Georgia House of Representatives
SESSION REPORT

House Budget & Research Office
(404) 656-5050

2025 Session Report by Committee with Vetoes

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee **Staff: Anna Smith**

HB 331 Animals; prohibit transfer of certain domestic animals at certain locations

By: Rep. Beth Camp (135th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 331 makes it unlawful for any individual to engage in the transfer of a dog, cat, or domestic rabbit in public spaces including roadsides; public right of ways; parkways; medians; public or commercial parking lots or sidewalks; parks; recreation areas; fairs; transient or seasonal flea markets; or other transient markets or outdoor locations.

This will not apply to people or entities that may be able to produce a valid animal shelter license, transfers at a residence or veterinary office, transfers as part of an event sanctioned by certain agricultural exhibitions, or prearranged transfers that take place at law enforcement facilities. Violators may be fined no more than $100 for the first offense, $250 for the second offense, and $500 for third or subsequent offenses.

HB 398 Food, drugs, and cosmetics; authorize production and sale of cottage food items with certain exemptions, requirements, and disclosures

By: Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 398 creates a new article within Title 26 of the O.C.G.A. relating to cottage food items, operators, and production operations. A cottage food operator may only operate so long as they are in compliance with this article, and cottage food production operations may sell directly to consumers or to retail food establishments.

Violations of compliance within this article or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this article will incur a civil penalty of no more than $75 per violation. The Department of Agriculture is authorized to inspect the area in a residence used by a cottage food operator in order to investigate a consumer complaint.

HB 495 Education; Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation; repeal

By: Rep. Robert Dickey (134th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 495 transfers authority of the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation from the University System of Georgia to the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The center's director will be appointed by the Department of Agriculture commissioner. It will have a Georgia Rural Development Council composed of 12 members, six of which are appointed by the governor, three of which who live in different geographic areas of the state and are appointed by the speaker of the House, and three of which who live in different geographic areas of the state and are appointed by the president of the Senate.

The bill further outlines duties of the center, including producing an annual report, providing information and research, and conducting meetings at least once per quarter.

HB 614 Local government; prohibit use or ignition of consumer fireworks in proximity to certain facilities housing equines; authorize

By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) ***Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 614 allows a county governing authority or municipal corporation to adopt ordinances prohibiting firework usage within 200 yards of commercial facilities housing equines. Similarly,

the county governing authority or municipal corporation may issue special event permits that allow the usage of fireworks within the 200 yard range.

SB 105 Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians; licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians to practice veterinary teleadvice; authorize

By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 105 allows a licensed veterinarian to practice veterinary telemedicine in the state under conditions outlined in O.C.G.A. 43-50-120, and allows a licensed veterinarian or a veterinarian technician under supervision by a licensed veterinarian to practice veterinary teletriage under conditions outlined in O.C.G.A. 43-50-121. Other Code sections are amended by adding in definitions for "veterinary teleadvice," veterinary telemedicine," and "veterinary teletriage," and by updating language to reflect these new definitions.

SB 105 further allows graduates of a foreign veterinary medicine school who are able to submit a transcript, who have completed a residency program of two or more years, and have received board certification from a veterinary medicine organization recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Board of Veterinary Specialties, or other American Veterinary Medical Association board-approved organizations to be able to apply for a veterinary license in Georgia.

A graduate may additionally submit an Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) certificate or its equivalent, a Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) certificate or its equivalent, or any other document authorized by the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. The bill does not prohibit someone licensed in this way from lecturing or giving instructions in their certified veterinary medicine specialty.

SB 112 Selling and other Trade Practices; certain protections for consumers relative to warranties of HVAC systems and components of such systems; extend

By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 112 creates a new article in Title 10 of the O.C.G.A. to allow an HVAC system manufacturer's warranty to be conveyed to a new owner of a residential property should a conveyance of property take place.

SB 144 Fertilizers or Pesticides; a manufacturer cannot be held liable for failing to warn consumers of health risks above those required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; clarify

By: Sen. Sam Watson (11th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 144 allows pesticides registered with the Department of Agriculture commissioner that display a label approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or is consistent with the 'Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act' human health risk assessment to be considered a sufficient warning of health risk.

