



Georgia House of Representatives

SESSION REPORT

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2021 Session Report

HB 32 Income tax; credit for teacher recruitment and retention program; provide

By: Rep. D. C. Belton (112th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 32 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-251 to create a refundable income tax credit for a teacher recruitment and retention program managed by the State Board of Education. Eligible teachers include those with a bachelor's degree in education from a postsecondary institution in Georgia that has a teacher certification program certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Additionally, a teacher must accept their first school-year contract in the 2021-2022 school year in a high-need subject area in a rural school or a school that performed in the lowest five percent of schools in this state and must hold a valid five-year induction or professional certificate from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Regional Education Service Agencies determine which three content areas are considered a high-need subject area. Eligible teachers must submit an application to the Department of Education to participate.

The department will identify no more than 100 rural and low-performing schools, and the recruitment and retention program is limited to 1,000 participating teachers. Participating teachers are eligible for a non-refundable tax credit of \$3,000 per each school year for no more than five years. The tax credit earned may be carried forward for up to three years.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the Office of Student Achievement will evaluate the program and provide the governor, the General Assembly, and the State Board of Education with a report that includes the number of participants and the length of participation in the program.

This income tax credit program sunsets on December 31, 2026.

HB 34 Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Act; enact **GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT [HERE](#)**

By: Rep. D. C. Belton (112th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 34 enters Georgia into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, pending passage of required legislation in 10 states. Provisions of the compact are administered by the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The compact allows for practitioners, including active-duty military personnel and their spouses, who are licensed in a member state to more easily practice in the other member states, so long as the licensee remains active and in good standing, among other requirements. The bill requires the board to conduct national background checks of applicants through the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

HB 43 Motor vehicles; require registration application forms to include optional information regarding certain conditions which may interfere with a registrant's ability to communicate

By: Rep. Wesley Cantrell (22nd) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 43 requires motor vehicle registration application forms to include a section which allows the applicant to disclose a physical, mental, or neurological condition that impedes the ability of the applicant or an expected driver of the vehicle to communicate.

HB 61 Whitfield County; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum

By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 61 authorizes Whitfield County to exercise all redevelopment powers in the Georgia Constitution and Code.

- HB 63 Alternative ad valorem tax; motor vehicles; revise definition of fair market value**
By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 63 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5C-1, relating to alternative ad valorem tax on motor vehicles, by revising the definition of "fair market value of the motor vehicle," as it relates to a leased motor vehicle, by calculating the value as the total of the depreciation plus any amortized amounts pursuant to the lease agreement plus any down payments.
- HB 80 Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**
By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Appropriations Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 80, the Amended FY 2021 budget, is based on a revenue estimate of \$26.56 billion, an increase of \$654.3 million, or 2.5%, over the current budget.
The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office's [website](#).
- HB 81 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**
By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Appropriations Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 81, the FY 2022 budget, is based on a revenue estimate of \$27.2 billion, an increase of \$1.3 billion, or 5.2%, over original FY 2021 budget.
The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office's [website](#). **Governor's Disregard Language Statement [HERE](#)**
- HB 90 Torts; certain persons, firms, or corporations who are buyers of land for conversion of timber shall be exempt from certain liabilities; provide**
By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 90 clarifies the damages that persons holding a security in land may seek when the land is converted without their consent. It creates uniformity with the Uniform Commercial Code by specifying that a buyer in the ordinary course of business does not have liability to such persons.
- HB 93 Health; eliminate duplicative state licensure and regulation of clinical laboratories; provisions**
By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 93 eliminates duplicative state licensure requirements and regulation of clinical laboratories that are certified by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- HB 94 Crimes and offenses; provide for the crime of theft by possession of stolen mail**
By: Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 94 designates a new felony crime of "theft by possession of stolen mail," with resulting punishment of between one to five years in prison, although the presiding judge has the discretion to sentence a defendant to a misdemeanor. A person is guilty of the crime if he or she possesses stolen mail addressed to three or more different addresses, and possesses a minimum of 10 separate pieces of stolen mail. Each set of 10 separate pieces of stolen mail, addressed to three or more different addresses, constitutes a separate crime.
The bill also designates a new felony crime of "porch piracy," with resulting punishment of one to five years in prison, although the presiding judge has the discretion to sentence a defendant to a misdemeanor. A person is guilty of the crime if he or she takes, or removes, three or more envelopes, bags, packages, or other sealed items of another person from that person's porch, steps, or entranceway without permission and so long as those items were taken from at least three different addresses.
- HB 97 Courts; oath for certain clerks of the probate court; require and provide**
By: Rep. Rob Leverett (33rd) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 97 requires that any individual appointed as chief clerk of a probate court, or any clerk designated by a probate judge to exercise the judge's jurisdiction concerning uncontested matters, shall take the oath provided in the bill.

- HB 98 State government; conditions for meetings and public hearings to be held by teleconference in emergency conditions; provide**
By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 98 establishes that when agencies hold meetings under emergency conditions, persons or agencies who participate by teleconference must be treated as fully participating, as if they were physically attending the meeting.
- HB 103 Baldwin County; Board of Education; revise compensation of members**
By: Rep. Ricky Williams (145th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 103 revises the compensation of the Baldwin County Board of Education members. Members shall receive pay up to \$500 per month for each month or portion of a month they serve on the board.
- HB 105 Military; pay for certain active duty by the organized militia; authorize**
By: Rep. Heath Clark (147th) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 105 authorizes the Department of Defense to provide compensation to guardsman who volunteer for active duty.
- HB 106 Georgia State Indemnification Fund; replace the term National Guard with the term organized militia**
By: Rep. Heath Clark (147th) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 106 adds the Georgia State Defense Force to the indemnification fund.
- HB 111 Financial institutions; clarify and remove superfluous language; provisions**
By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 111 is the annual revision of Title 7 of the Code, relating to banking and finance, by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. Superfluous language is clarified, removed, and consolidated, terminology is updated, and outdated language is removed.

Name reservation periods for financial institutions are extended to six months. The department's criminal background check authorization, relating to persons involved in the acquisition of trust companies, is expanded.

The bill allows for the remote participation by shareholders of bank or trust companies and members of credit unions at their respective membership meetings if such participation is permitted by the institution's by-laws. Reasonable measures must also be implemented to accommodate for such participation. In the event of a proclaimed emergency, the board of directors may apply to the department for authorization to conduct such meetings solely through remote participation. The board of directors of a bank, trust company, or credit union may conduct meetings remotely.

Parts 14 and 15 of Article 2, Chapter 1, Title 7, relating to intrastate mergers of state-chartered banks and mergers of state-chartered banks with national banks, are amended to eliminate redundancies.

Provisions regarding intrastate mergers and conversions of financial institutions are amended to: eliminate the requirement that the department approve a merger or conversion if the resulting merged or consolidated entity will not be regulated by the department; require notification and certain documentation before a state bank charter can be extinguished; provide that if a merger or conversion requires the approval of a federal regulator, the department need not act on the application for the merger or conversion until the federal regulator makes the approval; require that the articles of merger or conversion contain the county of residence of board members; remove the requirement that the department consider convenience and need of the community when evaluating a merger application; eliminate publication requirements for the conversion of a national bank to a state-chartered bank; and remove language that requires merger publications to be paid with a specific instrument.

For interstate banking mergers, the bill amends the Code to: remove language requiring an out-of-state bank to have a branch in Georgia immediately before a merger; provide that the commissioner of the department does not have to conduct safety and soundness examinations of out-of-state banks and eliminates the

commissioner's ability to require an out-of-state bank to submit consolidated reports of condition and income to the department; allow an out-of-state bank to establish a de novo branch in Georgia under certain conditions; and also eliminate the requirement that out-of-state banks notify the commissioner of transactions that result in a change of control at the bank.

Provisions relating to the operation and regulation of credit unions are amended to: add and change criteria by which a credit union's board of directors may adopt and enforce membership expulsion policies; codify the processes in which the department evaluates a merger plan upon the adoption of a merger involving a credit union, and inspects and evaluates the articles of conversion after a credit union converts from a federal credit union to a credit union.

The bill clarifies language relating to the governing exemptions from licensing requirements as applied to the sale of payment instruments and the licensing of mortgage lenders and brokers. Operating procedures for installment loans are amended to allow installment loan lenders to enter into agreements with licensors to defer installment payments.

Finally, provisions relating to the 'Georgia Fair Lending Act' are amended to update cross references to federal statutes and regulations.

HB 112 Torts; provide certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19; extend applicability for one year

By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th)

Through the Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 112 extends the protections provided for by the 'Georgia COVID-19 Pandemic Business Safety Act' from July 14, 2021, to July 14, 2022.

HB 114 Income tax; adoption of foster children; revise tax credit

By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)

Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 114 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.15, relating to the tax credit for adoption of a foster child, by increasing the current credit from \$2,000 to \$6,000 per foster child for the first five years of adoption and returning to \$2,000 per year until the child reaches the age of 18. Unused credits are non-refundable and cannot be carried forward to a future year's tax liability.

HB 119 Professions and businesses; chiropractors may own professional corporations with physicians; provide

By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)

Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 119 allows chiropractors to jointly own professional corporations with physicians.

HB 124 Funeral directors and embalmers; multiple cremation devices; provide

By: Rep. Ricky Williams (145th)

Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 124 allows for crematories to use aquamation by creating a new definition for "cremation device," which is used to expand the current references to a "retort" to also include vats and containers in which cremation occurs by traditional flame, alkaline hydrolysis, or other approved means.

Further, the bill allows the board to adopt regulations, including for the inspection of any retort by the manufacturer, or authorized crematory repair company, once every five years.

HB 128 Health; prohibit providers from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the physical or mental disability of the potential recipient

By: Rep. Ricky Williams (145th)

Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 128 creates Gracie's Law to establish provisions to prevent the discrimination of individuals with disabilities from receiving an anatomical gift or organ transplant. Additionally, this bill revises parental requirements for consent related to cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

- HB 129 Sheriffs; compensation; modify certain provisions**
By: Rep. Sam Watson (172nd) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 129 raises the minimum salary for sheriffs serving in a county with a population of 39,000 to 49,999. The new minimum is set at \$83,750.51.
- HB 134 State government; meetings relating to cybersecurity contracting and planning from open meeting requirements; exclude**
By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 134 excludes meetings relating to cybersecurity contracting and planning from open meeting requirements and exempts from public inspection any document or plan relating to cybersecurity devices, programs, or systems. No vote from an executive session meeting, in which a cybersecurity contract was entered into, shall be binding upon an agency until a subsequent vote is taken in an open meeting.
- HB 141 Criminal procedure; requirements for awards made from Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund to medical service providers; provide**
By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 141 makes it a requirement that payments made by the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund to medical service providers be in accordance with the list of reasonable charges published by the State Board of Workers' Compensation, unless an investigation by the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Board shows that there is a reasonable justification for the deviation. Payments made to, and accepted by, a medical provider are considered to be payment in full.
- HB 146 Public officers and employees; paid parental leave for eligible state employees and eligible local board of education employees; provide**
By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 146 allows eligible employees of state government and local boards of education to be eligible for a maximum of 120 hours of paid parental leave for qualifying life events after six continuous months of employment. "Qualifying life events" are defined as the birth or adoption of child, as well as placement of a child in foster care.
- HB 149 Income tax; certain elections to be made by Subchapter "S" corporations and partnerships for the filing of tax returns and imposition of taxes; allow**
By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 149 amends Chapter 7 of Title 48, relating to income taxation of corporations and partnerships, by allowing Subchapter "S" corporations and partnerships to make an irrevocable decision on an annual basis as to whether they elect to pay income taxes at the entity level as opposed to the individual shareholder or partner level.
- HB 150 Public utilities and public transportation; prohibit governmental entities from adopting any policy that prohibits the connection or reconnection of any utility service based upon the type or source of energy or fuel**
By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 150 prohibits governmental entities from adopting any policy that prohibits the connection or reconnection of any utility service based on the type of energy or fuel.
- HB 152 Postsecondary education; exemption applicable to certain institutions operating on military installations or bases; revise provisions**
By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 152 amends O.C.G.A. 20-3-250.3 to allow the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission to use alternative methods to review renewal applications to operate submitted by institutions in good standing with an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Alternative methods are those deemed appropriate by the commission's executive director.

HB 152 changes surety bond requirements to add that when an institution changes ownership, the commission will require the institution to file a surety bond. The bill further adds that if a bond is in force at the time of a closure, the surety shall be required to remit the full face value of the bond. House Bill 152 modifies the minimum bond requirements based off gross tuition by adding gross tuition categories for a minimum bond. An institution with a gross tuition above \$1,000,001 that has an existing surety bond issued prior to July 1, 2021 is not required to increase the value of the bond.

HB 153 Fair Business Practices Act of 1975; solicitations of services for corporate filings required by the Secretary of State; provide for requirements

By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 153 requires any person who mails a solicitation for services related to corporate filings to include the following disclaimer at the top of the document in 16-point Helvetica font: "THIS IS A SOLICITATION. THIS IS NOT A BILL OR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT AND HAS NOT BEEN SENT BY THE GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE." The disclaimer must be both larger than and two inches from any other text in the solicitation. Any violation of this provision is considered an unfair and deceptive act.

HB 154 Domestic relations; protection of children; strengthen, clarify, and update provisions

By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 154 clarifies and refines the Code regarding statutory adoption provisions. The bill clarifies the venue alternatives when a child is placed for adoption with an out-of-state resident. The exception to the general venue rule applies when a child is placed in accordance with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) or when the petitioner is a resident of another country. HB 154 reduces the statutory age at which a person is allowed to petition for adoption from 25 to 21 years old. The bill clarifies that adoption petitioners are not subject to the requirements of the ICPC when the ICPC's relative exception applies or when the petitioners are residents of another country. Further, the bill clarifies the deadline and method for submitting a revocation.

HB 154 amends several sections regarding service of process to authorize the use of certified mail, including when service is upon a parent and when state law does not require a surrender or termination of parental rights, or when state law authorizes the termination of a parent's rights based on certain circumstances. The bill allows the required search of the putative father registry to be performed after the adoption petition is filed and the results to be attached as an amendment to the petition. The bill requires the petitioner to request the appointment of an investigator to verify the allegations in the adoption petition if the court fails to appoint one. HB 154 creates a presumption that a non-resident petitioner can appear for the final hearing via electronic means if the petition for adoption is uncontested. For adoption petitions, the bill also clarifies the naming conventions to be used and to appropriately preserve anonymity in the event that there are appeals. When examining the evidence for a child born in a foreign country, the court shall determine whether a sufficient amount of evidence has been provided to show that a child has a viable path to lawful permanent resident status, if not already attained, rather than if the child will be able to obtain lawful permanent resident status.

HB 154 creates a civil cause of action as a tort claim under Georgia law as well as a felony crime to address adoption scams where individuals intentionally misrepresent a pregnancy, or their intention to place a child for adoption, when the individual is not pregnant. The felony crime shall be punished by imprisonment of between one to 10 years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both, in addition to the convicted individual being subject to a court order that mandates the individual pay back any restitution to the harmed victim. This includes when the individual has no intention of placing a child for adoption and no money has been obtained by the individual, but the potential adoptive parents have expended money based on the misrepresentation. This bill also updates the required forms to reflect additional language.

Further, the bill allows for the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to file a petition for the appointment of a guardian for a minor who is under the custody of DFCS, so long as the minor is within six months of reaching the age of 18.

HB 156 Military; sharing of information and reporting of cyber attacks; facilitate

By: Rep. Don Parsons (44th) Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 156 requires utilities and state and local governmental agencies to report cyber-attacks to the director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. The reports are not subject to public inspection or disclosure. Nothing in the bill relieves any agency or utility of any requirement under law to notify a person if they have been impacted by a cyber-attack or data breach.

Finally, if the governor makes a determination that a memorandum of agreement with one or more of the major military commands established in the state would substantially enhance the education or job placement of Georgians in science, technology, engineering, math, or cybersecurity, the governor may enter into the agreement, subject to appropriations for any state expenditures provided for in the agreement.

HB 157 Mount Airy, Town of; provide new charter

By: Rep. Chris Erwin (28th)

Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 157 provides a new charter for the town of Mount Airy.

HB 160 Revenue and taxation; water and sewer projects and costs tax (MOST); provide for audits of tax by state auditor under certain conditions **GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT [HERE](#)**

By: Rep. William Boddie (62nd)

Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 160 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-200, relating to water and sewer projects and costs tax (MOST), by changing the definition of a "municipality" to include a municipality that operates a waste-water system that interconnects with the waste-water system of a municipality that has an average waste-water flow that is at least 85 million gallons per day. The bill also allows the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, or the lieutenant governor to order an independent and comprehensive audit of a MOST tax through the state auditor.

HB 161 Local government; downtown development authorities; remove provision providing perpetual existence to such authorities

By: Rep. Jan Tankersley (160th)

Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 161 removes a provision that required downtown development authorities to exist in perpetuity.

HB 162 Morgan County; board of elections; revise provisions

By: Rep. D. C. Belton (112th)

Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 162 revises provisions for the appointment, terms, and filling of vacancies for the Morgan County Board of Elections and Registration. The bill vacates the current board membership, provides for the appointment of interim board members, provides for term limits and removal of board members, and revises duties of the board and elections supervisor regarding clerical assistance and poll works.

HB 163 Community Health, Department of; submit state plan amendment to implement express lane enrollment in Medicaid; direct

By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd)

Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 163 requires the Department of Community Health to submit a state plan amendment to implement express lane eligibility in Medicaid and the PeachCare for Kids Program. Upon approval of this amendment, the bill directs the Department of Human Services to automatically enroll and renew eligible children in Medicaid and the PeachCare for Kids Program based on application data received from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

HB 165 Motor vehicles; use of mounts on windshields for the support of wireless telecommunications devices and stand-alone electronic devices under certain circumstances; allow

By: Rep. Timothy Barr (103rd)

Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 165 allows for the use of a mount for a telecommunications device on the front windshield of a motor vehicle.

HB 168 Penal institutions; certain information within inmate files of the Department of Corrections shall not be classified as confidential state secrets when requested by the district attorney; provide

By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th)

Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 168 creates an exception to the confidentiality rules pertaining to inmate files for purposes of responding to actions by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. The exception is for

information requested by the local district attorney when an inmate has been sentenced for a serious violent felony or for a dangerous sexual offense that was committed against a person younger than 18 years old. Upon receipt of the written request for these records, the Department of Corrections is required to provide the information to the local district attorney. These provided records are then required to be kept confidential and are not subject to public disclosure requirements. Anyone breaking this confidentiality, or conspiring to do so, can be charged with a misdemeanor.

HB 169 Motor vehicles; commercial driver's license; provide requirements for issuance

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 169 adds the completion of a commercial driver-training course as a requirement to receive a commercial driver's license. The bill changes the maximum length of time that a commercial driver's instruction permit is valid from two 180-day periods to one 365-day period.

HB 172 Culloden, City of; reduce city council to five members

By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 172 reduces the Culloden City Council to five members and provides for four-year terms of office for the mayor and councilmembers.

HB 173 Retirement and pensions; eligible large retirement system's assets that may be invested in alternative investments; increase percentage

By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 173 allows eligible large retirement systems to invest up to 10 percent of assets in alternative investments. The bill excludes the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) of Georgia and Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) of Georgia, which can currently invest up to five percent of assets in alternative investments. Also, the bill requires the ex-officio members and the governor's appointee of ERS's Board of Trustee to review and consider any individuals nominated by any organization of state retirees consisting of at least 1,000 employees. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

HB 174 Motor vehicles; federal regulations regarding safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles; update reference date

By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 174 is the annual update to the 'Uniform Carriers Act.' It updates the effective date from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021 to comply with federal law.

HB 179 Special license plates; support breast cancer related programs; amend logo design

By: Rep. Beth Camp (131st) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 179 creates a specialty license plate supporting members of the United States Armed Forces. The bill updates the design for an existing license plate that supports breast cancer related programs. The bill creates a specialty license plate supporting the fight against cancer.

HB 196 Terrell County; Board of Education; change compensation of members

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 196 changes the compensation of the Terrell County Board of Education members. Members will receive \$300 per meeting with the exception of the chairperson, who will receive \$350 per meeting.

HB 205 Insurance; framework for regulating the offering or issuance of travel insurance; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 205 creates new regulations for the travel insurance industry. These new provisions include establishing uniform meanings of key terms and clarifying sales practices and application of Georgia's unfair trade practice laws. House Bill 205 prohibits the practice of opt-out sales and imposes explicit consumer disclosures in addition to what Georgia's insurance laws already require. Additionally, the bill provides that travel insurance may be sold via individual, group, or blanket policies and specifies how

premium taxes are to be calculated. In most cases, the bill requires that travel insurance be filed as marine insurance; however, travel insurance that provides coverage for sickness, accident, disability, death, or other related emergencies occurring during the travel may also be filed under an accident or health line of insurance.

- HB 207 Motor vehicles; electronic submission of certain documentation required of manufacturers, distributors, dealers, secondary metals recyclers, used motor vehicle parts dealers, and scrap metal processors by the Department of Revenue; provide**
By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 207 requires certain specified documents and registrations to be submitted to the Department of Revenue electronically rather than through the mail.
- HB 208 State holidays; second Wednesday of February of each year as National Swearing-in Day in Georgia; provide**
By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: This bill designates the second Wednesday of February as a "National Swearing-in Commitment Day" state holiday in Georgia. The state holiday celebrates the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), which allows young men and women to experience a sample of military life.
- HB 210 Motor vehicles; recording of odometer readings upon certificates of title; exempt certain vehicles**
By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 210 clarifies the types of vehicles that are exempt from disclosing odometer mileage on certificates of title.
- HB 211 Arabi, Town of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Noel Williams (148th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 211 provides a new charter for the town of Arabi.
- HB 223 Jackson County; authority of the board of elections and registration to act in certain situations; provide**
By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 223 provides for the authority of the Jackson County Board of Elections and Registration to act in certain situations and for the terms of the members of the board. The member from each political party whose terms began on January 1, 2021, will serve until January 31, 2025. The member from each political party whose term is due to expire on December 31, 2022, will serve until January 31, 2023. The member appointed by the chief judge of the Jackson County Superior Court whose term is due to expire on December 31, 2022, will serve until January 31, 2023. The board will take no official action unless a quorum exists under the by-laws of the board.
- HB 225 Wrens, City of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Brian Prince (127th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 225 provides a new charter for the city of Wrens.
- HB 231 Crimes and offenses; victims of stalking; expand applicability of protective orders**
By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 231 creates a separate temporary protective order (TPO) for dating violence that is not covered by a TPO for family violence. These TPOs cover felonies, simple battery, battery, simple assault, and stalking, so long as it is between two people with whom there has been a pregnancy together or who are currently in a dating relationship or have been in a dating relationship within the last six months. "Dating relationship" is defined as a committed, romantic relationship that involves an intimacy level above those of mere friends, although the definition does not require sexual involvement. A hearing is to be held on a filed petition within 10 days, at which time the petitioner must prove the allegations by a preponderance of the

evidence. The presiding judge shall consider the factors specifically outlined to confirm the existence of a dating relationship.

HB 234 Self-funded Healthcare Plan Opt-in to the Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act; enact
By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) Through the Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 234, known as the 'Self-funded Healthcare Plan Opt-in to the Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act,' allows self-funded healthcare plans to annually elect to participate in the 'Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act'. Any participating healthcare plan must elect to participate starting on January 1 or the first day of its plan year and must provide notice to the commissioner of the Department of Insurance at least 30 days before the effective date.

