

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 450 excludes certain probate court orders from the petition for review process, clarifying that state or superior courts do not have appellate jurisdiction over an order of a probate court that cannot be appealed. In certain orders, the notice of appeal filing will replace the petition for review filing process.

SB 454 Alimony and Child Support; guidelines for child support award calculations; provide
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 454 revises the child support award calculation worksheet and the rates, clarifies that the definition of custodial parent applies to the parent who earns the lesser amount of gross income, and changes the process of editing child support awards to include a low-income adjustment system rather than a deviation.

The bill allows disability benefits received by the child from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to count against the noncustodial parent's final child support amount.

SB 456 Central Caregiver Registry; disabled persons to the registry; add
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Public Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 456 adds disabled persons to the central caregiver registry. A "disabled person" is defined as someone who is mentally or physically incapacitated, has Alzheimer's disease, or has dementia.

SB 464 School Supplies for Teachers Program; establish
By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 464 revises the Georgia Early Literacy Act to create an executive committee of voting members of the Council on Literacy made up of five members appointed by the governor, president of the Senate, speaker of the House, a representative from the State Board of Education, and the chairperson of the council.

Section 2 provides for the identification of universal reading screeners by the Department of Education and Georgia Council on Literacy, one of which will be free to local school systems, for use by public schools and local school systems by May 15, 2025.

Section 3 establishes the 'School Supplies for Educators Act' to provide financial and technical assistance to educators to purchase school supplies online subject to appropriations.

SB 465 Homicide; the felony offense of aggravated involuntary manslaughter; provide
By: Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 465 creates the crime of aggravated involuntary manslaughter that occurs when a person intentionally manufactures or sells a controlled substance that contains fentanyl, or a fentanyl analog, and a person who takes or uses that substance dies, in whole or in part, from the fentanyl overdose. In a prosecution for this crime, the government will not need to prove that the defendant knew fentanyl was in the drug. A person who violates this offense will be guilty of a felony, and subject to imprisonment of between 10 and 30 years.

The bill also creates a felony crime for unlawfully possessing, purchasing, delivering, selling, or possessing with intent to sell or deliver a pill press or tableting machine when the "unregulated person" knows, intends, or has reasonable cause to believe that the item will be used to manufacture a controlled substance or counterfeit substance. A person who commits this crime will be subject to imprisonment of between one and 10 years.

SB 472 "Combating Organized Retail Crime Act"; enact
By: Sen. John Albers (56th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 472 enacts the 'Combatting Organized Retail Crime Act' and revises language in O.C.G.A. 10-36-1 relating to high-volume third-party sellers, sellers, and third-party sellers.

SB 480 Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce; student loan repayment for mental health and substance use professionals serving in certain capacities; provide

By: Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) ***Through the Public Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 480 provides student loan repayment to mental health and substance use providers who provide services to underserved youth or who practice in an unserved geographic area. The total amount of repayment will be determined by the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce and will be paid for a maximum of five years.

SB 483 Minors; enter into the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children; definitions; provisions; provide

By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) ***Through the Juvenile Justice Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 483 enters Georgia into the updated version of the 'Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children Act' and replaces existing language of the previous version of the compact if at least 35 states total join the compact. Sixteen states have currently joined the revised compact, which provides a streamlined procedure for coordinating the placement of juveniles in different states, whether from public or private child placing agencies.

SB 493 Sexual Offender Risk Review Board; additional penalties for registered sexual offenders; provide

By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: Section 1 of SB 493 adds a defined minimum fine of $1,500 for the crime of intentionally photographing a minor without the consent of the parent or guardian, if the court elects to impose a fine. On a second or subsequent violation, the penalty will be a felony with imprisonment of between one and 30 years and a fine of between $5,000 and $100,000. A conviction will also encompass a plea of nolo contendere.