The Department of Insurance must maintain a list on its website of all self-funded healthcare plans that have chosen to participate. The commissioner can remove any participant that fails to comply with the 'Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act'.

HB 236 Domestic relations; additional monitoring of victim after granting of a temporary protective order; provide
By: Rep. Yasmin Neal (74th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Under the provisions of this bill, when a temporary protective order is granted for relief from family violence, the petitioner may elect to receive periodic safety checks from local law enforcement officers, which include observations of the outside of the petitioner's residence and officer presence nearby the petitioner's residence. The petitioner elects to receive these safety checks by providing the local law enforcement agency with a copy of the temporary protective order.

If the petitioner elects to receive these safety checks, then the safety checks shall be ongoing for a total period of 60 days, with the individual checks occurring at the discretion of the local police agency. Prior to the 60-day period ending, the petitioner can withdraw his or her request, or the local police agency can determine that the petitioner no longer appears to require the safety checks.

HB 241 Insurance; revise meaning of property insurance; change parameters under which certain contracts or agreements may be canceled
By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 241 allows the deduction of benefits paid from any cancellation refund of a service contract to the customer. Additionally, this bill permits contracts for the replacement of lost, stolen, or inoperable key fobs to cover excess wear and use charges at the end of a lease.

HB 242 Americus, City of; requirement for city manager; remove
By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 242 removes a requirement for the Americus city manager and lengthens the contract term allowed for the city manager.

HB 244 Insurance; flood risk reduction in the enumerated list of county purposes for ad valorem taxes; include
By: Rep. Don Hogan (179th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 244 adds flood risk reduction to the list of services provided by counties to inhabitants of unincorporated areas.

HB 245 Professions and businesses; podiatry; amend a provision relating to fingerprint and criminal background checks
By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 245 amends a provision relating to fingerprint and criminal background checks used for the practice of podiatry by requiring the need for satisfactory results from a fingerprint records check for only new license applicants and reinstatements, not license renewals.

HB 251 Clayton County; Board of Education; change compensation of members*By: Rep. Mike Glanton (75th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 251 provides for the manner of changing the compensation of the Clayton County Board of Education members.

HB 253 Jones County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact*By: Rep. Susan Holmes (129th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 253 creates the Jones County Public Facilities Authority.

HB 254 Insurance; Commissioner's enforcement authority with regard to adjusters; increase*By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th)**Through the Insurance Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 254 amends current public adjuster laws to increase consumer protections from fraud.

Sections One and Two give the Department of Insurance (DOI) the authority to adopt rules and regulations and requires all public adjusters to be licensed by DOI.

Section Three requires public adjusters to use contracts approved by DOI, outlines what these contracts must include, and specifically prohibits the public adjuster from working in multiple capacities, including as a contractor or appraiser.

Sections Four through Six outline the fees that public adjusters can collect, sets a cap for the total commission allowed to be collected from the settlement of the claim at 33.3 percent, and prohibits adjusters from receiving a commission if the insurer commits to paying the policy limits within 72 hours of the reported loss. Public adjusters are permitted to endorse a check from an insurer to an insured only if it goes into the adjuster's escrow account.

Public adjusters are required to file proof of financial responsibility with DOI and must keep records of all transactions for at least five years for review. Additionally, this bill adds new regulations for public adjuster advertisements and prohibits adjusters from soliciting during natural disasters. Furthermore, contractors are prohibited from acting as public adjusters on property where contracting services are being provided and prevents adjusters whose license has been revoked from offering public adjusting services.

HB 255 Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2021; enact*By: Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st)**Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 255 is the 'Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2021'. This bill requires sexual assault protocol committees to submit an annual certification of compliance to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which will then notify the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, and the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia of any non-compliant judicial circuits. This bill also clarifies language stating that it is a victim's right not to immediately report an alleged sexual assault and that the investigating law enforcement agency shall retain certain physical evidence for at least 12 months from the date of collection.

Further, this bill creates a statewide sexual assault kit tracking system, to be operated by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The system will track the location and status of sexual assault kits as they move through the chain of custody; designate the kits as unreported or reported; allow certain medical facilities, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and other entities with custody of sexual assault kits to update the status and track the location of the kit; allow victims of sexual assault to anonymously track the status of their kits; and use technology to allow continuous access. This system will be phased-in, but the bill requires all entities having custody of kits to fully participate in the system by one year from the effective date of the bill.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is required to submit a status report and implementation plan for the system by January 1, 2021. Continued reports on the status of the system will be submitted twice per year and include certain data, such as the total number of kits in the system, number of kits where forensic analysis has been completed; number of kits added to the system, rate of time for kits to be submitted for forensic analysis after being added to the system, number of kits destroyed or removed from the system, and number of kits for which forensic analysis has not been completed and one year has passed since being added to the system. Government agencies and hospitals providing services to victims of sexual assault are not liable for

civil damages due to a release of information, or failure to release information, related to the system, absent gross negligence.

Further, this bill requires each law enforcement agency in the state to enter required information into the FBI's national database of the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program for any investigations of an allegation of rape, aggravated sodomy, or aggravated assault with intent to rape, in which the alleged perpetrator is unrelated to the victim or is known to be a serial sexual offender. This applies retroactively to all pending investigations that meet the above criteria, although an exemption exists for offenses involving a victim between the ages of 14 and 16 and an alleged offender of 18 years old or younger, so long as the alleged offender is not more than four years older than the victim.

HB 258 Crimes and offenses; response to State v. Williams, 2020 Ga. LEXIS 85; provisions

By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 258 clarifies that consent of an alleged victim under the age of 16 is not a defense for crimes of sexual battery and aggravated sexual battery. The bill provides for a limited exception when the alleged victim is 13, 14, or 15 years old, and the defendant under the age of 18 years old and within four years of age of the alleged victim, in which case lack of consent must be proven at trial.

HB 265 Revenue and taxation; Internal Revenue Code and Internal Revenue Code of 1986; define terms and incorporate certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law

By: Rep. David Knight (130th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 265 provides the annual Internal Revenue Code update to O.C.G.A. 48-8-2, which includes an increase in the deductibility of medical expenses, charitable contributions, and business meals as well as clarification of the tax treatment of loan forgiveness from the 'Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.'

HB 268 The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Act; enact **GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT [HERE](#)**

By: Rep. William Werkheiser (157th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 268 enters Georgia into the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact, pending passage of required legislation in 10 total U.S. states. Provisions of the compact will be administered by the State Board of Occupational Therapy. The compact allows practitioners, including active-duty military personnel and their spouses, who are licensed in a member state to more easily practice in the other member states, so long as the licensee remains active and in good standing, among other requirements. Further, the bill requires the board to conduct national background checks of applicants through the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

HB 271 Community Health, Department of; assess one or more provider matching payments on ambulance services; authorize

By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 271 authorizes the Department of Community Health (DCH) to assess one or more provider matching payments on a sub-class of ambulance services, as defined by the Board of Community Health. The board is authorized to discontinue any provider matching payment assessed and will cease to impose any such matching payments if: the provider matching payments are not eligible for federal matching funds under Title XIX of the 'Social Security Act'; the department reduces or supplants Medicaid payment rates to ambulance providers as such rates are in effect on June 30, 2021; or reduces or supplants the provider matching payment rate adjustment factors utilized in developing the State Fiscal Year 2021 capitated rates for Medicaid managed care organizations.

Any provider matching payments assessed are to be deposited into a segregated account within the Indigent Care Trust Fund, used solely for the purpose of obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers on behalf of Medicaid recipients, and be subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

Additionally, DCH is authorized to impose a penalty of up to six percent on the amount of any owed provider matching payments for any ambulance service that fails to pay a provider matching payment within the time required by DCH for each month, or fraction thereof, that such provider matching payment is overdue.

Furthermore, DCH is authorized to inspect and copy the records of an ambulance service for purposes of auditing the calculation of the provider matching payment.

HB 273 Distilled spirits; initiate a referendum election for the authorization of the issuance of licenses; provide additional method

By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: Section 1 of House Bill 273 repeals and replaces the limited exception to the three-tier system of alcoholic beverages for distillers, in which it increases the cap to 750 barrels of distilled spirits per year that can be sold on the licensed premises of distilleries. Further, distilleries are permitted to have three licensed locations in which they exercise their rights under this exception, and the cap is increased for retail sales on the premises for purposes of off-premises consumption to 4,500 milliliters of distilled spirits per individual per day. Beginning on April 1, 2022, distillers will only be allowed to sell their product on their licensed premises if they also produce distilled spirits on that premises, unless the premises operates under the same federal distilled spirits permit, is designated as one of the distiller's three licensed premises under the statute, is using the facility for aging its product for a period over one year, or the facility has at least 500 barrels of distilled spirits that are being aged in wooden containers. Also starting on April 1, 2022, each licensed facility using this exception for retail sales will be limited each quarter to sell no more of its distilled spirits than it produces at that facility during the quarter. If a facility is falling under an exception listed in O.C.G.A. 3-4-24.2(b)(7), the maximum amount of distilled spirits that a facility can sell under the exception is the difference between the total on-site production volume of all the distiller's premises in the state during the quarter and the total retail sales of the distiller made pursuant to the exception allowing retail sales for all of the distiller's facilities in the state for the quarter. The bill also allows for distillers to transfer their finished product between their licensed facilities.

Section 2 allows breweries with multiple licensed facilities to transfer beer between those licensed properties, so long as the facilities have the same 100-percent common ownership and the brand and brand label are solely owned by the brewer. Further, the bill increases the maximum amount of beer a brewery can sell on-site, either for on-premises or off-premises consumption, via this exception to the three-tier system to 6,000 barrels annually among all licensed facilities. Any transfers of beer under these provisions is required to be reported on a quarterly report, as provided by the Department of Revenue.

HB 282 Ad valorem tax; qualified timberland property; add a definition

By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 282 amends Article 13 of Chapter 5 of Title 48, relating to ad valorem taxation of qualified timberland property. The bill allows an applicant to declare a tract of land as contiguous even if the tract is divided by a county boundary, public roadway, public easement, public right-of-way, natural boundary, land lot line, or railroad track. The bill also specifies that the qualified timberland property manual shall include appraisal instructions stating that market approach to valuation will constitute 50 percent of the value and the income approach to valuation will constitute 50 percent of the value. The commissioner of the Department of Revenue is to accept a parcel map drawn by the county cartographer or Geographic Information System technician and signed by the county board of assessors and the qualified owner, a legal description of the property, a plat of the property, or a written legal description of the property delineating the meets and bounds and measured area. With respect to certifying bona fide production of trees, the qualified owner is not required to submit a simple Forest Management Plan.

HB 286 Local government; restrict ability of county governing authorities to reduce funding for county police departments

By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 286 prohibits counties and municipalities from reducing their police force budgetary appropriations by more than five percent unless specified conditions exist.

The bill requires state and local governments to provide, when requested, payroll deductions to public safety employees to purchase insurance.

- HB 287 Education; tobacco and vapor products in course of instruction regarding alcohol and drugs; include**
By: Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 287 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-144 to include tobacco and vapor products in the list of mandatory instruction concerning drug and alcohol use for students in every grade, every year. This legislation amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-142 to require the State Board of Education to prescribe a course of study in human trafficking awareness for grades 6 through 12, incorporated into the student's health and physical education course of study.
- HB 292 Ad valorem tax; property; remove certain training requirements for members of county boards of equalization following their initial training for their first term**
By: Rep. Noel Williams (148th) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 292 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-311, relating to county boards of equalization, by removing the requirement for a board member to complete 20 hours of instruction in appraisal and equalization processes and procedures during the first year following the completion of each term of office.
- HB 306 Corporations, partnership, and associations; corporations may hold shareholders' meetings by means of remote communication; provide**
By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 306 allows the board of directors of corporations and non-profit corporations to hold annual and special shareholder meetings wholly or partially by means of remote communication unless otherwise provided by the corporation's by-laws or articles of incorporation.
- When authorized by the board, shareholders and holders of proxies may participate in, be deemed present for, and vote at a shareholder meeting remotely if the corporation implements reasonable procedures to verify that those present and voting at a shareholder meeting are in fact shareholders or holders of proxies; and provide shareholders and holders of proxies a reasonable opportunity to participate in such meeting and to vote on matters. When a shareholder or holder of a proxy votes or takes other action remotely, the corporation must maintain a record of such vote or action.
- HB 307 Georgia Telehealth Act; revise**
By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 307 authorizes health care providers to provide telehealth services from home and patients to receive telehealth services from their home, workplace, or school. Additionally, HB 307 prohibits insurers from requiring separate deductibles or an in-person consultation before paying for telehealth services. This bill allows for audio-only care under certain circumstances, such as a lack of broadband connection.
- HB 307 restricts insurers from requiring providers to use a specific telehealth platform or vendor. Insurers are not allowed to restrict the prescribing of medications through telehealth that are more restrictive than what is required under applicable state and federal laws for in-person prescribing of medications. Additionally, this bill requires that each provider maintain documentation of each health care service provided through telehealth in a manner that is at least as extensive and thorough as documentation maintained for in-person services.
- HB 316 Pharmacies; increase pharmacist to pharmacy technician ratio for providing direct supervision at any time**
By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 316 increases the pharmacist-to-pharmacy technician ratio from three to four for pharmacists directly supervising technicians. At any time during which the pharmacist directly supervises four technicians, two of these technicians must be certified. At any time during which the pharmacist directly supervises three technicians, one of these technicians must be certified. No certification is required for technicians in pharmacies at any time during which the pharmacist directly supervises one or two technicians.

HB 317 Excise tax; revise definition of innkeeper to include marketplace facilitators; provisions

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 317 amends Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 48, relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, by expanding the definition of "innkeeper" to include any dealer that is required to collect and remit sales tax as a marketplace facilitator for facilitating the sale of rooms, lodgings, or accommodations. The definition expansion requires the innkeepers acting as marketplace facilitators to collect and remit the local excise taxes due on rooms, lodgings, or accommodations. The bill also modifies the five-dollar hotel/motel excise tax found in O.C.G.A. 48-13-50.3 to apply to all rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, with the exception of extended stay rentals, lodgings, or accommodations that do not provide shelter.

HB 327 Organized Retail Crime Prevention Act; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 327 is the 'Organized Retail Crime Prevention Act.' The bill adds several requirements for the resale of gift cards by merchants who specialize in the sale of gift cards that are not authorized by the corporate issuer nor its agent and refers to these merchants as "third-party card dealers." These third-party card dealers must maintain records for three years on applicable data, including: the date of transaction; name of the person conducting the transaction; name, age, and address of the seller; a description of the general appearance of the customer and the customer's driver's license number; and value amount on the gift card and the price paid. These entries must be open to the inspection of authorized law enforcement officers during ordinary business hours or at any other reasonable time.

Further, this bill creates a misdemeanor offense for a third-party card dealer, or its agents or employees, who knowingly fails to make an entry of any material matter in the records; makes any false entry; falsifies, destroys, or removes the record book; refuses to allow an authorized law enforcement agent to inspect the records or any stored gift card; or fails to maintain a record of each required transaction for at least four years.

The bill revises the Code to say that the definition of "retail property" for purposes of retail property fencing, civil forfeiture, or other matters is not required to be new items. The definition of "conviction" is also broadened for purposes of the crimes of theft by shoplifting and refund fraud to include pleas of nolo contendere.

HB 327 creates a felony crime for organized retail theft, which occurs when a person intentionally organizes others to steal property of a store for purposes of reselling that property for monetary gain. The aggregative value of the property must be \$25,000 or more, and the property must be sold to another party who either intends to, or does, resell that same property. The punishment for the crime is imprisonment of between 3 to 20 years, a maximum fine of \$50,000, or both.

HB 331 Sardis, City of; provide new charter

By: Rep. Gloria Frazier (126th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 331 provides a new charter for the city of Sardis.

HB 336 Agriculture; hemp farming; compliance with federal laws and regulations; provide

By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 336 makes changes to Chapter 23 of Title 2, which addresses hemp farming, to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations. Upon receipt of an application, prospective growers and processors must submit one set of classifiable fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a search of records; the Department of Agriculture must provide the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Among other changes to meet compliance, the bill removes the term "background check" and replaces it with "history report," removes language regarding a grower-processor affidavit requirement, and swaps the term "destroy" with "dispose of."

The bill eliminates language that raises the processor permit fee to \$50,000, keeping the fee set at \$25,000. The amount required for a processor's surety bond is increased from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

HB 338 Motor vehicles; issuance of veterans' driver's licenses; revise qualifications

By: Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 338 clarifies the qualifications for receiving a veteran's driver's license.

HB 346 Jarom's Act; enact

By: Rep. Dominic LaRiccia (169th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 346 authorizes emergency medical service providers to administer hydrocortisone sodium intramuscularly for the purpose of providing emergency care to a patient who: has congenital adrenal hyperplasia or any other adrenal insufficiency; is believed to be in adrenal crisis; is in possession of hydrocortisone sodium succinate in packaging that clearly states the appropriate dosage and has an unbroken seal.

HB 353 Motor vehicles; clarify what constitutes an obstruction for purposes of exceptions to when a vehicle is to drive on the right side of roadway

By: Rep. Todd Jones (25th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 353 requires a motor vehicle operator, when possible, to make a lane change away from the bicyclist when passing a bicycle on a roadway. When a lane change is not possible, the bill requires the motor vehicle operator to reduce the speed of the motor vehicle and pass the bicyclist with at least three feet of distance between the vehicle and the bicycle. The bill sets a violation of this Code section as a misdemeanor.

HB 354 State Board of Cemeterians and Funeral Service; report suspected unlawful activity to the sheriff's office and the Attorney General; require

By: Rep. Ricky Williams (145th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 354 requires that any complaints received by the State Board of Cemeterians be investigated within 30 days of receipt, and if that investigation finds any potential violations of state or federal criminal law, the board must provide notice of those potential illegalities to the attorney general's office and the local sheriff's office within seven days. The attorney general has 60 days to investigate the complaint and report this information to the local prosecuting attorney with relevant information uncovered during the investigation.

HB 355 Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry; inclusion of building products in construction; provisions

By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th) Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 355 requires the director of the Georgia Forestry Commission to establish the Sustainable Building Material Technical Advisory Committee. The committee's members consist of the following: one member with expertise in engineering and architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology; one member with expertise related to the Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes; one member that is a real estate developer or builder; one member with expertise related to carbon offset protocol development; one member with whole building life cycle assessment expertise; and up to three at-large members. The director of the Georgia Forestry Commission determines the chairperson of the committee. The committee advises the director on interoperability and compatibility of state credits derived from carbon sequestration of building materials with global carbon credit and offset markets as well as on guidelines related to the establishment of a carbon baseline, validation, verification, and co-benefits. The advisory committee shall be abolished no later than one year after the committee's first meeting, but can be reconvened at the discretion of the director.

Developers must register with the Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry to be eligible to receive credits for the use of carbon-capturing building materials. Participants must provide certified carbon sequestration results to provide a baseline. An approved third-party organization may provide testing of building materials that sequester carbon dioxide. Only projects completed after July 1, 2019, may be considered.

To ensure integrity of the program, the Georgia Forestry Commission must conduct random evaluations of the results provided by participants and report the findings in the biennial report to the governor and General Assembly.

HB 357 Pelham, City of; reduce size of city council; revise powers of mayor

By: Rep. Joe Campbell (171st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 357 reduces the size of the Pelham City Council and revises the power of the mayor to allow the mayor to vote at city council meetings.

HB 361 Edison, City of; provide new charter

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 361 provides a new charter for the city of Edison.

HB 362 Environmental Protection Division; effective date for standards, rules, and regulations; revise

By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 362 changes the definition of "bass" by removing the following: smallmouth bass, spotted bass, redeye bass, shoal bass, and Suwannee bass. Largemouth bass is replaced with "members of the genus micropterus, or the black bass, and their hybrids" in the definition of bass, as well as adds hybrids to the definitions of trout and mountain trout.

Regarding firearms used during primitive weapons seasons and while hunting deer and bear, the allowable caliber of muzzleloading firearms is changed from .44 caliber or larger to .30 caliber or larger.

The bill provides the Department of Natural Resources with the authority to establish a deer management assistance program. The program allows the department to implement fees and property-specific bag limits that do not comply with other statewide bag limits.

HB 362 allows for the use of minnow seines or minnow traps to collect game fish, according to O.C.G.A. 27-4-6, or non-game fish with a valid resident or non-resident fishing license. The bill further grants the Department of Natural Resources the authority to set parameters for the use of minnow seines and minnow traps, including open seasons, possession limits, and waters open to the use of the traps.

The effective date of the following Code sections related to rules and regulations promulgated by the Environmental Advisory Council and the Board of Natural Resources is changed to January 1, 2021.

HB 363 Crimes and offenses; protection of elder persons; revise definitions

By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 363 removes various subsections of the Code that escalate punishment for elder crimes due to rule of lenity concerns with existing law, in particular with statutory interpretation in favor of the defendant due to crimes with overlapping elements as codified in the subsections below and in O.C.G.A. 16-5-102.

The bill adds a new definition under O.C.G.A. 16-5-100 for "abuse of access" and also references that definition in the definition of "exploit."

A subsection of §16-5-20 is rescinded that escalates the punishment to an aggravated crime when simple assault is committed against an individual who is 65 years of age or older. A subsection of O.C.G.A. 16-5-23 is rescinded that escalates the punishment to an aggravated crime when simple battery is committed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a licensed long-term care facility, assisted-living community, personal care home, or those licensed for home health care, or against a person who is admitted to or receiving services from one of the applicable facilities, persons, or entities. A subsection of §16-5-23.1 is rescinded that escalates the punishment for when battery is committed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a licensed long-term care facility, assisted-living community, personal care home, or those licensed for home health care, or against a person who is admitted to or receiving services from one of the applicable facilities, persons, or entities. A subsection of §16-8-12 is rescinded that escalates the punishment for when theft by deception is committed against an individual who is 65 years of age or older and the property is worth more than \$500 in value.

HB 364 Professions and businesses; exempt persons having completed Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training from required fingerprint submission for application to be licensed as a private guard, watchman, or patrolman

By: Rep. J. Collins (68th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 364 allows law enforcement officers, who are certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, to be exempted from certain requirements when applying for private detective and private security licenses. The bill also allows those officers to serve in private security positions while awaiting the application decision of the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies.

- HB 367** **Controlled substances; Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V; change certain provisions**
By: Rep. Butch Parrish (158th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 367 is the annual narcotics and drug update regarding Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V controlled substances to capture new synthetic opiates and synthetic marijuana. Various substances are added to or removed from the various schedules, including the new addition of N-substituted benzimidazole structural class substances to Schedule I. Further, the definition of "dangerous drug" in O.C.G.A. 16-13-71 is revised to add and remove various drugs, while also adding new exemptions to the term.
- HB 370** **Health; term limits for members of joint hospital authorities; provide**
By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 370 provides term limits for members of joint hospital authorities of 12 years or three consecutive terms. This bill only applies to the Fulton and DeKalb hospital authorities. Additionally, this bill restricts hospital authorities from utilizing revenues to perform any power or duty delegated in a lease.
- HB 374** **Sales and use tax; local authorities providing public water or sewer service; exempt**
By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 374 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3, relating to exemptions from sales and use taxes, by adding an exemption for sales to an authority that provides public water or sewer service.
- HB 375** **Bremen, City of; levy an excise tax**
By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 375 authorizes the governing authority of Bremen to levy an excise tax.
- HB 376** **Bacon County; Board of Education; modify compensation of members**
By: Rep. Dominic LaRiccia (169th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 376 modifies the compensation of the chairperson and the members of the Bacon County Board of Education. The chairperson will receive \$250 per month, \$75 for each board meeting he or she attends, and \$75 for each day he or she is outside the county on official board business approved by the board. The other members of the board will receive \$200 per month, \$50 for each board meeting they attend, and \$50 for each day they are outside the county on official board business approved by the board.
- HB 392** **Alcoholic beverages; licenses for retail sale packages of alcoholic beverages for consumption off premises shall be subject to regulation as to distance from schools as determined by the local governing authority; provide**
By: Rep. Jason Ridley (6th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 392 makes new alcoholic beverage licensees for package sale for off-premises consumption of beer or wine subject to the local jurisdiction's distance requirements from school and educational buildings. These distance requirements can be less restrictive than those in the Code, but cannot be more restrictive. If the local jurisdiction does not have specific distance requirements enacted for school and educational buildings, then the state's distance requirements shall control. The bill also clarifies the definition of "in-room service" for hotels and that the limitation on distilled spirits applies to package sales.
- HB 395** **The Professional Counselors Licensure Compact Act; enact **GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT** [HERE](#)**
By: Rep. D. C. Belton (112th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 395 enters Georgia into the Professional Counselors Licensure Compact, pending passage of required legislation in 10 total U.S. states. Provisions of the compact will be administered by the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. The compact allows for practitioners, including active-duty military personnel and their spouses, who are licensed in a member state to more easily practice in the other member states, so long as the licensee remains active and in good standing, among other requirements. The bill allows the board to conduct national background checks of applicants through the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

- HB 396 South Georgia Regional Information Technology Authority; repeal Act**
By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 396 repeals the South Georgia Regional Information Technology Authority.
- HB 410 Bingo; transfer regulatory authority from Georgia Bureau of Investigation to Secretary of State**
By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 410 transfers the regulation of bingo to the authority of the Secretary of State from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.
- HB 443 Torts; transfer of structured settlement payment rights; provide new requirements**
By: Rep. Rob Leverett (33rd) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 443 creates the 'Georgia Structured Settlement Protection Act' to provide new requirements regarding the transfer of structured settlement payment rights.
- The bill defines certain terms and establishes registration and application requirements for persons or entities acquiring, or proposing to acquire, structured settlement payment rights (defined in the bill as "transferees".) A person or entity shall not act as a transferee, attempt to acquire structured settlement payment rights from a Georgia resident, or file a structured settlement transfer proceeding unless the person or entity has registered with the Secretary of State to do business in Georgia. Applications must be renewed annually and include a sworn certification providing that the applicant has secured a surety bond, has been issued a letter of credit, or has posted a cash bond in the amount of \$50,000. The bond, letter of credit, or cash bond shall be effective concurrently with an applicant's registration with the Secretary of State and will remain in effect for not less than three years after expiration or termination of that registration and is to be renewed each year when the registration of the applicant is renewed. The Secretary of State is authorized to set and charge a fee to offset the costs of processing and maintaining the required registration. Transferees or structured settlement purchase companies are prohibited from engaging in certain actions, and a cause of action is created for the violation of such prohibitions.
- At least 10 days before the holder of a structured settlement signs a transfer agreement that transfers his or her interest in such settlement to a transferee, the transferee must provide such holder with certain disclosures. No transfer of structured settlement payment rights shall be effective unless the transfer has been approved in advance in a final court order based on certain express findings by the court. Notice of a transferee's application for the approval of such transfer must be provided at least 20 days prior to any scheduled hearing on the application. Requirements for such notice and application are also provided.
- The provisions of the act may not be waived by a payee. Any transfer agreement entered into by a payee in this state will provide that disputes under such transfer agreement are to be determined by Georgia law. Rights under a structured settlement are not extend to payments that are contingent on life unless the transferee establishes and agrees to maintain procedures that periodically confirm the payee's survival and give an annuity insurer and the structured settlement obligor prompt notice of the payee's death. The act shall not be construed to imply that any transfer agreement entered into prior to the act's effective date is valid or invalid, or affect the validity of any transfer of structured settlement payment rights, whether under a transfer agreement entered into prior to or subsequent to the act's effective date, in which the obligor and annuity issuer have waived, or have not asserted their rights under, terms of the structured settlement prohibiting or restricting sale, assignment, or encumbrance of the structured settlement payment rights.
- HB 445 South Fulton, City of; change corporate boundaries**
By: Rep. Roger Bruce (61st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 445 changes the corporate boundaries of the city of South Fulton.
- HB 451 Ad valorem tax; property; fair market value applicable to inventor; provisions**
By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 451 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-48.1, relating to the tangible personal property inventory exemption, by allowing a taxpayer that claimed the finished goods inventory exemption for the 2020 tax year to have the option for the 2021 tax year to claim the exemption using the fair market value of finished goods as of January 1, 2020 or January 1, 2021.

HB 453 Special license plates; certified, volunteer, and retired firefighters; provide standards for proof of eligibility

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 453 allows firefighters to utilize a firefighter special license plate on a vehicle used for transportation purposes unrelated to their role as a firefighter. The bill includes retired firefighters on the eligible firefighter list that is provided to county tag agents in order to establish who qualifies for a firefighter special license plate.

HB 454 Insurance; certain coverage requirements concerning providers that become out-of-network during a plan year; provide

By: Rep. Mark Newton (123rd) Through the Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 454 requires an insurer to reimburse a provider at the most recent in-network rates for 180 days after a provider's contract terminates or until the last day of a person's coverage, whichever is sooner, if the insurer's provider directory included a provider as a participating provider during the open enrollment period. During a public health emergency and for 150 days after the expiration of the public health emergency, the bill prohibits an insurer from terminating a provider from the insurer's network and requires in-network reimbursement rates to be maintained. This bill is effective on January 1, 2022.

HB 456 Carroll County; Board of Elections; expand board from three to five members

By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 456 expands the Carroll County Board of Elections from three members to five members. The Carroll County Board of Commissioners will appoint each member of the board.

HB 458 Georgia Composite Medical Board; require certain training relating to sexual misconduct for members

By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 458 requires all newly appointed board members of the Georgia Composite Medical Board to participate in training and education to support greater understanding of sexual misconduct, sexual boundaries, and impacts of trauma and implicit bias within three months of such appointment. All board members in office as of January 1, 2022 are required to participate in this training by March 30, 2022.

On or after January 1, 2022, continuing education requirements for dentists include legal ethics and professionalism in the practice of dentistry. These new requirements will include: education and training regarding professional boundaries; and unprofessional conduct relating to the commission of acts of sexual intimacy, abuse, misconduct, or exploitation.

Additionally, this bill authorizes the board to refuse a license, certificate, or permit and issue discipline for members who have pleaded guilty or were found guilty by a court of law of committing a sexual assault on a patient. If the board finds that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action pursuant to an alleged sexual assault on a patient by a licensee, the board may suspend a license, pending proceedings for revocation or other action.

On or after January 1, 2022, all physicians are required to receive one-time education and training, for a minimum of two hours, regarding professional boundaries and physician sexual misconduct. This education and training will include subject matter on how to proceed with basic as well as sensitive or intimate examinations and the effective communication techniques with patients.

No later than January 1, 2022, the board will develop and identify education resources and materials for physicians, board members, and board staff to support greater understanding of sexual misconduct, sexual boundaries, and impacts of trauma and implicit bias. On or after June 30, 2022, this same type of education and training applies to each medical or osteopathic school in good standing with the board.

Furthermore, House Bill 458 requires physicians, registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses, and physician assistants to report the name of a physician to the board if such provider has reasonable cause to believe that the physician committed a sexual assault. No provider required to report a physician to the board, who in good faith either reports or fails to report, will be subject to civil or criminal liability or discipline for unprofessional conduct.

Any provider required to report a physician to the board who knowingly and willfully fails to do so will be

subject to a fine of no less than \$1,000, or greater than \$5,000, as determined by the provider's licensing board. Law enforcement officers investigating cases of alleged sexual assaults on a patient by a physician are authorized to send pertinent and confidential records on such cases to the board.

The board will compile a report to the governor and General Assembly on January 1 of each year on the number of physicians the board has conducted sexual assault investigations on and the outcome of the investigations. In no event will any identifying information be included in this report for investigations that exonerate the physician, or do not result in the refusal, revocation, or suspension of a license, or a private or public disciplinary order.

HB 459 Local government; prohibit annexations of county operated airport property

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 459 prohibits certain municipalities from annexing any territory that includes a county-operated airport unless the county government adopts a resolution approving such annexation.

HB 465 Local government; imposing civil penalties upon an alarm systems contractor for a false alarm that occurs through no fault of alarm systems contractor; prohibit

By: Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 465 allows a local government to establish ordinances requiring alarm system contractors to pay fines or fees as a result of a false alarm only when the false alarm is attributed to the alarm system contractor's error. If the false alarm was not due to the contractor's error, the local government may hold the alarm user responsible for any fines, fees, or other penalties related to the false alarm.

HB 466 Motor vehicles; number of required hours in the intervention component of DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs; reduce

By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 466 allows for driver education training courses and driver training courses to be conducted in-person, online, or via remote participation platforms.

The department must not issue specified driver's licenses to a person under 18 years of age unless certain qualifications are met. Any Georgia resident who is at least 16 years of age and has had a valid instruction permit for a period of at least 12 months may apply for a Class D driver's license to operate a non-commercial Class C vehicle if certain qualifications are met. Any person at least 17 years old who provides proof of military enlistment and meets specified qualifications shall be eligible for a Class C driver's license.

The bill allows, in specified instances, driver training schools and public or private high schools to administer the skills test required for a commercial driver's license. The Department of Driver Services commissioner is authorized to issue a special license to qualified driver training school instructors allowing them to serve as driver's license examiners and conduct tests required for the issuance of a driver's license. The bill requires the department to be notified when there is a change in ownership of a driver training school, DUI alcohol or drug use risk reduction program, or driver improvement program.

HB 470 Property; no plans are required when units are not designated by physical structures; provide

By: Rep. Dale Washburn (141st) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 470 exempts condominium units, where the boundaries of the unit are not designated by walls, floors, ceilings, or other physical structures, from the requirement of submitting plans for each individual unit as long as the boundaries of the unit are depicted on a plat of survey. This subsection does not apply to units that are individual homes intended for single-family occupancy. Subcondominiums are also exempted from the requirement of providing a separate plat of survey for each unit.

HB 479 Criminal procedure; revise certain arrest powers; provisions

By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 479 repeals the citizen's arrest statute from the Code, provides instances in which law enforcement officers may make arrest outside of their jurisdiction, and establishes when certain private citizens may detain individuals.

Law enforcement officers may make an arrest for an offense outside of their jurisdiction: if the offense is

committed in an officer's presence or within an officer's immediate knowledge; when in immediate pursuit of an offender for an offense committed within the officer's jurisdiction; or while assisting another law enforcement officer in the jurisdiction of the other officer.

Owners and employees of a retail establishment may detain an individual if they reasonably believe that the individual committed, or attempted to commit, theft by shoplifting, refund fraud, or theft by unlawful use of receipts or universal product code labels. The owner or employees of any business entity operating on their own property, or on the property of others on which they are doing business, may detain an individual if they reasonably believe that the individual committed, or attempted to commit, theft by taking or theft of services. Weight inspectors with the motor carrier compliance division of the Department of Public Safety when needed for purposes of his or her duties, and licensed or registered private detective or private security businesses when conducting their business, may detain individuals. Any of these private persons who detain an individual is to either release the individual or contact law enforcement within a reasonable time. Any individual detained by these private persons who is not released will be surrendered to a law enforcement officer along with any personal belongings removed from the individual.

Nothing in this bill shall be construed to limit or alter any immunity or defense provided under Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 16. Except in circumstances involving use of force in defense of self or others, involving use of force in defense of habitation, or involving use of force to prevent the commission of a forcible felony, any of the private persons provided for in the bill who detain an individual shall not use force which is intended or likely to cause great bodily harm or death, but may use reasonable force to the extent the private person reasonably believes is necessary to detain the individual.

Code Section 51-7-60, relating to the preclusion of recovery for detention or arrest of persons suspected of shoplifting, is amended to conform to the provisions created by the bill.

HB 480 Property; creation, declaration and priority of liens for labor, services, or materials performed or furnished by registered interior designers; provide

By: Rep. Dale Washburn (141st) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 480 amends Part 3 of Article 8 of Chapter 14 of Title 44 of the Code, relating to mechanics and materialmen liens, to establish liens for labor, services, or materials performed or furnished by registered interior decorators.

The bill also amends Code Section 43-40-8, relating to the qualifications of applicants for real estate broker licensure, to provide that applicants who maintain a salesperson's license in active status for at least three of the five preceding years, or maintain a broker's license in active status for at least five years to become a broker, are qualified applicants, subject to other qualifications currently in the Code.

HB 488 Courts; increase minimum compensation for chief magistrates and others; provide

By: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 488 raises the minimum salary and compensation of chief magistrates and clerks of magistrate court. For chief magistrates, the new minimum salary is equal to the previous minimum salary, plus previously enacted cost-of-living adjustments, plus an additional five percent raise. Monthly minimums for magistrate court clerks are increased by the same percentage.

HB 490 Catoosa County; certain purchases made; remove certain bidding requirements

By: Rep. Dewayne Hill (3rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 490 removes certain bidding requirements on certain purchases made by Catoosa County.

HB 495 Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board; revise duties

By: Rep. Clint Crowe (110th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 495 transfers one investigator from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to the Sexual Offender Review Board. This investigator is responsible for summarizing criminal history information that assists the board in determining the offender's risk assessment. The GBI is required to maintain one investigator to facilitate the provision of the information to the board from the Georgia Crime Information Center and the National Crime Information Center.

HB 497 Code Revision Commission; revise, modernize and correct errors or omissions

By: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (104th) Through the Code Revision Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 497 is the annual Code revision clean-up 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 have become obsolete, been declared unconstitutional, or been preempted or superseded by subsequent laws. Lastly, the bill provides for other matters relating to revision, reenactment, and publication of the Code.

HB 498 Ad valorem tax; property; expand an exemption for agricultural equipment and certain farm products

By: Rep. Sam Watson (172nd) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 498 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-41.1, relating to the exemption of qualified farm products and harvested agricultural products from taxation, by adding dairy products and unfertilized eggs of poultry to the list of qualified farm products and by modifying the definition of "family-owned farm entity." Family-owned farm entity is expanded to allow an entity created by the merger or consolidation of two or more entities that would qualify independently as a family-owned farm entity. The bill requires approval by referendum and includes ballot language for the November 2022 election.

The bill also amends 48-8-3, relating to exemptions from sales and use tax, by adding an exemption for sales of mechanically-propelled watercraft by a dealer to an individual who resides outside of this state provided that such watercraft is taken immediately outside of the state and exclusively used outside of the state.

HB 509 Insurance; require certain insurers to make at least one reasonably priced comprehensive major medical health insurance policy available

By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 509 requires every insurer delivering or issuing for delivery comprehensive individual major medical health insurance policies in Georgia to make at least one reasonably priced comprehensive major medical health insurance policy available to residents in the insurer's approved services areas of Georgia. Insurers will not exclude, limit, or deny coverage under such policy due to one or more pre-existing medical conditions. This bill is contingent on a federal law or United States Supreme Court decision that repeals the 'Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act'.

HB 511 State treasury; establishment or revision of certain Trust Funds; provide

By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) Through the Appropriations Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 511 dedicates specific fees by general law for 10 years and creates the framework to segregate the collections for each fee dedicated in this manner as a unique trust fund earning interest within the Office of the Treasurer. Effective Fiscal Year 2023, the amount of the annual collections and interest, as reported to and confirmed by the three budget offices, provides the statutory basis for the amount to be appropriated in next budget cycle. The appropriation for each fee is done as a distinct and separate fund source within all appropriations bills for the duration of the dedication.

The dedicated trust funds and the trustees of those funds established in or included in the framework within HB 511 are the: Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Trust Fund, under the purview of the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources; Solid Waste Trust Fund and Hazardous Waste Trust Fund, under the purview of the director of the Environmental Protection Division; State Children's Trust Fund, under the purview of the director of the Division of Family and Children Services; Trauma Care Network Trust Fund, under the purview of the executive director of the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission; Transportation Trust Fund and Georgia Transit Trust Fund, under the purview of the commissioner of the Department of Transportation; Georgia Agricultural Trust Fund, under the purview of the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture; and Fireworks Trust Fund, under the purview of the commissioner of the Department of Revenue.

Finally, the bill establishes a fiscal note analysis process as a requirement for future legislation dedicating a fee. The analysis, prepared by the Office of Planning and Budget and the State Auditor, accompanies the bill, which must be introduced by the 20th day of a legislative session. Bills that do not pass in the first year of a biennium must be reintroduced with an updated fiscal analysis.

- HB 532 Labor, Department of; employment security; change certain provisions**
By: Rep. William Werkheiser (157th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 532 revises language regarding waivers of work-search requirements to reflect that waivers cannot be made if they conflict with federal law. The definition of "eligibility period" in relation to extended benefits is revised to remove various potential situations and note that the period only consists of the weeks in the benefit year. The bill also creates an exception to the traditional end of benefits by allowing for extended benefits through November 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021. The bill further clarifies language regarding when the "state 'on' indicator" occurs in relation to the 'Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970.'
- HB 533 City of Sylvester Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 533 creates the Sylvester Public Facilities Authority.
- HB 534 Crimes and offenses; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for offense**
By: Rep. Josh Bonner (72nd) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 534 establishes a crime and penalty for promoting, organizing, or participating in illegal drag racing or laying drags, as well as reckless stunt driving. The violator of this law is guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and faces suspension of his or her driver's license and possible imprisonment. Penalties graduate based on the number of convictions a person receives.
- HB 535 Sylvester, City of; provide extraterritorial utility services; authorize**
By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 535 authorizes the city of Sylvester to provide extraterritorial utility services.
- HB 546 Richmond Hill, City of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 546 provides a new charter for the city of Richmond Hill.
- HB 548 Social services; reasonable access to records concerning reports of child abuse to the Administrative Office of the Courts; provide**
By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 548 provides access to records of child abuse reports for the Administrative Office of the Courts for the purpose of providing more information in cases involving children who have been the subject of dependency actions and actions to terminate parental rights. This information is protected by agreements with the Division of Family and Children Services to provide appropriate confidentiality.
- HB 553 State government; participation in hearings by electronic communications; provide**
By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 553 amends the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act' to allow for administrative law hearings, which were previously permitted to be conducted by telephonic communication, to be conducted using broader electronic communication means. The Office of State Administrative Hearings may require the electronic filing of documents and to serve any party electronically unless law requires alternative means of service. Records of hearings may be made available and transferred by electronic means. The bill also adds the Department of Community Health as a "reviewing agency" under Code Section 50-13-41(d).
- HB 560 Thomas County; Board of Commissioners; modify compensation**
By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 560 modifies the compensation of the Thomas County Board of Commissioners. The chair will receive \$700 per month, and the remaining members of the board will receive \$600 per month.

HB 562 Criminal procedure; add DFCS case managers to people for whom arrest warrants may be issued only by certain judicial officers

By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 562 requires that an arrest warrant of a Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) case manager, being brought for an offense alleged to have been committed while in the official's work capacity, be issued by a superior court judge, state court judge, or probate court judge. Further, the bill allows for a prosecutor, in any criminal case in which there is a jury trial, to move for a change of venue in writing if that prosecutor determines that an impartial jury cannot be impaneled in the county where the alleged crime was committed and either a previous prosecutor has recused himself or herself, been disqualified, or been removed from the cause for cause, or a local government official has publicly released prejudicial information that has the potential to taint the jury pool. The judge has the discretion to transfer the case to any county that is agreed upon by both the defendant and prosecutor.

HB 567 Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee; create

By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 567 authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) to promulgate rules and regulations creating a newborn screening system for the prevention of serious illness, severe physical or developmental disability, and death caused by inherited metabolic and genetic disorders. Additionally, this bill establishes the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee that consists of no less than 11, nor more than 21 members, appointed by the DPH commissioner. This committee will consider and make recommendations to the commissioner related to the inclusion of screening for any disorder added to the federal recommended uniform screening panel within one year of an addition. As part of such recommendations, the advisory committee will advise the commissioner on the estimated cost to DPH for screening for new disorders.

Furthermore, this bill adds a 30-day timeline for health care providers, facilities, and pharmacies to provide access to the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to medical records associated with cases under review.

HB 574 Animals; Companion Local Government Animal Trust Fund for reimbursement of impoundment expenses incurred by local governments; provide

By: Rep. Beth Camp (131st) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 574 creates the Companion Local Government Animal Trust Fund and dedicates no more than \$50,000 of collected pet dealer, kennel, stable, and animal shelter fees to the fund, provided the fund's total does not exceed \$200,000. Local governments may apply for reimbursement of expenses related to impounding more than 29 dogs or cats or more than nine equines as part of an investigation. The Department of Agriculture determines which expenses are reasonably and appropriately incurred and qualify for reimbursement. The department is to retain up to \$10,000 for the administration of the fund and develop rules and regulations. The commissioner will provide a report on the fund to the House and Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs committees by February 1 of each year. The fund stands abolished on July 1, 2031.

HB 575 Ad valorem tax; authorize on premises processing and marketing of agricultural products as a qualifying conservation use

By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 575 adds a new Code section relating to Local Option Sales Taxes that allows any consolidated government created by the consolidation of a county and one or more municipalities to impose an additional one percent local option sales tax. The additional one percent must be approved by a resolution of the governing authority of the consolidated government. A referendum on the additional one percent must also be approved. Following the imposition of the additional tax, the consolidated government imposing the tax must reduce the millage rate for ad valorem taxation of tangible property. For the year following the initial year of imposition, the millage rate for ad valorem taxation must be reduced by five mills and for the following years, the millage rate for ad valorem taxation must be reduced by an amount that in aggregate equals the amount of revenue generated by the additional one percent local option sales tax. The additional one percent expires after five years and must be approved by referendum to be continued.

HB 577 Highways, bridges, and ferries; proposal guaranty for bids upon certain projects; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 577 is the Georgia Department of Transportation's annual housekeeping bill. Section One requires the Board of Natural Resources to provide rules and regulations containing specific

criteria for approval or denial by the director of requests for variances for road construction and maintenance projects undertaken by GDOT.

Sections Two and Three require bids for capital construction or capital maintenance to be accompanied by a proposal guaranty in the form of a certified check or other acceptable security payable to the department treasurer for an amount deemed necessary by the department to ensure that the successful bidder will execute the contract on which he or she bid.

Section Four, related to airport licensing, is updated for public airports. The legislation establishes the distinction between public and private airports and removes the requirement for consultation with the Georgia Aviation Trades Association in the establishment of minimum standards and promulgation of rules relating to airport licensure. HB 577 makes it unlawful to operate an airport that is open to the public for general aviation purposes without first obtaining and then maintaining a valid license. The bill establishes the process for the department's ability to take action against violators as well as provides penalty for violating the requirement to have a license to operate.