Further, a person who is on the sex offender registry is prohibited from knowingly owning or operating an unmanned aircraft system with the intent to photograph or observe any person in a manner that violates that person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

Section 2 allows a court to add a term of probation for someone who is subject to O.C.G.A. 42-8-35(b) that prohibits a sex offender from possessing, owning, or operating an unmanned aircraft system.

Section 3 allows an individual on the sex offender registry to petition the superior court to be released from the registry when they have reached the age of 80 years old and have completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation for the offense that required registration.

A person can also petition the superior court to be released from the registry when they: 1) were convicted and required to register under the laws of another jurisdiction and have been removed from that other jurisdiction's registry; 2) have completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation requirements for the offense that required registration, and 10 years have elapsed since the requirements have been met; and 3) the individual has been classified by the board as a Level I risk classification.

When a person petitions the court to be removed from the registry solely on the basis that they completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation requirements, then they may do so if five years have elapsed since completing the requirements and if they are a Level I risk classification.

SB 494 'Georgia Hemp Farming Act'; hemp products; regulate
By: Sen. Sam Watson (11th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 494 outlines the way in which delta-9-THC concentration is established and allows for an applicable measurement of uncertainty when measuring this concentration. Furthermore, the bill makes it unlawful for anyone to process, handle, manufacture, or sell to consumers or to retailers hemp in the state without a processing permit granted by the Department of Agriculture. In order to perform state tests or analyses of any plant with the Cannabis genus or any product derived from the plant, the individual must register with a one-time $250 fee with the department.

Criminal penalties in regards to violations of this sort shall be subject to a civil penalty of no more than $5,000 per violation. The annual price of hemp processor permits is decreased to be between $500 and $2,000 annually. Retail consumable hemp establishment licenses shall be issued for one calendar year at an annual fee of $250 and are applicable for single retail locations where consumable hemp products are sold. Wholesale consumable hemp licenses, likewise, shall be issued for one calendar year, but at an annual licensing fee between $500 and $10,000. Manufacturer licenses are also issued yearly and require an annual licensing fee of $5,000 unless the individual holds a hemp processor permit and is not required to pay the annual fee.

Consumable hemp products may only be sold or distributed if the processor or manufacturer has contracted a full panel certificate of analysis on the product. Random inspections by the department are authorized to ensure compliance. SB 494 further prohibits consumable hemp products from resembling existing candy or snack products or from being attractive to children. Additionally, retail establishments selling consumable hemp products may not sell or distribute these products if located within 500 feet of any K-12 educational institution. It is further unlawful to knowingly sell directly, or indirectly, consumable hemp products to individuals under the age of 21. However, nothing prohibits individuals under the age of 21 from selling or handling consumable hemp products as part of their employment.

SB 495 Low THC Oil Patient Registry; term of validity of a registration card; provide
By: Sen. Sam Watson (11th) ***Through the Regulated Industries Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 495 stipulates that a registration card for low THC oil is valid for five years from the date of issuance, as long as the individual continues to remain eligible for a card based on the continued diagnosis of the condition. The Department of Public Health will deliver the registration cards through certified mail or by electronic means, such as email.

SB 496 Ad Valorem Taxation of Property; extension of preferential assessment periods for certain historic properties; provide
By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 496 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.8, relating to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures, to extend the sunset date of the program to December 31, 2029 and clarify the definition of a historic building or structure to require the structure to be certified by the Department of Community Affairs as having met certain criteria.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-40.32, relating to revitalization zone tax credits, to extend the sunset date of the program to December 31, 2032.

SB 497 Education; High-demand Career Initiatives Program as the High Demand Apprenticeship Program; redesignate
By: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) ***Through the Higher Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 497 redesignates the High-demand Career Initiatives Program as the High Demand Apprenticeship Program. The bill lowers the maximum contract completion award amount from

$10,000 per apprentice to $5,000 per apprentice, and increases the number of allowable apprentices from five per year to 10 per year.

The bill establishes the Public Service Apprenticeship Program through the Office of Workforce Development to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs throughout the state.