Section Five updates the Code relating to the State Road and Tollway Authority and conduit bonds issued for public private partnership projects.

Section Six clarifies that the maximum speed limit in any urban area is 30 miles per hour unless otherwise designated by appropriate signs. In order for a posted speed limit to be higher than 30 miles per hour in an urban district, a traffic and engineering study is required.

HB 579 Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Act; enact

By: Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (82nd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 579 removes the requirement that public safety and judicial authorities must pass a referendum in order to issue bonds for new projects.

HB 582 Cherokee County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections

By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 582 provides that the future elections of the Cherokee County probate judge will be non-partisan.

HB 588 Transportation; eligible expenditures; Georgia Freight Railroad Program; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 588 updates Georgia's Code section on projects completed as a public private partnership (P3) by defining what constitutes a public benefit. Projects that provide "public benefit" are those that result in enhanced public safety; enhanced mobility of goods; congestion mitigation; enhanced trade and economic development; improved air quality or land use; a reduction of public expenditures due to improved transportation efficiency or infrastructure preservation; and other public benefits identified and approved by a majority of the State Transportation Board. The legislation requires that the public benefit also align with goals in the statewide strategic transportation plan or the state's freight plan defined in federal Code.

House Bill 588 authorizes the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to utilize an alternative contracting method for project delivery that includes either an agreement in which a construction manager/general contractor performs two phases of work, which include preconstruction and construction services; a predevelopment agreement that has one or more contractors collaborate with the department on one or more projects for the conceptual, preliminary, and final planning for projects, and to perform if elected by the department, the construction work; or a comprehensive development agreement that allows for expedited project delivery through the concurrent design and construction of a project under a single multiphase contract that requires the contractor to collaborate to advance development of the project concept, perform the design and construction services, and perform any operations or maintenance work required for the project. In selecting an alternative contracting method, the department must consider codified criteria, and when chosen, the method/project proposal must be approved by the state transportation board. Additionally, every five years the department must report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, and each chamber's transportation committee members detailing all contracts executed to deliver an alternative contracting method and the benefits realized in utilizing that method.

The legislation amends the definition of a P3 project to include intermodal rail-related and multimodal transportation solutions deemed appropriate for letting by GDOT.

GDOT staff is required to identify and report in odd numbered years to the board potential undertakings best suited for delivery under Georgia's letting procedures Code section related to public private partnerships that are expected to provide the greatest public benefit, reflective of the new definition of "public benefit."

House Bill 588 dedicates the collection of sales and use tax on fuel used exclusively for the operation of locomotives to GDOT for use solely on freight and logistics projects as defined in the bill. Each year, by February 1, GDOT submits a report accounting for the funds received and expended to the House and Senate Transportation Committees, as well as members of the public upon request. This dedication is subject to all conditions imposed by the Constitution of Georgia and is not operational should this provide for the dedication of state revenues in an amount that is equal to or exceeds one percent of the total state revenues based on the previous fiscal year's state revenues that were subject to appropriations.

Finally, HB 588 amends the Code relating to highway impact fees and hotel/motel fees so that if any time the amount collected is not appropriated for two fiscal years to transportation purposes with up to 10 percent of such amount appropriated to transit projects, as determined by the House Budget and Research Office and Senate Budget and Evaluation Office, then the amount collected is reduced by 50 percent. Upon the conclusion of a third fiscal year where the appropriation requirements are not met, the collections cease. The bill requires the budget offices to certify lack of appropriation to the Code Revision Commission for the purpose of updating the Code in accordance with the reduction practices outlined in the bill.

HB 591 Mental health; marriage and family therapists to perform certain acts which physicians and others are authorized to perform; authorize

By: Rep. Don Hogan (179th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 591 authorizes licensed marriage and family therapists to admit individuals for involuntary evaluation of mental or substance use disorders. Additionally, this bill requires emergency receiving facilities to report a variety of de-identified and aggregated data related to 1013s to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

No later than February 15, 2023, and annually thereafter during each legislative session, the department will prepare a report to the General Assembly, the governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House. The report will include the following data from the previous calendar year received from each emergency receiving facility.

HB 593 Tax Relief Act of 2021; enact

By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 593 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-27, relating the computation of state taxable net income, by increasing the standard deduction for taxpayers that are single and heads of household from \$4,600 to \$5,400, taxpayers that are married and filing a joint return from \$6,000 to \$7,100, and taxpayers that are married and filing individual returns from \$3,000 to \$3,550, beginning tax year 2022.

HB 595 Clay County; Board of Education; change compensation of members

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 595 modifies the compensation of the members of the Clay County Board of Education. Members of the board will receive \$300 per month.

HB 600 Hapeville, City of; quorums of mayor and council; revise provisions

By: Rep. David Dreyer (59th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 600 revises provisions related to quorums of the mayor and city council of Hapeville, procedures for filling vacancies on the city council, and provisions related to the city attorney. A quorum constitutes a majority of the members of the mayor and the council, as long as one citywide elected official is present for the transaction of business. If the mayor is not present, then the alderman-at-large will preside over the council meeting. If the alderman-at-large is not present, the councilman-at-large will preside over the meeting.

- HB 603 Brantley County; Board of Commissioners; authorize chairperson to make and second motions and vote on all matters**
By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 603 authorizes the chairperson of the Brantley County Board of Commissioners to make and second motions and vote on all matters that come before the board.
- HB 606 HOPE scholarships; add Georgia Independent School Association to the list of accrediting agencies**
By: Rep. Randy Nix (69th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 606 amends O.C.G.A. 20-3-519 to include the Georgia Independent School Association in the list of accepted accrediting agencies for the purposes of establishing HOPE eligibility for private high schools.
- HB 610 Macon, City of; City of Payne; Bibb County; eligibility for office of mayor; revise provisions**
By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 610 revises provisions regarding eligibility for the office of mayor in Macon-Bibb County. No person will be eligible to serve as mayor unless he or she has been a resident of Macon-Bibb County for one year immediately prior to the date of election; continues to reside within the county during the term of office; is a registered and qualified elector of the county; and is at least 27 years of age, a citizen of the country, and a citizen of the state for at least two years at the time of the election.
- HB 611 State government; definition of small business; change**
By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Small Business Development Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 611 divides the state "small business" definition into three tiers. Tier One has 10 or fewer employees or \$1 million or less in gross receipts per year. Tier Two has 100 or fewer employees or \$10 million or less in gross receipts per year. Tier Three has 300 or fewer employees or less than \$30 million or less in gross receipts a year. The bill also amends Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Code, relating to the Department of Economic Development, by defining innovation, innovative product, and start-up. "Innovation" means the use of a new idea, a new or emerging technology, or a new use of existing technology to address a problem, provide a benefit, or offer a product or service. "Innovative product or service" means a product or service that includes an innovation. "Start-up" is an entity that offers an innovative product or service as its principal function; is registered as a business in the state; has its principal place of business in the state; and was created or developed by one or more people who have never owned more than 25 percent of any business that has had more than \$100,000 in gross receipts in a single year.
- HB 613 Perry, City of; levy an excise tax**
By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 613 authorizes the governing authority of the city of Perry to levy an excise tax.
- HB 617 Postsecondary education; student athletes may receive compensation for use of name, image, or likeness; provide**
By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 617 creates O.C.G.A. 20-3-680 to allow student athletes to receive compensation for the use of the athlete's name, image, or likeness as long as such compensation is not in exchange to attend, participate, or perform at a particular postsecondary education institution. HB 617 requires the postsecondary institution to provide a financial literacy and life skills workshop at the beginning of the student's first and third academic years. House Bill 617 allows team contracts to provide for pooling up to 75 percent of the student athlete's compensation for their name, image, or likeness for the benefit of student athletes previously enrolled at the same institution. This legislation will remain in effect until a federal law is passed relating to student athlete compensation; rules, polices, or regulations are adopted pertaining to such compensation; or until June 30, 2025, at which time this legislation stands repealed.

- HB 619 Heritage trust program; sale of Patrick's Fishing Paradise to a private entity; authorize**
By: Rep. Penny Houston (170th) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 619 allows for the removal of a heritage preserve designation from land known as "Patrick's Fishing Paradise" to allow the Department of Natural Resources to convey the property to a private entity. The conveyance is subject to the approval of the legislature and the State Properties Commission.
- HB 623 Cohutta, City of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Jason Ridley (6th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 623 provides a new charter for the town of Cohutta.
- HB 625 Tri-County Natural Gas Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 625 creates the Tri-County Natural Gas Authority.
- HB 631 Georgia Crime Information Center; develop a system to collect information on an individual's ability to communicate with law enforcement or emergency responders; provisions**
By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 631 establishes the authorization for the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority to provide assistance to any requesting public safety answering point, with its locally managed processes, the collection, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information, voluntarily submitted, indicating that an individual has a physical, mental, or neurological condition which impedes their ability to communicate with a law enforcement officer or emergency responder. These locally managed processes will be regarded as Logan's List.
- HB 634 Wilkinson County; Magistrate Court; provide one-year terms of office for magistrates**
By: Rep. Danny Mathis (144th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 636 provides one-year terms of office for magistrate judges in Wilkinson County.
- HB 635 Courts; each judge of the superior court, state court, and probate court and each magistrate shall have authority to perform any lawful judicial act; provide**
By: Rep. Rob Leverett (33rd) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 635 allows superior, state, probate, and magistrate court judges to perform any lawful, judicial act from any location. Previously, the Code required these judges to be physically located in Georgia to perform such acts. A judge's ability to conduct courts of inquiry by audio-visual communication is expanded.

The bill also authorizes superior and state courts to hold any court session in an alternative facility that is deemed to be in the best interest of the public by county governing authorities; with considerations of travel burden being paramount. Such alternative facilities must be within the same county or an adjoining county and be open and accessible to the public. Criminal jury trials may only be conducted in an alternative location if the governing authority owns the facility or has a contractual relationship with the alternative location.

Superior courts of counties with a state court that utilizes courtrooms outside of the county site may only hold court sessions outside of the county site if the chief judge enters a written order to hold the session outside the county site. The order must include a finding as to why it is impracticable to hold the session at the county site and a judge of the state court enters a written order consenting for the session to be held in the courtroom of the state court. Off-site sessions shall not affect the place of filing for superior court documents. Any state court making courtroom space available to the superior court is authorized to hold sessions of state court in the superior court facilities.

In counties where the county site is located in an unincorporated area and the governing authority determines that building a courthouse annex or satellite courthouse outside of the county site is in the best interest of the public, the state and superior courts of those counties are authorized to conduct any court sessions, grand juries, or other related business of the courts at such sites.

The bill also allows a defendant to waive his or her right to a jury trial, so long as the defendant is not being tried for the death penalty or a serious violent felony, and have the case tried by the presiding judge as a bench trial. While a prosecuting attorney's objection to this waiver does not preclude the court from granting the defendant's request for the waiver, the court maintains the discretion to order a jury trial regardless of the waiver. Procedurally, when the defendant makes the waiver, the court shall advise the defendant about the right to a trial by jury; the differences between the types of trial; and inquire as to whether the waiver is made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

A district attorney may file an accusation without convening a grand jury, provided the accusation is not a serious violent felony and meets other requirements. The defendant must have expressly waived a commitment hearing, been released on bond pending a commitment hearing, been confined in jail for at least 45 days since his or her arrest, and there must have been a finding of probable cause. The felony violations that fall within this section are revised to include crimes falling under O.C.G.A. 16-13-30 relating to the purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of controlled substances or marijuana. The provisions of this section sunset on June 30, 2022.

HB 653 Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act; pharmacy care; revise definition

By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 653 expands the definition of "pharmacy care" by including the ordering and administering of tests that have been cleared or approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, such as viral and serology COVID-19 tests. A pharmacist conducting these tests will only do so at a pharmacy or other facility that is approved under a certificate of waiver from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

HB 655 Brookhaven, City of; filling of vacancies in the offices of mayor and councilmembers; provisions

By: Rep. Matthew Wilson (80th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 655 provides for the filling of vacancies in the offices of mayor and councilmember of the city of Brookhaven.

HB 658 Franklin-Hart Airport Authority; members and employees; revise provisions

By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 658 revises the provisions regarding members and employees of the Franklin-Hart Airport Authority transacting certain business with the authority. No member or employee of the authority shall have any financial interest, profit, or benefit in any contract, work, or business of the authority, nor in the sale, lease, or purchase of property to or from the authority; however, a member or employee of the authority may lease, purchase, or sell real property to the authority if the member or employee first complies with the provisions of subsection (c) of O.C.G.A. 16-10-6.

HB 676 Georgia Farmers' Market and Produce Terminal Development Authority Act; enact

By: Rep. Penny Houston (170th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 676 creates a legislative advisory committee that provides oversight of the state's farmers' markets and is comprised of the following: the chairs of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Economic Development and Tourism and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture and Consumer Affairs; the chairs of both the House and Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committees; three members of the House of Representatives as appointed by the chair of the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee; and three members of the Senate appointed by the chair of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.

The advisory committee will commission an independent study of the economic viability and benefits of existing farmers' markets and develop a five-year plan for all state farmers' markets. This section is repealed on January 10, 2027.

HB 680 Stewart County; Board of Commissioners; revise provisions relating to purchases and bids

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 680 revises provisions relating to purchases and bids of the Stewart County Board of Commissioners. Any bid or proposal for goods or services valued at \$40,000 or more must be

advertised for two weeks in the official legal organ of the county and in the Georgia Procurement Registry managed by the Georgia Department of Administrative Services State Purchasing Division. Formal sealed bids are required for purchases that exceed \$100,000.

- HB 682 Pickens County; board of elections and registration; reconstitute and reestablish**
By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 682 reconstitutes and reestablishes the Pickens County Board of Elections and Registration. The board is composed of five members. The governing authority of the county appoints one non-partisan member, who serves as the chair. Two members are appointed by the governing authority from a list of four nominees made by the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates in the preceding regular general election held for the General Assembly received the largest number of votes in the state. Two members are appointed by the governing authority of the county from a list of four nominees made by the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates received the second largest number of votes in the state. The terms of office for the initial members of the board begin on July 1, 2021. The bill will not become effective and will be automatically repealed on July 1, 2021, if a bill to abolish the current board is not approved during the 2021 Session.
- HB 683 Pickens County board of elections and registration; provide abolition of board on a date certain**
By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 683 provides for abolition of the Pickens County Board of Elections and Registration on June 30, 2021.
- HB 684 Troup County; board of elections and registration; provide new five member board**
By: Rep. Randy Nix (69th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 684 terminates the office of the current Troup County Board of Elections and Registration and establishes a new five-member board appointed by majority vote of the Troup County Board of Commissioners.
- HB 685 Jasper, City of; reincorporate and provide new charter**
By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 685 provides a new charter for the city of Jasper.
- HB 693 Motor vehicles; operation of farm tractors on interstate highways; prohibit**
By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 693 prohibits farm tractors from being driven on any highway in the state unless deemed necessary by the Department of Public Safety for travel in certain geographic areas of the state. Operators must take reasonable steps to reduce the width of farm tractors. If the width of a farm tractor is more than a roadway or more than half the width of a roadway without marked lanes, the operator shall safely move the tractor as far to the right-hand side of the roadway as possible.
- If a farm tractor or implement of husbandry cannot be moved to the far right-hand side of a roadway, drivers of other vehicles must yield the right-of-way to the tractor or implement of husbandry.
- HB 703 Bleckley County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections**
By: Rep. Danny Mathis (144th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 703 provides for non-partisan elections for the Bleckley County probate judge.
- HB 704 Bleckley County; Magistrate Court chief judge; provide nonpartisan elections**
By: Rep. Danny Mathis (144th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 704 provides for non-partisan elections for the Bleckley County chief magistrate judge.

- HB 705 Bleckley County; Probate Court; charge technology fee**
By: Rep. Danny Mathis (144th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 705 authorizes the Bleckley County Probate Court to charge a technology fee.
- HB 707 Coolidge, City of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Sam Watson (172nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 707 provides a new charter for the city of Coolidge.
- HB 708 City of Hapeville Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. David Dreyer (59th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 708 creates the Hapeville Public Facilities Authority.
- HB 709 Waycross Judicial Circuit; Superior Court judges; increase salary supplement**
By: Rep. Dominic LaRiccia (169th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 709 increases the supplements each county gives to each judge of the Waycross Judicial Circuit. The division of payment among the six counties cannot be less than the following amounts for each judge: Bacon County must pay \$490 per month; Brantley County must pay \$590 per month; Charlton County must pay \$490 per month; Coffee County must pay \$1,000 per month; Pierce County must pay \$590 per month; and Ware County must pay \$1,000 per month.
- HB 711 Sylvester, City of; ward residence requirements for city councilmembers; provide**
By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 711 provides residence requirements for city of Sylvester councilmembers. No person is eligible to serve as mayor or councilmember unless he or she has been a resident of the city for at least 12 months prior to the date of election. Moreover, no person is eligible to serve as councilmember unless he/she has been a resident of the ward he or she represents for at least 12 months prior to the date of election.
- HB 714 Georgia Civil Practice Act; revise and provide for new requirements**
By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) Through the Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 714 amends the 'Georgia Civil Practice Act' to provide that the material terms currently required to be contained in a settlement offer for personal injury claims arising from a motor vehicle collision are the only required terms for such settlement offer, unless the parties otherwise agree to include additional terms. When making an offer to settle, the offeror must include medical or other records related to the claim that are in the offeror's possession and are sufficient to allow the recipient to evaluate the claim. An offer to settle may also include a requirement that a recipient provide a statement, under oath, that all liability and casualty insurance issued by the recipient that provides or may provide coverage for the claim at issue has been disclosed to the offeror or claimant.
- Settlement offers for personal injury claims arising from a motor vehicle collision must now also include an address, facsimile number, or email address to which a written acceptance may be provided. Any payment requirement included in a settlement shall not have a payment deadline of less than 40 days from the receipt of the offer.
- Code Section 33-7-11, relating to motor vehicle insurance, is amended to allow an insured party to collect either 25 percent of the recovery or \$25,000, whichever is greater, from an insurer if the insurer refuses in bad faith to pay the insured after the insured makes a demand to be paid. Previously, recovery for an insured party was capped at 25 percent.
- The bill also amends the 'Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965' to provide that any actions brought under the act may be brought in the state court of Fulton County, in addition to the superior court of Fulton County.

- HB 724 Cobb County; Board of Commissioners; change provisions of compensation of the chairperson and members**
By: Rep. Erick Allen (40th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 724 changes the provisions relating to the compensation of the chairperson and the other commissioners of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. Each commissioner, excluding the chairperson, is eligible to be paid \$48,411 per year as base compensation. The chairperson is eligible to be paid \$140,582.87 per year as base compensation. The chairperson shall be compensated on a full-time employment basis; however, the chairperson is allowed to devote no more than 15 hours per week to a business or employment interest unrelated to the board of commissioners.
- HB 730 Whitfield County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 730 establishes the Whitfield County Public Facilities Authority.
- HB 732 Atlanta, City of; Independent School District ad valorem tax exemption; remove sunset date**
By: Rep. David Dreyer (59th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 732 amends an Atlanta School District homestead exemption by removing the sunset date.
- HB 734 Euharlee, City of; revise corporate limits**
By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 734 revises the corporate limits of the city of Euharlee.
- HB 739 Blue Ridge, City of; staggered terms of mayor and councilmembers; provide**
By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 739 provides staggered terms for the mayor and councilmembers of the city of Blue Ridge.
- HB 740 Pendergrass, City of; add two new members to city council**
By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 740 adds two new members to the city council of the town of Pendergrass.
- HB 742 Gainesville City School District; continue existence; provide powers of the board of education**
By: Rep. Matt Dubnik (29th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 742 continues the existence of the Gainesville City School District as an independent school system.
- HB 743 Fort Valley, City of; Utility Commission; add three appointed members**
By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 743 adds three appointed members to the Fort Valley Utility Commission. The Peach County Board of Commissioners appoints two members to the commission who reside within the county but outside the corporate limits of the city. The Crawford County Board of Commissioners appoints one member of the commission who resides in the county. Appointed members serve four-year terms.
- HB 744 Smyrna, City of; annexation of certain territory into the boundaries of the city; provide**
By: Rep. Teri Anulewicz (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 744 provides for the annexation of certain territory into the boundaries of the city of Smyrna.

- HB 749 Chatham County Building and Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Carl Gilliard (162nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 749 creates the Chatham County Building and Facilities Authority.
- HB 750 Chatham County Legislative Gang Prevention and Intervention Commission; create**
By: Rep. Carl Gilliard (162nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 750 creates the Chatham County Legislative Gang Prevention and Intervention Commission.
- HB 753 Coweta County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 753 creates the Coweta County Public Facilities Authority.
- HB 754 Hoschton, City of; new governmental structure; provide**
By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 754 provides for a new governmental structure for the city of Hoschton.
- HB 757 Atlanta, City of; urban enterprise zones; provide for findings and purpose**
By: Rep. Bee Nguyen (89th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 757 amends the 'Atlanta Urban Enterprise Zone Act' by providing for findings and purpose of urban enterprise zones, for types of ad valorem property tax exemptions, and for designating urban enterprise zones.
- HB 759 Thunderbolt, Town of; levy an excise tax**
By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 759 authorizes the town of Thunderbolt to levy an excise tax.
- HB 761 Lithonia, City of; change corporate limits**
By: Rep. Doreen Carter (92nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 761 changes the corporate limits of the city of Lithonia.
- HB 762 Fulton Technology and Energy Enhancement Authority; create**
By: Rep. Mesha Mainor (56th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 762 creates the Fulton Technology and Energy Enhancement Authority.
- HB 763 Catoosa County; compensation of governing authority; revise provisions**
By: Rep. Dewayne Hill (3rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 763 revises the provisions regarding the compensation of the Catoosa County governing authority. Each member of the board, except the chairperson, shall receive an annual base salary of \$12,000. The chairperson of the board shall receive an annual base salary of \$16,000. The above compensations will be adjusted each year based on the change in the Consumer Price Index.
- HB 764 Fort Oglethorpe, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum**
By: Rep. Dewayne Hill (3rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 764 authorizes the city of Fort Oglethorpe to exercise all redevelopment powers found in the Georgia Constitution and Code.

- HB 765 Catoosa County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Dewayne Hill (3rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 765 creates the Catoosa County Public Facilities Authority.
- HB 766 Catoosa County; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum**
By: Rep. Dewayne Hill (3rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 766 authorizes Catoosa County to exercise all redevelopment powers found in the Georgia Constitution and Code.
- HB 767 Lee County; Magistrate Court; law library fee; revise permitted uses of funds raised**
By: Rep. Bill Yearata (152nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 767 revises the permitted uses of funds raised by the Lee County Magistrate Court law library fee and establishes a Magistrate Court Law Library Fund Committee.
- HB 768 Royston, City of; city council posts; provide**
By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 768 designates city council posts for the city of Royston and revises election procedures and procedures regarding election by plurality.
- HB 769 Spalding County; board of elections; revise composition**
By: Rep. Karen Mathiak (73rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 769 revises the composition of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration. Two members are appointed by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates received the largest number of votes for members of the General Assembly in the preceding general election. Two members are appointed by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates received the next largest number of votes for members of the General Assembly in the preceding general election. One member is appointed by the vote of a majority of the judges of the Spalding County Superior Court.
- HB 770 Gilmer County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee**
By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 770 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Gilmer County Magistrate Court.
- HB 777 DeKalb County; State Court; provide definitions**
By: Rep. Matthew Wilson (80th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 777 provides that general law related to state courts governs the DeKalb County State Court. The bill removes outdated provisions, modifies the provisions related to the appointment of assistant solicitors, modifies the fee schedule of the court, and provides for the chief judge of the court. Moreover, it modifies the provisions for the punishment of contempt and provides for a new procedure for the selection and removal of the clerk, marshal, and chief probation officer of the court. Finally, it provides for the uniform compensation and joint decision making for the state court judges and chief magistrate judge of the county. The bill is effective on January 1, 2022.
- HB 778 Ringgold, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum**
By: Rep. Dewayne Hill (3rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 778 authorizes the city of Ringgold to exercise all redevelopment powers in the Georgia Constitution and Code.
- HB 790 City of Chickamauga Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Mike Cameron (1st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 790 creates the city of Chickamauga Public Facilities Authority.

- HB 791 Powder Springs, City of; update boundaries**
By: Rep. David Wilkerson (38th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 791 updates the boundaries of the city of Powder Springs.
- HB 792 Wayne County Altamaha River and Leisure Services Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 792 creates the Wayne County Altamaha River and Leisure Services Authority.
- HB 793 Wayne County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 793 creates the Wayne County Public Facilities Authority.
- HB 794 Richmond County; Board of Education; modify compensation of members**
By: Rep. Henry "Wayne" Howard (124th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 794 modifies the compensation of the members of the Richmond County Board of Education. Each member of the board, except the president and the vice president, will be paid \$12,000 per year. The vice president will be paid \$13,000 and the president will be paid \$14,000.
- HB 795 Glascock County; Probate Court Judge; repeal Act providing for supplement to compensation; provide for an applicability date**
By: Rep. Mack Jackson (128th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 795 repeals an act to provide a supplement to the compensation of the Glascock Probate Court judge, effective on December 31, 2024.
- HB 799 Clarkston Development Authority Act; repeal**
By: Rep. Karla Drenner (85th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 799 repeals an act to create the Clarkston Development Authority.
- HB 800 Ben Hill County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee**
By: Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 800 authorizes the Ben Hill County Probate Court to assess and collect a technology fee.
- HB 801 Stephens County; board of elections and registration; reconstitute and reestablish**
By: Rep. Chris Erwin (28th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 801 reconstitutes and reestablishes the Stephens County Board of Registrations and Elections. The board will be composed of five members, three of whom shall be at-large members selected and appointed by the county governing authority. Two members are appointed by the governing authority of the county from nominations from each of the county executive committees of the political parties whose candidates for governor in the last general election received the largest and second largest number of votes in the county. The bill will not become effective and will be automatically repealed on July 1, 2021, if a bill to abolish the current board is not approved during the 2021 Session.
- HB 802 Stephens County; Board of Registration and Elections; provide abolition of board on a date certain**
By: Rep. Chris Erwin (28th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 802 abolishes the Stephens County Board of Registrations and Elections on June 30, 2021.

- HB 803 Fannin County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee**
By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 803 authorizes the Fannin County Magistrate Court to assess and collect a technology fee.
- HB 804 Hull, City of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Rob Leverett (33rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 804 provides a new charter for the city of Hull.
- HR 24 Lucci, Dominic Brian; compensate**
By: Rep. Derek Mallow (163rd) Through the Appropriations Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 24 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Dominic Brian Lucci \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.
- HR 25 Jones, Mark Jason; compensate**
By: Rep. Derek Mallow (163rd) Through the Appropriations Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 25 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Mark Jason Jones \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.
- HR 26 Gardiner, Kenneth Eric; compensate**
By: Rep. Derek Mallow (163rd) Through the Appropriations Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 26 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Kenneth Eric Gardiner \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.
- HR 52 Joint Study Committee on Childhood Lead Exposure; create**
By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 52 creates the House Study Committee on Childhood Lead Exposure to examine early intervention and prevention strategies for childhood lead exposure. The committee will be composed of the commissioner of Public Health and five members appointed by the speaker of the House. This study committee is abolished on December 1, 2021.
- HR 77 State veterans cemetery; Augusta-Richmond County; support creation**
By: Rep. Brian Prince (127th) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 77 states that the House of Representatives supports the creation of a state cemetery for veterans in Augusta-Richmond County.
- HR 119 Senator Johnny Isakson Bridge; Chatham County; dedicate**
By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Transportation Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 119 dedicates the bridge on State Route 307 over the Georgia Ports Authority Mega Rail Site in Chatham County as the Senator Johnny Isakson Bridge.
- HR 130 Board of Community Affairs; approving transfer of Forsyth County from Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to Atlanta Regional Commission; ratify action**
By: Rep. Lauren McDonald (26th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 130 ratifies and approves the transfer of Forsyth County from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to the Atlanta Regional Commission.

HR 142 Property; conveyance of certain state owned property; authorize

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 142 is a conveyance resolution for properties located in five counties, conveying property owned by the state of Georgia or amending those conveyances, as follows:

Article 1 amends the lease of approximately 754.105 acres, known as the Walter Williams Park, between the State of Georgia and Baldwin County, for a consideration of \$250 and the Georgia Forestry Commission reserving timber rights over the entire leased area.

Article 2 conveys approximately 0.023 of an acre for right-of-way, 0.010 of an acre easement, and 0.029 of acre as a temporary easement, being a portion of the Augusta Technical College in Columbia County, under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of a portion of SR 388/Horizon South Parkway for \$12,850.

Article 3 surpluses approximately 115 acres of real property, commonly known as the Bainbridge PSATC in the Decatur County, under the custody of the Department of Corrections by 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 so long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity; and other consideration and provisions as the State Properties Commission shall in its discretion determine to be in the best interest of the State of Georgia.

Article 4 surpluses approximately 0.005 of an acre of real property in Fulton County, commonly known as the Yellow Lot, under the custody of the Department of Economic Development to the Georgia Department of Transportation for a total consideration of \$11,500 and such other consideration and provisions as the State Properties Commission shall in its discretion determine to be in the best interest of the State of Georgia.

Article 5 surpluses approximately 2.144 acres of improved property in Hall County, commonly known as the Henderson Well, under the custody of the Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, to a local government, state entity, or competitive bid for fair market value.

HR 143 Property; granting of non-exclusive easements; authorize

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 143 authorizes the granting of non-exclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads, and ingress and egress in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through property owned by the state of Georgia in the counties of Barrow, Bartow, Bibb, Camden, Carroll, Chatham, Glynn, Harris, Macon, Montgomery, Murray, Paulding, Polk, Rabun, Talbot, Troup, Walton, Ware, and Washington, as follows:

Article 1 grants an easement to the Granite-Active Networks or its successors and assigns over approximately .25 of an acre in Barrow County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of high-speed internet cable to serve the Park Kiosk and Visitors Center at Fort Yargo State Park for \$10.00.

Article 2 grants an easement to Southern Company Gas or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.2 of an acre in Bartow County under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground gas distribution lines to serve the Center for Advance Manufacturing Emerging Technologies Building (TCSG-350) at the North Metro Campus of Chattahoochee Technical College for \$10.00.

Article 3 grants an easement to Southern Company Gas or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.2 of an acre in Bartow County under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground gas distribution lines to serve the Center for Advance Manufacturing Emerging Technologies Building (TCSG-350) at the North Metro Campus of Chattahoochee Technical College for \$10.00.

Article 4 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.14 of an acre in Bibb County under the custody of the Department of Defense for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical transmission lines and associated equipment to serve Building #4, Dining Facility at the Macon Readiness Center for \$10.00.

Article 5 grants an easement to Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation or its successors and assigns over approximately 16.08 acres in Camden County under the custody of the Coastal Resources

Division for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of electrical transmission lines and associated equipment to serve Cumberland Island for \$12,100.

Article 6 grants an easement to Southern Company Gas or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.28 of an acre under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground gas distribution lines to serve the Classroom and Library Building (TCSG-265) at the Camden County Campus of Coastal Pines Technical College for \$10.00.

Article 7 grants an easement to Carroll Electric Membership Corporation or its successors and assigns over approximately 1.36 acres in Carroll County under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new campus of West Georgia Technical College (TCSG-349) at West Georgia Technical College for \$10.00.

Article 8 grants an easement to Atlanta Gas Light or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.28 of an acre in Chatham County under the custody of the Department of Economic Development for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground gas lines to serve the Savannah Trade Center for \$10.00.

Article 9 grants an easement to International Paper ' Port Wentworth Facility, or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.15 of an acre of water bottoms in the Savannah River in Chatham County, under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of the underwater diffuser for fair market value not less than \$650, the agreement by International Paper to seek any necessary permits through, and otherwise comply with, the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act of 1970, O.C.G.A. 12-5-280, et. seq., and such further consideration and provisions as the State Properties Commission may determine to be in the best interest of the State of Georgia.

Article 10 grants an easement to the City of Savannah or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.38 of an acre in Chatham County under the custody of the Department of Economic Development for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground water and sanitary sewer lines to serve the Savannah Trade Center for \$10.00.

Article 11 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.27 of an acre in Chatham County under the custody of the Department of Economic Development for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of electrical transmission lines and associated equipment to serve the Savannah Trade Center for \$10.00 and the abandonment and conveyance of the relocated easement area to the state.

Article 12 grants an easement to AT&T or its successors and assigns over approximately 3.24 acres in Chatham County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of aerial and underground communications cables to serve the Wormsloe Visitor Center and the UGA buildings on the south end of the Wormsloe Historic Site for \$10.00.

Article 13 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.09 of an acre in Chatham County under the custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of the underground distribution lines and transformer to serve the new Special Operations Building for \$10.00.

Article 14 grants an easement to Comcast or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.70 of an acre in Chatham County under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of high-speed internet and phone cables to serve the new Park Visitors Center at Skidaway Island State Park for \$10.00.

Article 15 grants an easement to Glynn County or its successors and assigns over approximately 13.99 acres in Glynn County under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a paved road for access and to install culverts for drainage improvement at Sansavilla Wildlife Management Area and Clayhole Swamp Wildlife Management Area for \$10.00.

Article 16 grants an easement to Diverse Power Company or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.69 of an acre in Harris County under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of power lines and associated equipment to serve Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park for \$10.00 and the abandonment and conveyance of approximately 0.83 of an acre easement area to the state.

Article 17 grants an easement to CitySwitch II-A, LLC, or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.60 of an acre in Harris County, at Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, for access and the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a tower for telecommunication for fair market value not less than \$650, and such further consideration and provisions as the State Properties Commission may determine to be in the best interest of the State of Georgia.

Article 18 grants an easement to Flint Electric Membership Corporation or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.211 of an acre in Macon County under the custody of the Department of Education for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of electrical transmission lines and associated equipment to serve the new caretaker's residence at Camp John Hope for \$10.00.

Article 19 grants an easement to Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.12 of an acre in Montgomery County under the custody of the Department of Corrections for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead electrical transmission lines and associated equipment to serve a new egg-laying facility at Montgomery State Prison for \$10.00.

Article 20 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.35 of an acre in Murray County under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of power lines and associated equipment to improve power reliability between Georgia Power Company's Chatsworth and Gravitt substations for fair market value not less than \$650.

Article 21 grants an easement to Ronald Collum or its successors and assigns over approximately 2.48 acres in Paulding and Polk counties under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a road for ingress and egress at Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area in exchange for Ronald Collum conveying access easements of over 2.51 acres to the state.

Article 22 grants an easement to Amanda Anne Hall, Margie J. Deer, Sally J. Grose, and Nollie Leigh Motes, or their successors and assigns over approximately 2.02 acres in Rabun County under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of utilities and a road for ingress and egress for fair market value not less than \$650.

Article 23 grants an easement to Upton Electric Membership Corporation or its successors and assigns over approximately one acre in Talbot County under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground and overhead electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve Big Lazer Wildlife Management Area for \$10.00.

Article 24 grants an easement to the City of LaGrange or its successors and assigns over approximately two acres in Troup County under the custody of Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of telecommunication lines to serve the East Campus of West Georgia Technical College for \$10.00.

Article 25 grants an easement to Walton Electric Membership Corporation or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.5 of an acre in Walton County under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of aboveground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the Wildlife Resources Division headquarters at the Walton Fish Hatchery for \$10.00 and the conveyance of approximately 0.41 of an acre of an existing easement to be relocated.

Article 26 grants an easement to Ware County or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.08 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Community Supervision for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of road improvements along RC Davis Road at the Waycross Day Reporting Center for fair market value not less than \$650.

Article 27 grants an easement to Southern Company Gas or its successors and assigns over approximately 1.06 acres in Washington County under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground gas distribution lines to serve the Transportation Center (TCSG-342a) at Oconee Fall Line Technical College for \$10.00.

HR 144 Katie Poff Memorial Interchange; Baldwin County; dedicate

By: Rep. Ricky Williams (145th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 144 is the annual House road dedication bill. Included are the following resolutions:

HR 144, dedicating the intersection at State Route 49 and Blandy Road in Baldwin County as the Kathryn Poff Memorial Intersection;

HR 22, dedicating the interchange at State Route 81 and State Route 316/US 29 in Barrow County as the Judy Hill Loftin, LPC Memorial Interchange;

HR 32, dedicating the bridge on State Route 515 at Turniptown Creek in Gilmer County as the Cecil Mathews Memorial Bridge;

HR 54, dedicating the portion of State Route 8 from the Gwinnett/Barrow County line to Cedars Road in Gwinnett County as the Jimmy Wilbanks Highway;

HR 145, dedicating the bridge on State Route 22 adjacent to 603 West Montgomery Street in Baldwin County as the Dennette Odum Jackson Memorial Bridge;

HR 148, dedicating the intersection at US 27 and Commerce Street in Chattooga County as the Probate Judge Jon Payne Memorial Intersection;

SR 27, dedicating the portion of Interstate 285 from 1/2 mile east and 1/2 mile west of the North Peachtree Road Interchange in DeKalb County as the Dr. Charles F. Stanley Highway;

SR 88, dedicating the intersection at SR 299 and US 11 in Dade County as the Sheriff Philip Street Memorial Intersection;

SR 96, dedicating the intersection at Chickamauga Avenue and Spring Street in Walker County as the Charles R. Lusk Memorial Intersection;

SR 112, dedicating the intersection at U.S. 27 and Osburn Road in Walker County as the Sergeant Henry "Gene" Mullis Memorial Intersection;

SR 138, dedicating the portion of State Route 154 from Polaris Way SW to Interstate 285 in Fulton County as the Henry "Hank" Louis Aaron Memorial Highway;

SR 149, dedicating the portion of State Route 20 from 1/2 mile west to 1/2 mile east of Sutallee Baptist Church in Cherokee County as the Pastor Billy Edmondson Highway;

SR 179, dedicating the portion of Interstate 285 from Exit 30 in DeKalb County to the Fulton County line as the Senator Fran Millar Highway;

SR 176, dedicating the bridge on State Route 80 over Baker Creek at the Talbot/Muscogee County line as the Corporal Mark Prevatt Memorial Bridge;

SR 193, dedicating the intersection of State Route 365 and Lanier Tech Drive in Hall County as the J.A. "Big Jim" Walters Intersection;

SR 205, dedicating the portion of State Route 108 from 1/2 mile to the east and west of Pleasant Arbor Road in Cherokee County as the Dr. Austin Flint Highway;

SR 247, dedicating the portion of State Route 61 north of Old Cartersville Road to the Bartow County line in Paulding County as the Chairman Jerry Shearin Highway;

SR 256, dedicating the bridge on State Route 13 over Flat Creek in Hall County as the Dave Anderson Memorial Bridge;

SR 264, dedicating the intersection of U.S. 27 and Round Pond Road in Walker County as the Navy Lieutenant Commander Hugh Lester Campbell Memorial Intersection; and

SR 299, dedicating the portion of State Route 20 from 1/2 mile East and West of the Georgia National Cemetery in Cherokee County as the Veterans Memorial Highway.

HR 183 Congress; pass Recovering America's Wildlife Act; urge

By: Rep. David Knight (130th)

Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 183 urges Congress to pass the 'Recovering America's Wildlife Act.'

HR 185 House Rural Development Council; reauthorize*By: Rep. David Ralston (7th)**Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 185 reauthorizes the House Rural Development Council. The council will have 15 members from the House of Representatives, and the speaker of the House will designate two members to serve as co-chairpersons. The council will dissolve on December 31, 2022.

HR 222 House Study Committee on Annexation; create*By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th)**Through the Governmental Affairs Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 222 creates the House Study Committee on Annexation and Cityhood.

HR 248 Savannah Logistics Technology Innovation Corridor; designate*By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)**Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 248 establishes all of Chatham County, Bryan County, Effingham County, Bulloch County, Liberty County, and Screven County as the official technology innovation corridor in the state of Georgia.

HR 282 Sydnie Grace Jones Memorial Intersection; dedicate*By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th)**Through the Transportation Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 282 dedicates the intersection of State Route 515 and State Route 325 in Union County as the Sydnie Grace Jones Memorial Intersection.

SB 4 Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs; patient brokering; prohibit; definitions; exceptions; penalties; provide*By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)**Through the Insurance Committee*

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 4 creates several provisions related to the prohibition of patient brokering in the substance use disorder treatment field. This bill prohibits any persons or treatment providers from unlawfully paying, offering, soliciting, or receiving to pay any remuneration, as defined in this bill, for the acceptance or referral of a patient.

Additionally, this bill amends Code Section 33-1-16 by adding that a person commits a fraudulent insurance act if there is intent to defraud by billing for excessive, fraudulent, or high-tech drug testing in the treatment of the elderly, the disabled, or any individual affected by pain or substance use disorder. The commissioner of insurance will have the powers and duties to investigate any suspicion of fraudulent insurance activity.

SB 5 Professions and Businesses; patient protection measures for patients undergoing sedation in certain settings; provide*By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)**Through the Health & Human Services Committee*

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 5 requires individuals to have a dentistry license to administer conscious sedation in a dental facility or medspa. A medspa is a facility that offers a range of services for the purpose of improving an individual's well-being or appearance, such as liposuction or laser procedures. This bill does not apply to physicians and does not expand the scope of the practice of dentistry.

This bill does not prohibit certified registered nurse anesthetists from administering conscious sedation if the sedation is administered under the supervision of a dentist. This provision also applies to licensed physician assistants who have completed the anesthesiologist assistant program approved by the Georgia Composite Medical Board and administer such sedation under the supervision of an anesthesiologist.

Additionally, the board requires additional training for dental assistants and licensed dental hygienists who perform phlebotomy, venipuncture procedures, or assist dentists in the administration of conscious sedation.

No later than December 31, 2021, the board is required to establish rules and regulations for the administration of sedation and rescue for office-based surgeries to establish consistent standards, ensure continuing competency, and promote patient safety.

SB 6 "Tax Credit Return on Investment Act of 2021"; enact*By: Sen. John Albers (56th)**Through the Ways & Means Committee*

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 6 includes the 'Tax Credit Return on Investment Act of 2021', the 'Georgia Economic Renewal Act of 2021', and the 'Georgia Economic Recovery Act of 2021' among other changes.

The bill adds a new Code section, relating to fiscal bills generally, to allow the chairpersons of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee to request from the Department of Audits and Accounts an economic analysis of up to five existing or proposed tax incentives per committee. The requests must be made by May 1, and the department must return the economic analysis to both committees by December 1 of the same year. The economic analysis must include an estimate of the annual fiscal impact of the law or proposed law for the next five years, as well as the net change in state revenue, state expenditures, economic activity, and, if applicable, public benefit resulting from the tax incentive. During the following session, if a fiscal note is requested and a relevant economic analysis was completed, then a summary of the relevant economic analysis must be attached to the fiscal note. Prior to December 1, 2021, an economic analysis will be conducted on the performance and outcomes of the 'Georgia Agribusiness and Jobs Act.'

The bill adds a new Code section that establishes an additional tax credit for jobs created by a medical equipment and supplies manufacturer or a pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturer. The credit of \$1,250 per job is available for jobs that qualify for the current job tax credit or quality jobs tax credit to the extent that those jobs are engaged in the activity of manufacturing medical equipment or supplies or manufacturing pharmaceuticals or medicine. The credits must be claimed separate from the current job tax credit or quality jobs tax credit. When the credits exceed the taxpayer's income tax liability, the credits may be used to cover the taxpayer's quarterly or monthly employee withholding payments and the credits may be carried forward for up to 10 years. A taxpayer may not claim both the job tax credit for PPE manufacturers and this credit.

The bill also amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-40.24, relating to conditions for taking the job tax credit, by repealing the 4,500 job cap for the job tax credit.

Senate Bill 6 also amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-40.25, relating to the income tax credit for business enterprises with existing manufacturing facilities, by establishing specific requirements for high-impact aerospace defense projects. A "high-impact aerospace defense project" must be constructed by a business enterprise that is a prime aerospace defense contractor with greater than 40 percent of its revenues from sales to the United States government in its most recent tax year and must be certified by the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development as materially supportive of the mission of the Georgia Joint Defense Commission and the Governor's Defense Initiative. The bill allows a high-impact aerospace defense project to start claiming manufacturing facility tax credits in the tax year in which the taxpayer achieves 1,000 jobs and a \$500 million investment; however, the taxpayer must certify that it will later achieve 1,800 jobs and an \$800 million investment. For high-impact aerospace defense projects, the qualifying jobs must be located in Georgia, but are not required to be located at the manufacturing facility. The bill also increases the aggregate cap on credits for any individual project from \$50 million to \$100 million for high-impact aerospace defense projects and allows high-impact aerospace defense projects to claim either a quality jobs tax credit or mega-project tax credit along with existing manufacturing tax credits. Any taxpayer that claims these tax credits shall annually report the total number of full-time employees working at the taxpayer's qualified project by December 31 of each year.

The bill also amends 48-7-40.34, relating to the tax credit for Class III railroads, by extending the sunset date to earn credits from December 30, 2023, to December 30, 2026, as well as extending the deadline to freely assign credits from January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2027.

SB 6, amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3, relating to exemptions from sales and use taxes, by extending the sunset on the exemption of sales of tangible personal property used for and in the construction of a competitive project of regional significance from June 30, 2021, to June 30, 2023, and providing a state and local sales tax exemption for the sale of tickets, fees, or charges for admission to a fine arts performance or exhibition conducted by a 501(c)(3) organization or a museum of cultural significance, provided that the organization's or museum's primary mission is to advance the arts in Georgia.

The bill amends §48-8-3.2, relating to a sales tax exemption for machinery/equipment used in manufacturing, by reinstating the exemption on maintenance and replacement parts for the equipment used to mix, agitate, and transport freshly mixed concrete in a plastic and unhardened state. Motor fuel used in a motor vehicle that is a manufacturing plant is not exempt from sales and use tax. This exemption expires June 30, 2026.

Senate Bill 6 also amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3.2, relating to the maximum amount of sales and use tax imposed to maintain, repair, or refit a boat, by extending the sunset from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2031.

SB 6 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.8, relating to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures, by extending the program through 2022, at which point it will sunset, and by capping projects with greater than

\$300,000 in credits at \$25 million and projects with up to \$300,000 in credits at \$5 million.