SB 503 Residential and General Contractors; the general contractor license as a commercial general contractor license; rename

By: Sen. Matt Brass (28th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 503 is a clean-up bill that revises various grammar and terminology related to general contracting licensure and splits licenses into two separate categories for commercial and residential. The bill changes the annual volume threshold to $10 million that two of the members of the commercial general contractor division must have less than. Members must also meet at least once every two months. A person applying for a residential-basic contractor license must also show that they are qualified as far as financial responsibility. The decision of the appropriate division shall be conclusive except for fraud or willful or wanton misconduct.

A business organization that loses a qualifying agent and that is acting under the statutory timeframe to find a new qualifying agent must have its financially responsible officer or executive, who has assumed all responsibilities of the agent, swear in an affidavit that the permit application is made in the applicable timeframe. A building inspector will not be able to issue a building permit unless the applicant has provided this affidavit. If a building inspector violates this provision, then they are subject to a misdemeanor with a maximum fine of $1,000. The bill revises other dates, timelines, and fine amounts.

SB 505 Hospitals and Related Institutions; required publication by hospital of certain financial documents on its website; provisions; revise

By: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) Through the Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 505 requires each licensed hospital in the state to post and maintain a link to the federal related disclosures in the format established by the Department of Community Health to be updated annually, and no later than July 1 of each year. The department is directed to establish a uniform template and criteria for reporting the required documents no later than December 31, 2024, to be utilized no later the July 1, 2025.

Additionally, SB 505 requires the board of a hospital authority to select one of the three proposed candidates to fill a vacancy.

SB 508 Administrative Office of the Courts; accessibility of certain personal information of state and federal judges, justices, and spouses thereof; provide

By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 508 directs the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide written notice to each state or local government entity that possesses personally identifiable information of a judge or justice to restrict access to that information within 30 days of written notice. Within 30 days of written notice from a judge or justice that they have left office, the office will notify those entities that the restriction is no longer applicable.

The office will develop a process to regularly identify local entities that possess personally identifiable information, and will establish a procedure for protected persons to submit information for inclusion in a personally identifiable information database.

SB 517 Criminal Prosecutions; immunity from certain criminal prosecutions against law enforcement officers whose threat or use of force is justified or otherwise lawful; provide
By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 517 allows for certain uses of force by a law enforcement officer to be considered for immunity from prosecution. The bill adds references to the immunity statute for O.C.G.A. 16-3-20, relating to justification, and O.C.G.A. 17-4-20, relating to authorization of arrests with and without warrants and use of deadly force. The same references are added into the O.C.G.A. 51-11-9, which provides for immunity for civil liability.

SB 520 Domestic Relations; provisions relating to income withholding orders; change and clarify
By: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) ***Through the Juvenile Justice Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 520 adds definitions for "income withholding" and "income withholding notice", and replaces previous terms within the Code. It also requires that an income withholding notice be provided to the payor to initiate income withholding. In cases involving Title IV-D child support withholding through an income withholding notice, all objections will be placed on the calendar for a hearing before an administrative law judge. The notice will remain in effect until the objection is heard and a decision is rendered.

SB 533 Proceedings; jail-based competency restoration programs; provide
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 533 allows the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to restore an accused person back to mental competency in an appropriate facility within a jail so that they can stand trial. To use these facilities, DBHDD must have a mutual agreement with the local sheriff's office.

SR 158 Northwest Georgia Logistics Corridor; designate as an official logistics growth corridor in Georgia
By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SR 158 establishes the Northwest Georgia Logistics Corridor, composed of communities in all of Carroll, Chattooga, Douglas, Floyd, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, Polk, and Walker Counties.

SR 609 Princess Trahlyta; dedicate a roundabout in her memory
By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SR 609 dedicates the roundabout of State Route 60, State Route 9, and U.S. Highway 19 in Lumpkin County as the Circle of Princess Trahlyta at Stone Pile Gap.