The bill amends 48-7-40.12, relating to tax credits for qualified research expenses, is amended by revising the definition of 'business enterprise' by specifying that any business or headquarters of any business that otherwise meets the definition of a business enterprise shall not be considered a retail business due to the retail activities of any of its affiliates.

Senate Bill 6 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3, relating to exemptions from sales and use taxes, by updating the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for the sales and use tax exemption for the sale of certain computer equipment when the total qualifying purchases by a high technology company exceed \$15 million and exempting any wireline or wireless telecommunication system. The bill also requires high-technology companies that have been issued a sales tax exemption certificate to report annually, within 90 days of the end of the calendar year, to the commissioner a list of facilities for which equipment exempted from sales tax is located as well as the amount of taxes exempted during the preceding year. This exemption sunsets on June 30, 2023.

SB 9**Courts; the Columbia Judicial Circuit and to be composed of Columbia County; create a new judicial circuit for the State of Georgia**

By: Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 9 creates the Columbia Judicial Circuit, a single-county circuit consisting of Columbia County, through a revision of the existing Augusta Judicial Circuit. The three judges of the Augusta Circuit currently residing in Columbia County shall be the three judges of the Columbia Circuit. The governor shall appoint a district attorney for a term beginning July 1, 2021.

All proceedings and litigation currently pending in the Superior Court of Columbia County shall transfer to the Columbia Circuit. The judges of both the Columbia Circuit and Augusta Circuit shall continue to receive county salary supplements equal to the aggregate county salary supplements currently received by the judges of the Augusta Circuit.

The Augusta Circuit will transfer to the Columbia Circuit 25 percent of the amount it held as of January 1, 2021, for costs collected relating to court connected alternative resolution programs. The district attorney of the Augusta Circuit shall transfer to the district attorney of the Columbia Circuit the amount held as of January 1, 2021, that was secured pursuant to condemnation of forfeiture actions.

The bill specifies that the four remaining judges of the Augusta Judicial Circuit, as well as the current district attorney, shall remain as the judges and district attorney of the Augusta Circuit. The judgeship that is currently vacant shall also remain with the Augusta Circuit.

The county salary supplements of the judges and district attorney of the Augusta Circuit, as well as the court-wide expenditures of the Augusta Circuit, shall be paid by Richmond County and Burke County in a ratio equal to their current proportional responsibility, less the contributions to the Augusta Circuit previously paid for by Columbia County.

Senior or retired judges of the Augusta Circuit who currently receive a retirement supplement from the three counties of the current Augusta Circuit shall continue to receive such supplement from all three counties. Senior or retired judges owed a retirement supplement after the effective date shall receive such supplement from the county or counties of the circuit from which they retire.

SB 20**Child Advocate Advisory Committee; composition; revise**

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 20 adds three new appointed members to the Child Advocate Advisory Committee, including a current or former foster parent; a former foster child who became an adult or graduated from high school while in Georgia; and an individual who has served for at least three years as a court-appointed special advocate.

SB 21**City of Stonecrest in DeKalb County; mayor; limit voting only in the event of a tie of the council**

By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 21 limits the city of Stonecrest mayor to voting only in the event of a tie of the council. The bill also provides for term limits; modifies provisions relating to elected officials forfeiting office; modifies provisions relating to the power and authority of the council; provides for the powers and

duties of the office of the mayor pro tempore; revises the powers and duties of the mayor; and revises provisions relating to the city manager, city clerk, city attorney, tax collector, finance director, and internal auditor.

SB 22 Board of Commissioners of Henry County; a code of ethics; provide

By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 22 revises provisions regarding vacancies on the Henry County Board of Commissioners, provides for a code of ethics, establishes a board of ethics, and revises the authority, roles, and responsibilities of the chairperson, board of commissioners, and county manager.

SB 27 Professional Licenses; extend the time a member of the military has to qualify for the issuance of a license; electrical contractor, plumber;

By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 27 extends the deadline for current or former members of the military to apply for immediate issuance of a state license or certification from the applicable regulatory board from 180 days after his or her discharge to two years. This bill also provides the applicable licensing board with discretion by allowing the board to extend the two-year period via a rule or regulation or on an individual-case basis if the applicant meets certain circumstances, such as health, hospitalization, or other related emergencies.

SB 28 Juvenile Code and Domestic Relations; provisions relating to the protection of children; strengthen, clarify and update

By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: Section 1 of Senate Bill 28 revises the juvenile Code by amending the definition of "juvenile court intake officer" to clarify that Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) staff acting as juvenile court intake officers may make intake decisions for complaints alleging delinquency or children in need of services proceedings. The definition of "sexual exploitation" in O.C.G.A. 15-11-2 is revised to remove the reference to the crime of "prostitution" while adding a reference to "sexual servitude." The section also removes a reference to "placement of" a child in the definition of "temporary alternatives to foster care."

Section 2 changes the training requirements for juvenile court intake officers from eight hours annually to an initial training requirement of eight hours with two hours required annually thereafter.

Section 3 allows for the court to support a voluntary agreement made between a parent, guardian, or legal custodian and the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and specifies what types of orders constitute a "temporary alternative to foster care." The deadline for when a preliminary protective hearing must be completed is changed, so as to remove the requirement that it be held within five days of the order being issued and to add a reference to have the procedure be applied as stated in O.C.G.A. 15-11-145. The bill also adds a requirement that DFCS file a petition alleging dependency if probable cause exists.

Section 4 allows the juvenile court to consider hearsay evidence that the court finds to be relevant, reliable, and necessary at preliminary protective hearings.

Section 5 adds clarifying language to be consistent with Section 1 of the bill regarding "temporary alternatives to foster care."

Section 6 clarifies that an adjudication hearing for a child who is not in foster care must be held within 60 days of the petition being filed, regardless of whether a temporary alternative to foster care order has been issued.

Section 7 allows the juvenile court to consider hearsay evidence that the court finds to be relevant, reliable, and necessary at hearings to review placement change decisions. Further, it is clarified that the presumption given to foster parents as stated in O.C.G.A. 15-11-215 is not to be used to prevent a reunification of a child with his or her parents.

Section 8 allows the juvenile court to consider hearsay evidence that the court finds to be relevant, reliable, and necessary at periodic review hearings.

Section 9 allows the juvenile court to consider hearsay evidence that the court finds to be relevant, reliable, and necessary at permanency plan hearings.

Section 10 allows the juvenile court to consider hearsay evidence that the court finds to be relevant, reliable,

and necessary at the dispositional hearing that occurs after parental rights have been terminated or surrendered.

Section 11 allows the juvenile court to consider hearsay evidence that the court finds to be relevant, reliable, and necessary at post-termination of parental rights adoption review hearings.

Section 12 adds a definition for "abandonment" and defines it as any conduct of a parent, guardian, or legal custodian that shows an intent to forgo parental duties or relinquish parental claims. This section also lists specific factors that are used to show evidence of the intent referenced in the definition. Further, numerous definitions related to child abuse are added for terms such as "emotional abuse," "labor servitude," "legal custodian," "neglect," and others so as to provide clarity for those persons who are statutorily mandated to report suspected child abuse.

Sections 13 and 14 revise the definition of "sexual exploitation" in O.C.G.A. 19-15-1 and O.C.G.A. 49-5-40, respectively, to remove the reference to the crime of "prostitution" while adding a reference to "sexual servitude."

Section 15 makes the bill effective as of January 1, 2022.

SB 32 Public Disclosure; certain personal records of state and federal employees; exempt

By: Sen. Matt Brass (28th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 32 amends the 'Georgia Open Records Act' to provide that records of public employees that reveal the employee's personal mobile or wireless telephone number are exempt from public disclosure and to clarify that employees of the federal government are "public employees."

The bill also provides that publicly available rosters of licensees maintained by division directors of professional licensing boards shall not include a licensee's home address. Home address information of any applicant is also included as confidential information.

SB 33 Torts; cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking; provide

By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 33 establishes a civil cause of action for victims of human trafficking against their perpetrators. "Perpetrator" is defined as any person or entity that knowingly benefited from participation in a venture or scheme that they knew, or should have known, was in violation of the human trafficking statute.

Any civil action filed pursuant to this provision shall be stayed during the pendency of any criminal action relating to the victim. Victims may bring a civil action within 10 years after the cause of action arose or within 10 years after the victim reaches the age of 18, if the victim was a minor at the time of the alleged violation.

The attorney general shall have a cause of action against a perpetrator on behalf of the state whenever he or she has reasonable cause to believe that an interest of the citizens of the state has been threatened or adversely affected by the perpetrator.

SB 34 Domestic Relations; name change; victims of human trafficking may petition; provide

By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 34 amends Chapter 12 of Title 19, related to petitions for name change by victims of family violence, to include victims of human trafficking as petitioners who may request a name change under seal.

SB 42 Education; school climate rating does not include discipline data; provide

By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 42 creates the 'Dexter Mosely Act' that allows home study students to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities within the student's resident public school system. SB 42 describes the eligibility requirements for participation; notably, students must take a course through the resident school system. Students must register for a course 30 days before the beginning of the semester the activity will take place.

This legislation further amends O.C.G.A. 20-14-33 to require an annual report on data and information regarding student discipline be included in the report by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement to the

Education Coordinating Council. Local school systems must post discipline data on the school system's website in a prominent location.

SB 43 "Noncovered Eye Care Services Act"; enact

By: Sen. Matt Brass (28th)

Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 43 is the 'Non-Covered Eye Care Services Act.' This bill prohibits insurers from requiring an ophthalmologist or optometrist to accept as payment an amount set by the insurer for services that are not covered eye care services under the covered person's eye care benefit plan as a condition to join or participate in its provider network.

Additionally, no insurer will draft, publish, disseminate, or circulate any explanations of benefit forms that include language that directly or indirectly states or implies that an ophthalmologist or optometrist should extend discounts to patients for non-covered eye care services.

SB 46 Health; certain medical personnel to administer vaccines during public health emergencies under certain conditions; authorize

By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th)

Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 46 allows emergency medical technicians and cardiac technicians to administer vaccines during a declared public health emergency upon the order of a duly licensed physician. Additionally, this bill defines "Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services" or "vaccination registry" as the vaccination registry established by the Department of Public Health.

The definition of "vaccine" is expanded to include: vaccines on the adult immunization schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention administered to an individual 18 years of age or older; an influenza vaccine administered to an individual 13 years of age or older; and any vaccine for an illness that has resulted in a public health emergency.

Additionally, this bill requires firefighters to submit to random drug testing at least biannually for the first two years of being licensed or certified. The Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council is responsible for establishing rules and regulations for the collection and testing of firefighters. Should a test reveal the presence of drugs, the sample must be tested by a different method to confirm that positive test.

The legislation also amends Code relating to the certification of emergency medical services personnel, paramedics, and cardiac technicians by not disqualifying applicants who have been convicted of a felony more than five years prior, but less than 10 years prior, as long as they have completed required training approved by the Department of Public Health and sponsored by the Department of Corrections, as well as met all other requirements set forth in statute.

Furthermore, this bill authorizes the Department of Public Health to release de-identified data related to the Low Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) Oil Patient Registry to government entities and others for statistical, research, educational, instructional, drug abuse prevention, or grant application purposes after removing all personal identifiers or any other information that could be used to identify prescribers.

SB 47 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act; revise prior school year requirement

By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)

Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 47 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2113 relating to the 'Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act' by allowing students to qualify who spend the prior school year in attendance at a Georgia public school or received a preschool special education or related services provided for by the 'Individuals with Disabilities Education Act'. Students also qualify for the scholarship if the student's parent is an active duty military service member stationed in Georgia; the student is adopted or under permanent guardianship from foster care; the student previously qualified; or the student was enrolled at a public school for at least one count during either the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school years. SB 47 extends eligibility to students with a formal diagnosis from a physician or a psychologist licensed in Georgia or a Section 504 Plan relating to one or more conditions that the State Board of Education (SBOE) designates as a qualifying condition.

The SBOE shall annually survey participants and gather data relating to student eligibility, transparency, and awareness of the impact of the program. The Department of Education must post on the department's website the basic unit cost of instructional programs as the minimum estimate for scholarship amounts.

- SB 49 Buildings and Housing; procedures for alternative plan review, permitting, and inspection by private professional providers; provide**
By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 49 allows a building inspection applicant to utilize the services of a private building inspector at the onset of the application process by removing a requirement to wait 30 days for a local government to provide the services. If an applicant uses a private inspector, half of the fee must be paid to the local government.
- SB 59 Education; additional QBE funding for each full-time equivalent student within a local charter school; provide**
By: Sen. John Albers (56th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 59 allows additional funding for local charter schools for each full-time equivalent student within the local charter school. The State Board of Education shall directly allocate the amount of appropriated funds to each local charter school. Local charter schools may not waive early intervention program requirements in local school system flexibility contracts. Local charter schools may elect to participate in the State Health Benefit Plan upon creation or upon contract renewal. Local school boards and local charter schools will collaborate and agree on specific ways all or part of the proportionate amount of federal funds owed to the local charter school is allocated to the charter school through in-kind services.
- SB 60 Georgia State Indemnification Fund; shall be paid in instances of a heart attack, stroke; public safety officer; revise**
By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 60 requires indemnification payments to be made to a public safety officer who suffers a heart attack, stroke, or vascular rupture while the officer was: performing work-related activity; on duty after performing work-related activity; or no more than 24 hours after performing work-related activity; and directly or proximately resulted in the death or partial or permanent disability unless there is competent medical evidence which establishes that the heart attack, stroke, or vascular rupture was not related to the work activity or was directly or proximately caused by something other than the mere presence of cardiovascular disease risk factors.
- SB 66 Georgia Foundation for Public Education; a nonprofit corporation created by the foundation to receive private donations to be used for grants to public schools; authorize**
By: Sen. Jason Anavitate (31st) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 66 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-14.1 relating to the Georgia Foundation for Public Education to create a non-profit corporation in order to receive private donations to fund grants to public schools. Grants given pursuant to this Code section are awarded for the implantation of academic and organizational innovations to improve student achievement. This legislation authorizes an income tax credit for education donations. It ends the Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation on December 31, 2021, and any assets remaining in the fund revert to the Georgia Foundation for Public Education's non-profit corporation.
- SB 75 Termination of Residential Lease; victims of stalking; provide**
By: Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 75 amends Code Section 44-7-23, relating to the ability of tenants to terminate a residential lease, to add the issuance of a civil or criminal stalking order as a permissible basis for a tenant to terminate their lease agreement.
- SB 78 Invasion of Privacy; prohibition on electronically transmitting or posting nude or sexually explicit photographs or videos for purposes of harassing the depicted person; revise**
By: Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 78 creates a felony crime for posting a sexually explicit photograph or video to a website, file-sharing site, or message board, that specifically advertises or promotes its services as showing or distributing sexually explicit conduct when the posting was made to cause harassment or financial loss and serves no legitimate purpose to the depicted person. Distributing this content via any other electronic means remains a high and aggravated misdemeanor offense. The felony offense is punishable for a first offense by

imprisonment of between one to five years, a fine of \$100,000, or both. A second or subsequent conviction of the felony offense is punishable by imprisonment of between two to five years, a fine of \$100,000, or both.

SB 80 "Ensuring Transparency in Prior Authorization Act"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 80 amends Chapter 46 of Title 33 for private review agents that conduct health care service utilization review. The bill applies review and adjudication standards for prior authorization requests for health care services, recognizes "utilization review entities," and sets out guidelines for the insurance commissioner's rulemaking in enforcing standards that apply to entities conducting utilization review.

SB 81 Office of College and Career Transitions; change name to the Office of College and Career Academies

By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 81 amends O.C.G.A. 20-4-37 to change the name of the Office of College and Career Transitions to the Office of College and Career Academies. This legislation further amends the Code section to require the Technical College System of Georgia to collaborate with the Workforce Development Board and the Department of Economic Development to support the efforts of College and Career Academies to recruit new industries and expand existing industries in Georgia.

SB 81 amends O.C.G.A. 50-16-18 to extend the sunset from July 1, 2021, to July 1, 2026, for provisions relating to state agencies and departments writing off small amounts due to the state as well as for provisions relating to non-lapsing revenue collected by the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia.

This legislation further provides that the Board of Regents and the Technical College System of Georgia shall submit a report no later than October 15th of each year to the chairpersons of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees of all non-lapsing revenue for the preceding fiscal year.

SB 85 "Max Gruver Act"; enact

By: Sen. John Albers (56th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 85, the 'Max Gruver Act', expands the definition of "hazing" to include coercing a student through the use of social or physical pressure to consume any food, liquid, alcohol, drug, or other substance that would subject the student to a likely risk of vomiting, intoxication, or unconsciousness. The definition of "school organization" is also expanded to include associations, corporations, orders, or athletic teams that have students or alumni as its principal members. Further, the definition of "student" is revised to include prospectively-enrolled students in Georgia schools. It remains unlawful for any person to haze a student in connection with gaining acceptance to a membership, office, or other status in a school organization, and the penalty for the crime remains a high and aggravated misdemeanor.

The bill requires applicable colleges to establish policies by July 1, 2021, that provide for reporting, investigation, and adjudication of incidents of alleged hazing between students and student organizations. Adjudications of hazing, or hazing-related convictions, will be made publicly available within 15 days from the final adjudication. The required reporting includes the name of the school organization that was involved; the date of the hazing incident; and a description of the findings, sanctions, adjudications, and convictions for any person or school organization. The information is required to be posted prominently on the school's website for at least five years, although personal identifying information of an individual student is exempted from the public disclosure requirement.

SB 88 Education; Georgia Teacher of the Year shall be invited to serve as advisor ex officio to the State Board of Education; provide

By: Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 88 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-212.1 to allow the Georgia teacher of the year to serve as advisor ex-officio to the State Board of Education. Under the provision of this bill, local school systems are required to support a pathway for non-traditional teacher certification programs for armed forces veterans to become certified teachers. This legislation further revises the tiered evaluation system and requires the Professional Standards Commission to create innovative programs to promote teacher education programs at historically black colleges and universities.

- SB 100 State Government; this state shall observe standard time year round; provide**
By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: This bill provides that the state, including all political subdivisions, shall observe daylight savings time year-round as the standard time. The new Code section shall become effective only if the United States Congress authorizes states to keep daylight savings time year-round.
- SB 105 State-Wide Probation System; conditions and procedures under which probation may be terminated early; revise**
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 105 revises the requirements related to behavioral incentive dates and reporting by the Department of Community Supervision (DCS). DCS is required to report to the prosecuting attorney and court within 60 days of the expiration of a behavioral incentive date under O.C.G.A. 17-10-1 if the defendant has: paid all restitution owed; not had his or her probation revoked in the preceding 24 months or other applicable period; and not been arrested for anything other than a non-serious traffic offense. If the court or prosecuting attorney requests a hearing on the matter, then the court must schedule the matter for a hearing as soon as possible and within 90 days after receiving the order to terminate.
- Further, the bill requires a behavioral incentive date to be included in all sentencing orders involving a situation in which a person with no prior felony convictions was convicted of a felony offense or charged with a felony offense; sentenced pursuant to subsections (a) or (c) of O.C.G.A. 16-3-2 or Article 3 ("First Offenders") of Chapter 8 ("Probation") of Title 42 ("Penal Institutions"); and the court imposed probation or a sentence of 12 or less months of imprisonment followed by a term of probation. This requirement for including behavioral incentive dates in sentencing orders is retroactive. If a behavioral incentive date is not included in the order, then a default timeframe of three years from when the sentence was imposed shall be used.
- The bill also requires that when a court receives a petition to shorten the period of active probation supervision or unsupervised probation, the court must schedule the hearing for as soon as possible and within 90 days after receiving the motion. In situations in which a report is required to be filed due to a probationer serving three years of his or her sentence, the report must address both whether the probationer has had his or her probation revoked in the preceding 24 months and the status of the probationer's payments towards any restitution. If DCS is recommending early termination of the probation in its written report, then it must notify the prosecuting attorney and provide the court with an order to terminate the probation. The court must hear the matter as soon as possible and within 90 days after receiving the order to terminate.
- SB 107 Postsecondary Education Grants; waiver of tuition and all fees, for qualifying foster and adopted students by units of the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia; provide**
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 107 amends O.C.G.A. 20-3-66 to provide that students who are identified as homeless or from a foster home situation are eligible for in-state tuition at University System of Georgia institutions for 10 years or until the student achieves a baccalaureate degree, as well as eligible for in-state tuition at Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) institutions for 10 years or until the student achieves a diploma, certificate, or baccalaureate degree. The bill clarifies that students from a homeless situation do not include individuals who are non-citizens or have been incarcerated in any correctional institution, detention center, jail, or other similar facility after having been convicted of a crime in the past 12 months. SB 107 provides that state-funded foster care assistance is not to be considered income for the purposes of determining financial aid within the limits of federal law.
- Senate Bill 107 further amends O.C.G.A. 20-3-660, relating to postsecondary education grants for foster children and adopted children. This legislation waives tuition and fees, including mandatory rooming and board fees, for qualifying foster and adopted students attending TCSG colleges. SB 107 requires the TCSG to waive costs for qualifying foster and adopted individuals to obtain a GED. Students must apply for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), with help from the Division of Family and Children Services, and use any federal aid available first, and any remaining fees or tuition will be waived. This bill also encourages the University System of Georgia to adopt the same practice.

SB 114 Professions and Businesses; grounds for refusing to grant or revoking a license; revise

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: This bill creates a further exception to when licensing boards cannot refuse to grant a license to an applicant by stating that licensing boards cannot deny an applicant solely, or in part, due to the applicant being under community supervision for a felony conviction, or any crime involving moral turpitude, so long as the offender was not convicted of a felony in violation of Chapter 5 ("Crimes against the Person") of Title 16 or an offense requiring registration on the state sexual offender registry.

SB 117 Department of Human Services; offenses of improper sexual contact by employee or agent in the first and second degrees; revise

By: Sen. Butch Miller (49th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 117 creates a new definition for a "person in a position of trust" as a person whom a parent or guardian has entered into an agreement with and entrusts that individual with the responsibility of both education and supervision of that minor; the position of trust status lasts only until the agreement has been satisfied, or terminated, and the minor is not under the supervision of the individual.

The bill creates a crime for "improper sexual contact by a person in a position of trust" with the first degree of the offense occurring when an individual who is in a position of trust engages in "sexually explicit conduct" with a minor and that individual has entered into an agreement that entrusts the individual with the responsibility of both education and supervision of the minor. The penalty for the first degree of the crime is imprisonment of between one to 25 years and a maximum fine of \$100,000, in addition to being subject to punishment as a sexual offender under O.C.G.A. 17-10-6.2. If the minor is under the age of 16 years old, the punishment is escalated to imprisonment of between 10 to 30 years and a maximum fine of \$100,000, in addition to being subject to punishment as a sexual offender under O.C.G.A. 17-10-6.2. If the minor is under the age of 16 years old and the act physically injures the minor, or involves an act of sodomy, the punishment is further escalated to imprisonment of between 25 to 50 years and a maximum fine of \$100,000, in addition to being subject to punishment as a sexual offender under O.C.G.A. 17-10-6.2.

The bill creates a second degree of the crime for "improper sexual contact by a person in a position of trust," which an individual commits when that individual is in a position of trust and engages in "sexual contact," excluding "sexually explicit conduct," with a minor and that individual has entered into an agreement that entrusts the individual with the responsibility of both education and supervision of the minor. The penalty for the second degree is a high and aggravated misdemeanor. If the minor is under the age of 16 years old, the punishment escalates to imprisonment of between five and 25 years and a maximum fine of \$25,000, in addition to being subject to punishment as a sexual offender under O.C.G.A. 17-10-6.2. On a second or subsequent conviction of the second degree of the crime, the defendant is guilty of a felony that results in imprisonment for between one to five years, in addition to being subject to punishment as a sexual offender. Further, the bill adds the first degree of the crime and the portions of the second degree of the crime that have escalated punishments, which are subject to punishment under O.C.G.A. 17-10-6.2, to the list of "dangerous sexual offenses" under O.C.G.A. 42-1-12. Also, any person who commits the crime of improper sexual contact by a person in a position of trust is not allowed visitation with any minor unless the minor is a direct family member and not a victim of the inmate's sexual offense. The crime is also added to the list of crimes that bar an applicant from obtaining a license to operate a child welfare agency.

SB 119 Permit Required for Burning Woods, Lands, and Marshes or Other Flammable Vegetation; except certain yard waste from permitting

By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 119 provides an exemption to required burn permits for burning leaf piles, yard debris, or hand-piled natural vegetation unless otherwise restricted by local ordinance. To meet the exemption, an individual must adhere to the following requirements: the burning must take place between sunrise and sunset; the location of the burning must both be more than 25 feet from woodlands or open field with brush and more than 50 feet from any structure; the person responsible for the burn shall be in attendance until the fire is extinguished and must take reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of the fire; and the person responsible for the burn is liable for any damage to adjacent properties.

- SB 140** **Flag, Seal, and Other Symbols; placement of a monument in honor of the Honorable Zell Bryan Miller upon the capitol grounds of the state capitol building; provide**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 140 states that a monument in honor of Zell Bryan Miller shall be placed within the Georgia State Capitol building or grounds and constructed using private funds. The Capitol Arts Standards Commission shall design, procure, and place the monument as soon as practicable. The design is subject to final approval of a monument committee consisting of: two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House; two members of the Senate appointed by the lieutenant governor; and two members appointed by the governor, with one from the House of Representatives and one from the Senate.
- SB 143** **Mechanics and Materialmen; waiver of lien and labor or material bond rights; conform a reference within a statutory form**
By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 143 corrects a reference in the statutory affidavit of non-payment for mechanics and materialmen provided in Code Section 44-14-366. For purposes of sufficient notice, when the owner of a property subject to the materialman or mechanic's lien is an entity, a copy of the affidavit, as opposed to the underlying lien, must be sent to the company or the company's registered agent.
- SB 144** **Housing Authorities; ability of city housing authorities to operate outside municipal boundaries without authorization; limit**
By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 144 amends the definition of "area of operation" as it relates to a city housing authority to no longer include the area within 10 miles of the boundaries of the city. Current city housing authorities that are operating within 10 miles of the city boundaries are entitled to continue, but no new city housing authorities outside the city boundaries are authorized unless consent is given by the affected county or municipality.
- SB 145** **Distilled Spirits; initiating a referendum election for the authorization of the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled spirits; modify the petition requirements**
By: Sen. Matt Brass (28th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 145 allows local jurisdictions to enact an ordinance that triggers a special election on the question of whether the local jurisdiction should allow for applications for package stores selling distilled spirits. The bill also reduces the percentage of registered voters in the county required to sign a petition to trigger a special election on the question from 35 percent to 20 percent.
- SB 153** **"Graduation Opportunities and Advanced Learning (GOAL) Act"; enact**
By: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 153 directs the General Assembly to study alternative education models and funding focused on dropout prevention, high school credit recovery, and education services of adult and incarcerated students during 2021 and 2022 and make recommendations back to the General Assembly upon conclusion.

Senate Bill 153 further amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-154.1, relating to alternative education programs that focus on dropout recovery and high school credit recovery. An "alternative charter school" is defined as a local charter school that provides programs and services focused on dropout recovery or high school credit recovery. No later than July 1, 2021, each system-collaborative state charter school that has not transitioned into an alternative charter school will operate as a state chartered special school. A system-collaborative state charter school that transitions to an alternative charter school by June 30, 2021, will continue receiving the state charter supplement, and schools that do not transition will no longer receive the state charter supplement.
- SB 156** **Labor and Industrial Relations; appointment, oath, bond, power, duties, and authority of a chief labor officer; provide **GOVERNOR'S VETO STATEMENT** [HERE](#)**
By: Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 156 creates the Office of the Chief Labor Officer, which has the power to provide timely reports and responses to financial audits of the Georgia Department of Labor and to inquiries

from various members of the Georgia legislature. The commissioner of the Department of Labor is required to provide the chief labor officer with the same information that the Department of Labor has access to, as well as sufficient staff and resources to fulfill the duties of the office. The chief labor officer has standing to file a mandamus action in Fulton County Superior Court to compel certain actions if he or she contends that the commissioner of Labor has abused his or her discretion regarding the required resources and staff provided by this bill. The chief labor officer is appointed by the speaker of the House, subject to confirmation by the Senate Committee on Government Oversight. The provisions of this bill are repealed on December 31, 2022.

Further, the bill requires the commissioner of Labor to submit a weekly report to members of the House and Senate leadership detailing the amount of unemployment claims filed with the department; unpaid claims; number of claims in each stage of the process; inquiries submitted by members of the General Assembly; and unresolved inquiries submitted by the General Assembly. The bill also provides authorization for members of the General Assembly to be granted access to private records pertaining to unemployment compensation claims for constituents, so long as a consent form is signed.

SB 159 Elementary and Secondary Education; provision relating to student transportation; revise

By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 159 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-188 to allow local boards of education to use small motor vehicles, eight-passenger or less, to transport students. The State Board of Education shall set minimum standards and requirements related to the transport of students in small motor vehicles. Local boards of education may create additional requirements as needed.

SB 163 Judicial Emergency; suspension of statutory speedy trial requirements; provide

By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 163 allows for the suspension of statutory speedy trial requirements following a judicial emergency. A chief judge of a superior court judicial circuit or a state court may grant relief from speedy trial requirements if the judge certifies that under the totality of the circumstances arising from the preceding judicial emergency, compliance with speedy trial requirements would be impracticable. Certain factors required for a judge's consideration when determining whether to issue such a certification are provided, as are the required contents for the certification.

Each time a chief judge of a superior court judicial circuit or a state court enters an order granting relief from speedy trial requirements, he or she must certify or recertify that compliance with speedy trial requirements is impracticable or attach a certification provided by either a majority of the superior court judges or state court judges in the county, respectively.

A chief judge of a superior court judicial circuit or a state court may act independently of any emergency declared by the governor, and in his or her own discretion, but the judges shall act upon the request, in writing, of a majority of the active judges of their respective circuit or county.

Each period of relief granted by a chief judge shall not exceed a total of eight months and shall end on the last day of a term of court. Each time a chief judge issues an order granting relief from speedy trial requirements, he or she shall provide notice of the action to judicial officials and the public. Notice shall include a copy of the certification issued in accordance with the grant of relief.

The chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court may use discretion to reinstate any statutory speedy trial requirement that was relieved. The chief justice shall provide notice of the action and a chief judge shall not grant further subsequent relief from speedy trial requirements unless subsequent relief is reauthorized by the chief justice.

The authorization to provide relief from speedy trial requirements does not relieve the state of its constitutional obligation to provide for a speedy and public criminal trial. The provisions of this bill shall be in effect until June 30, 2023, and no order granting relief from statutory speedy trial requirements shall be issued after that date.

SB 165 Motor Vehicles; autonomous vehicles from certain vehicle equipment requirements; exempt

By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 165 allows for the display of either an amber strobe light or a specified emblem to indicate a low-speed vehicle in certain instances. The bill requires county tag agents to issue any

required permits for low-speed vehicles at the time of vehicle registration. The bill reduces the registration fee for an alternative fueled, low-speed vehicle to \$100.

SB 168 Meetings; corporation may hold annual shareholders' meetings and special shareholders' meetings by means of remote communication; provide

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 168 allows the board of directors of a corporation to hold annual and special shareholder meetings wholly or partially by means of remote communication unless otherwise provided by the corporation's by-laws or articles of incorporation.

When authorized by the board, shareholders and holders of proxies may participate in, be deemed present for, and vote at a shareholder meeting remotely if the corporation implements reasonable procedures to verify that those present and voting at a shareholder meeting are, in fact, shareholders or holders of proxies and provide shareholders and holders of proxies a reasonable opportunity to participate in such meeting and to vote on matters. When a shareholder or holder of a proxy votes or takes other actions remotely, the corporation must maintain a record of such votes or actions.

SB 169 Bonds; acceptance of electronic signatures and electronic corporate seals on bonds; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 169 amends the Code to allow public procurement officers to accept surety bonds with electronic signatures and electronic corporate seals, as long as the signature and seal comply with the 'Uniform Electronic Transactions Act' and Code Section 33-24-14.

SB 174 Bonds and Recognizances; appointed judges who are fulfilling a vacancy of an elected judge to issue an unsecured judicial release under certain circumstances; authorize

By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 174 revises the ability of judges to issue unsecured judicial releases by requiring that the release be noted on the release order and requiring that the person not be charged with a "bail restricted offense" as defined in O.C.G.A. 17-6-12(a)(1). Appointed judges filling the vacancy of an elected judge are also now included within the requirements for unsecured judicial releases. In addition, the definition of "unsecured judicial release" is revised to mean a release that does not have a dollar amount required to be secured and is either on a person's own recognizance or for purposes of entering a specified pre-trial program.

The bill adds felony offenses of burglary, entering an automobile with intent to commit theft or felony, and stalking to the definition of "bail restricted offense." Further, the bill adds the misdemeanor offense of "crimes involving family violence," as defined under O.C.G.A. 19-13-1, and the misdemeanor offense of stalking to the definition of "bail restricted offense."

SB 182 Counties and Municipal Corporations; "fence detection system"; define the term; counties, consolidated governments, and municipalities regulate or prohibit such system; limit the ability

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 182 requires counties, municipalities, and consolidated governments to treat fence detection systems the same as alarm systems in zoning and permitting matters. The bill prohibits counties, municipalities, and consolidated governments from prohibiting the installation or use of fence detection systems that comply with Code.

SB 185 Revenue and Taxation; all questions of law decided by a court; matters from state board of equalization and refunds and appeals be decided without deference; require

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 185 establishes that all questions of law related to taxation decided by a court or the Georgia Tax Tribunal shall be made without deference to determinations or interpretations of the Department of Revenue. This requirement shall have no effect on the judicial standard of deference accorded to rules promulgated pursuant to the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act'.

- SB 187 HOPE Scholarship; procedure for students with disability as defined by the American with Disabilities Act to apply for a waiver; establish**
By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 187 amends O.C.G.A. 20-3-519.2 to allow the Georgia Student Finance Commission to waive certain eligibility requirements for the HOPE scholarship for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities may apply to waive the time limits on a student's eligibility to use the scholarship after graduating high school.
- SB 193 Ad Valorem Taxation of Property; requiring that mobile homes procure and display decals; grant counties the option**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 193 allows county property appraisers to elect whether or not to require decals for inspections on mobile homes.
- SB 195 Hemp Farming; definition; revise**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 195 revises the Code to clarify that provisions relating to low THC oil also include resulting products, which is defined in O.C.G.A. 16-12-200. The Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission's responsibilities are increased by adding that the commission should review new treatment and delivery methods of low THC oil and products that result from medical research. Further, the bill clarifies that the commission is required to provide documents and information promptly to the Medical Cannabis Commission Oversight Committee, as requested, and clarifies the overall duties of the oversight committee.
- The bill also allows local jurisdictions to use their zoning powers to allow for additional locations of dispensaries, if needed. The number of dispensaries in the state is limited to five for each of the six licensed growers. The bill allows licenses to be issued and replacement licenses to be offered if others are revoked, suspended, or surrendered and if certain license thresholds are met. An exemption is created from disciplinary action by a licensing board or civil penalties for those transporting low THC oil on behalf of their licensed company. SB 195 also allows for universities and other colleges that meet the specific criteria to engage in joint research with licensees, so long as the partnership is to conduct medical research.
- SB 195 exempts products that are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration from definitions in state law, including low THC oil under O.C.G.A. 16-12-190, marijuana under the 'Georgia Controlled Substances Act', and tetrahydrocannabinols under Schedule I controlled substances. The bill also removes epidiolex from Schedule V controlled substances.
- SB 198 Department of Public Safety; subsistence and per diem allowances; receipt of badge and duty weapon upon retirement; provide**
By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 198 authorizes the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to provide for the subsistence and per diem allowance for employees; to pay sworn employees additional compensation upon retirement in the form of the badge and duty weapon issued by the department; and to grant a salary increase to sworn employees and communications officers who have obtained degrees from an accredited member of the Federation of Regional Accrediting Commissions of Higher Education or who have obtained a degree with respect to a course of instruction related to law enforcement that was approved by the commissioner.
- SB 201 Revenue and Taxation; financial institutions to provide certain information related to delinquent taxpayers to the Department of Revenue under certain conditions; require**
By: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 201 adds a new chapter relating to the administration of revenue and taxation, which allows the Department of Revenue to request information regarding delinquent taxpayers from financial institutions. The department is limited to four requests per year per financial institution. Within 30 days of receiving a request from the department, the financial institution shall submit a report to the department that identifies any accounts held by the financial institution on behalf of the delinquent taxpayer. The department may pay the financial institution a fee for conducting the required searches that does not exceed the actual costs incurred or \$100, whichever is less. The department may enter into agreements with financial institutions to develop and operate an automated data exchange to accomplish the searches. The department may impose a

fine of \$1,000 on any financial institution that fails to submit a report within 30 days of the request or if the department finds that the financial institution willfully provided false information.

The bill also amends 48-5-359.1, relating to contracts with county tax commissioners to assess and collect municipal taxes and prepare the tax digest, by adding that a county or municipality within any county which contains 14 or more municipalities within such county, may contract for the county tax commissioner to assess and collect municipal taxes in the same manner as county taxes; the amount of the contract shall substantially approximate the cost to the county for providing the service to the municipality.

SB 202 Elections and Primaries; persons or entities that mail absentee ballot applications shall mail such applications only to eligible registered electors; provide

By: Sen. Max Burns (23rd)

Through the Special Committee on Election Integrity Committee

Final Bill Summary: Section 1: Establishes the legislation as the 'Election Integrity Act of 2021.'

Section 2: Provides an overview of the General Assembly's reasoning and intent regarding election legislation.

Section 3: Revises the definition of "superintendent" as it relates to the State Election Board.

Section 4: Authorizes the attorney general to establish a telephone hotline for electors to submit complaints and allegations of voter intimidation and illegal election activities. The attorney general must review each complaint and allegation as expeditiously as possible to determine if further action is needed.

Section 5: Establishes that the non-partisan chairperson of the State Election Board is to be elected by the General Assembly through a joint resolution. The secretary of state shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the State Election Board.

Section 6: Authorizes the State Election Board to suspend a county or municipal election superintendent and appoint a temporary replacement. No more than four county or municipal superintendents can be suspended at the same time.

Requires the secretary of state to provide necessary support and assistance at the request of the State Election Board.

Section 7: Establishes the process required for the State Election Board, on its own motion or upon petition by the governing authority of a county or municipality, to suspend, replace, or reinstate county or municipal election superintendents.

Section 8: Permits the State Election Board to adopt emergency rules only in circumstances of imminent peril to public health, safety, or welfare and subject to specified notice requirements.

Requires the State Election Board, the secretary of state, or their designees to notify the General Assembly's Committees on Judiciary prior to entering into any relevant consent agreements, settlements, or consent orders.

Section 9: Prohibits election superintendents from accepting any funds from any source other than a county, municipal, state, or federal governing authority.

Requires the State Election Board, by October 1, 2021, to submit a report to the General Assembly on a proposed method for accepting and distributing donations statewide.

Section 10: Provides for the appointment of an acting election superintendent, in counties without a board of elections, when there is a vacancy or incapacitation in the office of judge of the probate court.

Section 11: Permits a poll officer to serve in a county that adjoins the county of their residence, when specified conditions are met.

Section 12: Permits a local governing authority or the applicable members of the General Assembly to request a performance review of local election officials to be conducted by an independent performance review board at the direction of the State Election Board.

Section 13: Provides guidelines in the event of the death of a candidate on the ballot in a non-partisan election.

Section 14: Prohibits boards of registrars from accepting any funds from any source other than a county, municipal, state, or federal governing authority.

Sections 15 and 16: Establishes that there is not a limit on the number of persons whose qualifications an elector can challenge, as it relates to persons registering to vote, electors on the list of electors, and electors voting in an election.

Section 17: Authorizes the secretary of state to obtain voter information from a specified non-governmental entity on a regular basis in order to conduct list maintenance of the eligible elector list.

Section 18: For a precinct with more than 2,000 electors, if the voting wait time was more than one hour for the previous general election, the superintendent must either reduce the size of the precinct to less than 2,000 electors or provide additional poll workers or equipment, or both, before the next general election.

Section 19: Requires notice to be posted during the seven days before and on the day of the first election following a change to a polling location.

Section 20: Specifies that buses and readily-movable facilities, used to supplement polling place capacity, shall only be used in governor-declared emergency situations.

Sections 20A, 20B, and 20C: Requires that the name and designation of the precinct that the ballot is prepared for be printed at the top of specified election ballots.

Section 21: Clarifies when a candidate in a non-partisan election is duly elected.

Sections 21A and 21B: Requires that the name and designation of the precinct that the ballot is prepared for be printed at the top of specified election ballots.

Section 22: Clarifies that in any election other than a statewide general election, the election superintendent may provide more or less voting booths per precinct than the general election standard of one voting booth per every 250 electors, depending on relevant factors.

Section 23: Requires ballots, with exceptions, to be printed on security paper.

Section 23 A: Requires that the name and designation of the precinct that the ballot is prepared for be printed at the top of specified election ballots.

Section 24: Provides requirements for the public notice of the time and place of voting equipment testing.

Section 25: Allows an elector to apply for an absentee ballot beginning 78 days prior to the election until 11 days prior to the election. Requires absentee ballot applications to be received by the board of registrars or an absentee ballot clerk no later than 11 days prior to the election.

Requires the submission of identifying information, including a driver's license or identification card number, when applying for an absentee ballot. If the applicant does not have a driver's license or identification card, a photocopy of an approved form of identification must be submitted with the application. The absentee ballot application must also include an oath for the elector or relative submitting the application to sign.

Prohibits the secretary of state, election superintendents, boards of registrars, or other governmental entities from sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications to electors. The bill prohibits any unauthorized person from sending an absentee ballot application with prefilled personal information to an elector. Other than specified exceptions, no person may handle or return an elector's completed absentee ballot application. Handling of a completed absentee ballot application by an unauthorized person is a misdemeanor.

If an absentee ballot application is sent to an elector by a non-governmental person or entity, the following guidelines must be followed: the application must be the same form as the one made available by the secretary of state; the name of the person or entity sending the application must be clearly disclosed on the face of the application; and a disclaimer that the person or entity is not a governmental entity and the application is not a ballot.

Electors in jails or detention centers who are eligible to vote must be granted access to any pertinent personal effects needed to apply for and vote via an absentee ballot.

Prohibits non-governmental entities from sending absentee ballot applications to individuals who have already requested, received, or voted via an absentee ballot. A person or entity who violates this prohibition will be subject to sanctions by the State Election Board.

In instances where the identifying information submitted with the absentee ballot application does not match the elector's identifying information on file with the board of registrars, a provisional absentee ballot will be sent to the applicant, along with information on how to cure the discrepancy. If the application is incomplete or the oath is unsigned, the registrar or clerk must promptly contact the applicant in writing to request the additional information or the signed oath.

Section 26: Requires that additional registrar's offices or places of registration to receive absentee ballots or conduct advance voting must be located in a building.

Requires boards of registrars and absentee ballot clerks to establish at least one absentee ballot drop box. Additional drop boxes are permitted, subject to limitations, and must be evenly geographically distributed by population in the county. Absentee ballot drop boxes must be located at the office of the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk or inside advance voting locations. The drop boxes may be located outside such locations during a governor-declared emergency, under specified circumstances. The drop boxes will be available for ballot drop-off during the hours of advance voting. The bill provides guidelines for the security, construction, and ballot collection process for the drop boxes.

Section 27: Requires boards of registrars or absentee ballot clerks to mail or issue official absentee ballots to all eligible applicants between 29 days and 25 days prior to a non-municipal election. Official absentee ballots must be issued to electors entitled to vote absentee under the federal 'Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act' (UOCAVA) between 49 days and 45 days prior to a federal primary or election.

During the advance voting period, boards of registrars or absentee ballot clerks must issue an absentee ballot, provisional absentee ballot, or notice of rejection within three days of receipt of the absentee ballot application. An elector confined to a hospital may apply for an absentee ballot on the day of the primary or election or during the 10-day period prior to the primary or election. These applications must be immediately processed and, if approved, the ballot must be delivered to the elector.

The envelope that an elector uses to return a completed absentee ballot must include the following: the elector's name and signature; the elector's driver's license or identification card number; a space for the elector to mark if they do not have a driver's license or identification card; the elector's date of birth; and the last four digits of the elector's social security number, if the elector does not include the driver's license or identification card number. These identifying pieces of information should be concealed when the envelope is correctly sealed. Any unauthorized person who knowingly unseals an absentee ballot envelope shall be guilty of a felony.

The uniform instructions provided with the absentee ballot must include the following: specific instructions that the elector must mark the ballot in private and will not allow any unauthorized person to deliver or return the ballot on their behalf as well as an oath, under penalty of false swearing, affirming such; a list of persons authorized to return a completed ballot to the board of registrars on behalf of the elector; and the contact information of the State Election Board.

Absentee electors on the master list of electors who have been sent absentee ballots may be challenged by any elector prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day before election officials begin scanning and tabulating absentee ballots.

A special absentee run-off ballot must be included with each general primary or general election absentee ballot that is sent to UOCAVA voters. The special absentee run-off ballot will allow the UOCAVA elector to cast their vote for a runoff by indicating their order of preference for each candidate in each race. The elector will rank each candidate beginning with "1," then "2," and so forth until the elector has ranked each candidate that he or she chooses to rank.

Section 28: Requires the outer oath envelope of the absentee ballot to include a space for the elector to provide his or her driver's license or identification card number and his or her date of birth. If the elector does not have a driver's license or identification card, the elector must provide the last four digits of his or her social security number. If none of the above can be provided, the elector must include a copy of an approved form of identification.

The advance voting period must begin on the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary or election and as soon as possible prior to a runoff. Advance voting hours must begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and, when applicable, Saturdays. Advance voting must be conducted on the second and third Saturdays of the advance voting period. The registrar or absentee ballot clerk may choose to hold advance voting on the second or third Sunday, or both the second and third Sunday, prior to a primary or election. The Sunday advance voting hours are determined by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk, but no longer than 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. Registrars may extend the early voting hours to permit voting from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Advance voting is only permitted to occur on the days specified in Code, and cannot be conducted on any

other days.

The board of registrars must publish the dates, times, and locations of advance voting at least 14 days prior to the advance voting period for a primary or election and at least seven days prior to the advance voting period for a runoff. Once published, the board of registrars are prohibited from removing an advance voting location unless an emergency occurs.

On each business day of the absentee voting period, the county board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk must report to the secretary of state and post the following information: the numbers of absentee ballots that have been issued, returned, and rejected.

On each business day of the advance voting period, the county board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk must report to the secretary of state and post the following information: the number of persons who have voted at advance voting sites in the county or municipality.

On each business day of the absentee voting period and for a period of three days following the election, the county board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk must report to the secretary of state and post the following information: the numbers of provisional ballots that have been voted, verified, cured and accepted for counting, and rejected.

Section 29: Upon receipt of an absentee ballot, the registrar or clerk must compare the identifying information provided by the elector with the same information contained in the elector's voter registration records and verify that the elector's oath has been signed. If the elector did not sign the oath or their provided identifying information does not match the information in the elector's voter registration records, the ballot will be rejected, and the elector will be given the opportunity to cure the problem that resulted in the rejection.

The election superintendent is authorized to process and scan verified and accepted absentee ballots beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the third Monday prior to the day of the primary, election, or runoff. It is prohibited, unless otherwise provided in Code, to tabulate or tally in any way the absentee ballot votes until the closing of the polls on the day of the election. At least seven days prior to processing and scanning the absentee ballots, the superintendent must provide written notice to the secretary of state as well as post the notice in the superintendent's office and on the county election superintendent's website, if applicable. The secretary of state must post the provided notice on the secretary of state's website as well.

The processing and scanning of absentee ballots must be open to the view of the public, but only the superintendent or their employee or designee is authorized to touch the ballots or ballot container. Anyone involved in processing or scanning absentee ballots must swear an oath before beginning the process.

Political parties have the right to designate persons to act as monitors to observe the absentee ballot processing and scanning. Such monitors are prohibited from the following: interfering with the process in any way; using or bringing into the room any type of recording device; engaging in campaigning; endangering the secrecy and security of the ballots; touching the ballots or ballot container; in any way tabulating the votes cast on the absentee ballots; communicating observed information about any ballot, vote, or selection to anyone other than an election official.

When requested by the superintendent, but not earlier than the third Monday prior to the election, a registrar or absentee ballot clerk must deliver the absentee ballots, rejected ballots, ballot applications, and the list of certified and rejected ballots to a designated location. At that location, the superintendent must ensure that the ballots are opened and tabulated.

The superintendent is required to ensure that absentee ballot returns are reported to the public as soon as possible following the closing of the polls on election day. Failure to do so subjects the superintendent to sanctions by the State Election Board and, under certain circumstances, review by an independent performance review board.

Section 30: Authorizes the secretary of state to inspect and audit absentee ballot applications or envelopes at any time during the 24-month retention period.

Section 31: Provides that poll hours at a precinct may only be extended by order of a superior court judge.

Section 32: Requires poll watchers to complete training provided by the political party or body that they are representing.

Section 33: Prohibits giving money or gifts, including food and drinks, to an elector within 150 feet of a

polling place, within a polling place, or within 25 feet of a voter standing in line to vote. Permits poll officers to make available unattended, self-service water receptacles for electors standing in line to vote.

Sections 34 and 35: The provisional ballot of an elector voting in the wrong precinct will only be counted if the ballot was cast after 5:00 p.m. and the elector signed a sworn statement.

Section 36: After polls have closed on election day, poll officials must report the following information to the election superintendent: the total number of ballots cast at the precinct and the total number of provisional ballots cast at the precinct. The chief manager and at least one assistance manager must immediately deliver ballots and election materials to the election superintendent or the counting and tabulating center. The election superintendent must ensure that all ballots are processed, counted, and tabulated as soon as possible and such counting and tabulation must not be stopped until all votes are counted. The superintendent must post the reported information publicly.

Requires the election superintendent, before 10:00 p.m. on election day, to report to the secretary of state and post in a prominent location specified information regarding the number of ballots cast on election day, the number of ballots cast during advance voting, and the number of returned absentee ballots. Once all votes have been counted, the previously reported totals must be compared with the total number of ballots cast and reported to the secretary of state.

Section 37: Removes a provision allowing poll officers to stop canvassing the votes in order to resume the following day. Clarifies when votes for candidates who have died or been disqualified will or will not be counted.

Section 38: Clarifies when votes for candidates who have died or been disqualified will or will not be counted.

Sections 38A and 38B: Requires that the name and designation of the precinct that the ballot is prepared for be printed at the top of specified election ballots.

Section 39: Establishes the creation of duplication panels to prepare duplicate copies of ballots when necessary. The duplication panel must consist of an election superintendent, or their designee, and two other members, as specified based on the type of election.

Section 40: Computation and canvassing of votes must take place following the close of the polls on election day.

Section 41: The superintendent must publicly commence the computation and canvassing of returns after the close of the polls on election day and continue until all absentee ballots received by the close of the polls have been counted and tabulated.

Requires the secretary of state to create a pilot program for posting the digital images of scanned paper ballots.

Election returns must be certified by the superintendent by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following election day.

Section 42: When a runoff is necessary, it must be held on the 28th day after the general or special primary or general or special election.

Section 43: Special primaries and special elections held at the same time as a general primary must be conducted using the same machines and facilities as the general primary, when possible. If a vacancy occurs in a partisan office to which the governor is authorized to appoint an individual to serve until the next general election, a special primary must precede the special election. The names of candidates on the ballot in a special primary must be listed alphabetically.

Section 44: When applicable, the candidates and questions on the ballot for a special primary or special election must be included on the ballot for a general primary or general election, if the registration deadlines are the same for both elections.

Section 45: In order to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term of a United States senator, a special primary must be held at the same time as the general primary, followed by a special election held at the same time as the general election.

Section 46: A vacancy in the office of specified judges must be filled by the governor's appointment until a successor is duly elected.

Section 47: Specifies that a person shall be guilty of a felony if they, without proper authorization, accept an absentee ballot from an elector for delivery or return to the board of registrars.

Section 48: Makes it a felony for an unauthorized person to intentionally observe an elector while casting a ballot in order to see how the elector voted.

Makes it a misdemeanor to photograph or record a voted ballot.

Section 49: If the decennial census results are published within 120 days of the next general or special municipal election, the reapportionment of municipal election districts shall be effective for any subsequent special or general municipal election.

Section 50: When the State Election Board adopts an emergency rule relative to a state of emergency, the rule must be submitted to the General Assembly no later than 20 days prior to the rule taking effect. Any emergency rule adopted by the State Election Board may be suspended upon the majority vote of the Judiciary committees of the House of Representatives or Senate.

Section 51: Requires scanned ballot images created by a voting system to be public records that are subject to disclosure.

SB 204 Education; State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to award high school diplomas; provide

By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 204 amends O.C.G.A. 20-4-11 to allow the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to award high school diplomas to students 16-years old or older through a pilot program known as the Dual Achievement Program. The students must complete the necessary secondary school coursework requirements set forth by the college in order to receive a diploma. No later than February 1 of each year, the program must provide the General Assembly with a comprehensive report with recommendations on continued use and any needed changes to the program.

SB 209 DeKalb County School Districts; boundaries of the City of Atlanta independent school systems are not extended by annexation; provide

By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 209 provides that the boundaries of the city of Atlanta independent school systems are not extended by annexation unless expressly approved in a separate local law or intergovernmental agreement. The bill also provides for transfer of students, ownership of property and buildings, no change in school system boundaries under certain circumstances, and intergovernmental agreements.

SB 210 Motor Vehicles and Traffic; definitions relative to registration and licensing of motor vehicles; provide

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 210 provides for the issuance, regulation, and usage of digital license plates for motor vehicles. When a driver applies for a digital license plate, the commissioner or county tag agent must transmit the license plate information to the digital license plate provider. The commissioner or tag agent must issue a 45-day temporary operating permit to the applicant for use until the digital plate has been received. The digital license plate must be renewed annually. If the commissioner sends notice of a cancelled or revoked registration, the digital license plate provider must terminate the transmission of data to the cancelled or revoked license plate.

The bill requires the commissioner to submit a report to the General Assembly on digital license plate implementation by January 1, 2024.

SB 213 Contracts and Purchases by Public Schools; payment on guaranteed energy saving contracts; proceeds from local option sales taxes collected for educational purposes; provide

By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 213 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-506 to allow public schools to enter into multi-year energy saving lease, purchase, or lease purchase contracts with the purpose of reducing energy or wastewater consumption, wastewater production, or operating costs. SB 213 allows a county, independent, or

area school system to use local option sale taxes collected for educational purposes for payment on a contract developed for energy savings purposes.

SB 215 Regulation of Hospitals; certified medication aides to administer certain medications to nursing home residents; authorize

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Human Relations & Aging Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 215 allows for nursing homes to use certified medication aides to administer physician-ordered oral, ophthalmic, topical, otic, nasal, vaginal, and rectal medications; insulin, epinephrine, and B12; medications via an inhaler; blood glucose testing; disposable enema; and self-administration medications. Nursing homes using certified nursing aides must also have a licensed pharmacist perform quarterly reviews of each nursing home resident's drug regimen, properly dispose of any expired or discontinued drugs, and establish and monitor compliance of medication policies and procedures. The bill specifies that certified medication aides cannot administer any Schedule II narcotics. Additionally, SB 215 requires the Department of Community Health to approve employer-based certified nurse aid training and competency examination programs sponsored by or offered in assisted living communities, private home care providers, personal care homes, or other long-term care facilities licensed by the department.

SB 220 "The Georgia Civics Renewal Act"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 220 requires the State Board of Education to prescribe a program of study in personal financial literacy during high school. The program will include the following areas: types of bank accounts; balancing a checking account; money management; investments; postsecondary education financial planning; completing loan applications; receiving inheritance; basics of personal insurance policies; and other financial transactions regularly entered into during adulthood. Each local board of education shall begin a financial literacy program in the 2021-2022 school year.

SB 221 Ethics in Government; leadership committees; chairpersons; such committees may receive contributions and make expenditures; provide

By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 221 provides for the allowance of leadership committees for the purpose of campaign financing. "Leadership committees" are specifically defined as a committee, corporation, or organization chaired by the governor, the lieutenant governor, or the nominee of a political party for either office; and up to two political action committees designated by the majority and minority caucuses of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Leadership committees are authorized to receive contributions and make expenditures for the purposes of: affecting the outcome of any election or advocating for or against a political candidate; paying for expenses related to any candidate's campaign for office; and paying for expenses in connection with a public officer's fulfillment or retention of such office. Leadership committees that accept contributions in excess of \$500 must register with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission and file disclosure reports pursuant to the schedule defined for candidates and campaign committees. Contribution and expenditure limits shall not apply to these committees. Any communications paid for by the expenditures of a committee shall contain a disclaimer that the committee paid for the communication.

When the chairperson of a leadership committee is no longer eligible to serve as chairperson, he or she must: transfer the remaining assets of the leadership committee, if any, to another leadership committee within 60 days; name an eligible person as the new chairperson within 60 days; or dispose of the leadership committee's assets in accordance with Code Section 21-5-33.

SB 222 State Symbols; pecan as the official state nut; designate

By: Sen. Carden Summers (13th) Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 222 relates to state symbols and designates the pecan as the official state nut.

SB 225 License Plates; individuals who served in the armed forces for an ally of the United States during active military combat; provide a veteran's license plate

By: Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 225 provides for the creation of a specialty license plate for allied veterans.

SB 234 "Georgia Uniform Mediation Act"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 234 creates the 'Georgia Uniform Mediation Act' for the purpose of providing uniformity in the laws governing mediation, its participants, and the communications made therein. Terms related to mediation are defined and mediations to which the act applies or does not apply are specifically identified.

The bill specifies which communications made during, or for the purpose of, a mediation are privileged and not subject to discovery or admissible in evidence, when and how the privilege may be waived, and when the privilege is precluded or does not otherwise apply. Notwithstanding any provision of the act to the contrary, mediation and mediation communications, and such related conduct, shall not be admissible or subject to disclosure, except to the extent agreed to by the parties in writing or as otherwise provided by the Code or rule, unless such communications are subject to the 'Georgia Open Records Act'.

Requirements for mediators are established and include what mediators may or must disclose and when they must disclose it. Attorneys or other individuals designated by a party may participate in a mediation. Waivers of participation provided before a mediation may be rescinded.

International commercial mediations shall be governed by the Model Law on International Commercial Mediation and International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation unless the parties otherwise agree.

SB 235 Offenses Against Public Order; offense of wearing a mask, hood, or device which conceals the identity of the wearer; revise

By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 235 adds an exception to the misdemeanor crime of wearing a mask in public for those persons complying with the guidance of health care agencies or providers to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. The bill codifies a portion of case law by adding an element to the statute requiring an individual to wear a mask with the intent of concealing his or her identity.

SB 236 Alcoholic Beverages; food service establishments to sell mixed drinks for off-premises consumption in approved containers under certain conditions; allow

By: Sen. Matt Brass (28th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 236 allows for any food service establishment with a license to sell distilled spirits to sell two mixed drinks per entrée ordered for off-premises consumption. The mixed drinks must contain no more than three ounces of distilled spirits and be in a tamper-evident container that has no openings or straw holes and is sealed in a way that it is visibly apparent if it has been opened. The mixed drinks must be provided with the accompanying food order on the premises or by curbside pick-up; cannot be picked up by a delivery service; and must be transported in a locked glove compartment, locked trunk, or the area behind the last upright seat.

SB 237 License Plates; specialty license plate supporting members of the United States Army Rangers; establish

By: Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 237 creates a specialty license plate supporting members of the United States Army Rangers.

SB 238 Code Of Georgia; enactment of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise provisions

By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) Through the Code Revision Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 238 amends the O.C.G.A. to clarify which portions of the Code have the effect of law and identify the contents of the Code that do not have the effect of law. The bill also clarifies the oversight of the Code Revision Commission and revises a provision relating to the copyright of the Code.

- SB 246 "The Learning Pod Protection Act"; exemptions applicable to learning pods, student attendance, administrative and judicial proceedings; provide**
By: Sen. Matt Brass (28th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 246 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-690 by adding 'The Learning Pod Protection Act', which exempts learning pods from being regulated by state, local, or local school systems when the student's primary educational program is offered through remote virtual learning. "Learning pods" are the voluntary grouping by parents of their children for the purposes of participating in virtual learning together.
- SB 247 Agricultural Commodity Commissions; public hearings with online public comment opportunities; replace**
By: Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 247 allows agricultural commodity commissions to hold public hearings with public comments on marketing orders either wholly or partially online. Notices related to marketing orders must also be published on the Department of Agriculture's website and in the Farmers Consumers Market Bulletin, or other similar publications.
- When proposing a new marketing order or a major amendment to an existing marketing order, a quorum necessary for approval shall be at least 25 percent of notified eligible producers. The vote is approved with two-thirds of the quorum in agreement.
- SB 255 "OneGeorgia Authority Act"; grant program to support border region retail and tourism projects; provide**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 255 tasks the OneGeorgia Authority with administering a grant program called the Border Region Retail Tourism Development Program. "Border region" is defined as any part of the state within 25 miles of a state border. Applications will be reviewed by the authority on a case-by-case basis. Final approval is made by the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development and the governor.
- SB 260 Soil Amendments; exclude from regulation**
By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 260 excludes from rules and regulations governing soil amendments any soil amendments derived from industrial by-products solely generated from forest products. Local governments shall not adopt or enforce a zoning ordinance that creates a buffer or setback related to soil amendments that exceeds 100 feet.
- Every owner and operator of a farm on which soil amendments are used must obtain a site-specific nutrient management plan and make the plan available to the Department of Agriculture.
- The bill allows the State Board of Examiners for the Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts to assess a registration fee for board-approved continuing education providers.
- SB 280 Lumpkin County; board of commissioners; qualifications for the county manager; revise**
By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 280 revises the qualifications for the county manager of Lumpkin County.
- SB 282 Lincoln County; board of elections and registration; abolition of the board on a date certain; provide**
By: Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 282 provides for the abolition of the Lincoln County Board of Elections and Registration on June 30, 2021.

- SB 283 Lincoln County; board of elections and registration; reconstitute and reestablish**
By: Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 283 reconstitutes and reestablishes the Lincoln County Board of Elections and Registration. The board is composed of five members, three of whom are appointed by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, one of whom is appointed by the governing authority of the city of Lincoln, and one of whom is appointed by the Lincoln County Board of Education. The bill will not become effective and is automatically repealed on July 1, 2021, if a bill to abolish the current board is not approved during the 2021 Session.
- SB 285 Henry County Water Authority; provide for a sixth member of the authority's board**
By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 285 provides for a sixth member of the Henry County Water Authority Board.
- SB 286 "Henry County Development Authority Act"; appointment of a sixth member of the authority appointed by the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Henry County; provide**
By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 286 provides for a sixth member of the Henry County Development Authority.
- SB 290 Board of Education of Evans County; compensation of the board; revise**
By: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 290 revises the compensation of the members of the Evans County Board of Education. The chairperson shall receive \$400 for each day of attendance at board meetings and while meeting and traveling within or outside the state on official business, provided that such compensation shall not exceed \$800 per month. Other members shall receive \$200 for each day of attendance and while meeting and traveling on official business, provided that compensation shall not exceed \$400 per month.
- SB 292 City of Decatur; independent school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes; provide homestead exemption**
By: Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 292 provides a homestead exemption from city of Decatur independent school district ad valorem taxes for tax years 2022 and 2023 in the amount of \$200,000 for residents who are between the ages of 65 and 69 and whose income does not exceed \$53,000. An additional exemption is provided for tax years 2022 and 2023 in the amount of \$200,000 for residents who are 70 years or older, regardless of income.
- SB 293 DeKalb County; conditions upon the expansion of the boundaries of the City of Decatur independent school systems; provide**
By: Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 293 provides conditions upon the expansion of the boundaries of the city of Decatur independent school system that are extended by annexation by the city of Decatur and provides for the sharing of services and revenues between the DeKalb County School System and the Decatur City Schools.
- SB 294 City of Chamblee; change the election districts to provide for four council districts and one at-large districts**
By: Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 294 changes the election districts of the city of Chamblee to provide for four council districts and one at-large district.
- SB 295 City of Cleveland Building Authority; create and establish**
By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 295 creates and establishes the city of Cleveland Building Authority.

- SB 296 White County; Board of Commissioners members; expense allowances; provide**
By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 296 provides for expense allowances for members of the White County Board of Commissioners. The chairperson and each commissioner shall be eligible to receive an expense allowance for each meeting attended in his or her official capacity; however, the chairperson and commissioners shall not be eligible to receive such allowance for more than eight meetings per month. The allowance shall be equal to the expense allowance provided by law for members of the General Assembly.
- SB 297 Hall County; board of education members; compensation; revise**
By: Sen. Butch Miller (49th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 297 revises the compensation of the members of the Hall County Board of Education. Each member of the board will be compensated in the amount of \$1,000 per month.
- SB 300 Tattnall County; compensation and expense supplements of the chairperson and members of the board of commissioners; provisions; change**
By: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 300 changes certain provisions relating to compensation and expense supplements of the Tattnall County Board of Commissioners' chairperson and members of the board. Commissioners shall receive \$650 per month and the chairperson shall receive \$950 per month. Each commissioner shall receive an expense supplement of \$600 per month and the chairperson shall receive an expense supplement of \$700 per month.
- SB 301 City of Carrollton, Georgia; exercise all redevelopment and other powers ; authorize; referendum; effective dates**
By: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 301 authorizes the city of Carrollton to exercise all redevelopment powers in the Georgia Constitution and Code.
- SB 302 Pulaski County; compensation of future county officers; revise**
By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 302 revises the compensation of future Pulaski County officers. Each officer shall receive the annual minimum salary, supplements, cost-of-living increases, and longevity increases as provided by general law for his or her respective office. The county commissioner shall receive an annual salary equal to the annual minimum salary of the sheriff.
- SB 304 Peach County Public Facilities Authority; create**
By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 304 creates the Peach County Public Facilities Authority.
- SB 305 Early County; school district ad valorem taxes; educational purposes; provide homestead exemption**
By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 305 provides a homestead exemption from Early County School District taxes for \$150,000 for five years for residents who are 70 years or older. An additional \$300,000 exemption is provided for five years for residents who are 80 years or older.
- SB 306 Henry County; board of commissioners vacancies; provisions; revise**
By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 306 revises provisions regarding vacancies on the Henry County Board of Commissioners.

SB 307 Pulaski County; board of elections and registration; create*By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 307 creates a Pulaski County Board of Elections and Registration. The board shall be composed of five members. Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of the county from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates in the last general election received the largest number of votes for members of the General Assembly. Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of the county from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates in the last general election received the second largest number of votes for members of the General Assembly. One non-partisan member shall be appointed by the governing authority of the county and shall serve as chairperson.

SR 39 Charlotte Nash Intersection; Gwinnett County; dedicate*By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th)**Through the Transportation Committee*

Final Bill Summary: The House Substitute to Senate Resolution 39 includes the following dedications:

SR 39, dedicating the intersection at State Route 316 and Harbins Road in Gwinnett County as the Charlotte Nash Intersection;

HR 220, dedicating the portion of State Route 125 from Hillcrest Drive to Lenox-Alapaha Road in Berrien County as the Homer C. Sumner Memorial Highway, WWII-KIA in the Battle of the Bulge;

HR 221, dedicating the portion of State Route 125 from the Tift County line to Hillcrest Drive in Berrien County as the Charlie D. Rodgers Memorial Highway;

HR 269, dedicating the intersection of State Route 101 and Preacher Smith Road in Floyd County as the Private Carl Clifton Evans Memorial Intersection;

HR 270, dedicating the portion of U.S. Highway 27 from the Georgia/Tennessee state line to the Carroll County/Heard County line as the Georgia Grown Trail 27;

HR 283, dedicating the intersection of U.S. 29 and Golf Course Road/Industrial Park Road in Hart County as the American Legion Post 109 Intersection;

HR 284, dedicating the portion of State Route 281 from US 29 to State Route 191 in Madison County as the Judge Donald "Hoppy" Royston Highway;

HR 285, dedicating the portion of U.S. 29 from S.R. 8/Royston Bypass to the Hartwell city limits in Hart County as the Veterans Memorial Highway;

HR 286, dedicating the portion of State Route 108 from the Pickens/Cherokee County line to State Route 515 in Pickens County as the Dr. Tom and Jean Boswell Memorial Highway;

HR 353, dedicating the bridge on State Route 166 over Delowe Drive in Fulton County as the General Larry Platt Bridge;

HR 354, dedicating the interchange at Interstate 516 and Veterans Parkway in Chatham County as the Mayor Edna Jackson Interchange;

HR 355, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 16 and Interstate 516 in Chatham County as the Representative Bobby L. Hill Interchange;

HR 392, dedicating the portion of State Route 81 from US 78 to the Newton County line as the MSG Mark Allen and SGT Mike Stokely Memorial Highway;

HR 393, dedicating the portion of U.S. Route 78 from Pine Grove Road to the Georgia/Alabama state line in Haralson County as the Commissioner Bradley Scott "Brad" Vines Memorial Highway; and

HR 429, dedicating the bridge on Interstate 20 on Lee Street/Exit 55 in Fulton County as the HBCU Presidents' HERO Bridge.