Provisions regarding this new subsection are not applicable when the EPA has discovered that a manufacturer has knowingly withheld, misrepresented, concealed, or destroyed certain health risks in order to obtain EPA approval.

SB 201 Consumer Transactions; increased consumer protection for homeowners entering into contracts with contractors following natural disasters; provide

By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 201 protects homeowners entering into contracts with contractors in the wake of a natural disaster. Contractors entering into a contract with a homeowner within one year of a natural

disaster are required to accept contract cancellation if all or part of the homeowner's insurance claim is not covering their loss. Contractors are also required to notify homeowners of their right to cancel.

Appropriations Committee

HB 67 Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 67, the Amended Fiscal Year 2025 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of $40.6 billion. In addition to revenue growth, the governor's revenue estimate for the Amended FY 2025 budget includes $2.7 billion in surplus funds for a total infusion of $4.4 billion, or an increase of 12.2 percent over the original estimate. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website.

HB 68 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 68, the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of $37.8 billion, an increase of $1.6 billion or 4.4 percent over the FY 2025 original budget. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website.

HB 579 Professions and businesses; licensure to engage in trade; provisions

By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Appropriations Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 579 amends Title 43, related to professions and business, to make broad changes to the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Division and the division's director.

Section 1-1 grants the Professional Licensing Division the ability to allow applicants to take necessary examinations before starting an application, when appropriate. The bill requires the division director to maintain a roster of names and addresses for individuals that have received a cease-and-desist letter from a professional licensing board for practicing a profession without a license. An exception is provided for persons who fail to renew a license in a 45-day period.

Section 1-2 adds the ability to grant applications for license issuance, renewal, or reinstatement to the duties of the secretary of state's Professional Licensing Division director.

Section 1-3 of the bill grants the director of Professional Licensing Division the ability to approve applications for licensing, renewal, or reinstatement on behalf of professional licensing boards. The director will only approve applications if the applicant satisfies all requirements for licensure. If the director is unable to make a determination or an application is deficient, the director will forward the application to the relevant licensing board. The licensing board must approve or deny the application in a timely manner. A licensing board may still approve or deny a license before any review or determination has been made by the division director.

The division may utilize other methods of confirming required educational achievements in addition to receiving or requesting an applicant's official transcript.

Section 1-4 codifies the division director's ability to set expiration, renewal, and penalty dates with approval from the related professional licensing boards. The division director is also instructed to set renewal dates over a two-year period in a manner that, within reason, evenly distributes renewal dates.

A license shall remain renewable for up to 45 days after expiration, provided that the license holder meets all requirements of the license and has paid all fees due.

Section 1-5 allows the governor to remove a licensing board member for cause without a hearing.

Section 1-6 limits licensing boards to promulgating rules and regulations that solely protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Sections 2-1 strikes provisions establishing separate standards committees for the Composite Board Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists and eliminates a requirement for multiple board members to review and approve an application.

Section 3-1 sets the bills effective date as July 1, 2026.

Banks & Banking Committee — Staff: Brock Perry

HB 15 Banking and finance; update terminology; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 15 revises provisions related to Georgia banking law. The bill revises filing requirements by requiring counties of residence, rather than addresses, for incorporators, directors, and subscribers of financial institutions such as banks and credit unions. The bill modifies credit union subscriber requirements by setting out procedures related to the application for a certificate of incorporation with the department.

The credit union application review process will examine the public needs as well as the credit union having the adequate capital structure relative to the anticipated business of the credit union and the safety of prospective members. If the approval of a federal public body is also required with respect to a proposed credit union, the department may elect to not act on the application until federal approval is given. The bill defines disqualifying crimes for purposes of applications for licensure with the department, and allows the non-issuance or revocation of a license if the person has been convicted of a Georgia felony within the previous seven years or if that felony at any time was a disqualifying crime.

Provisions related to mortgage lending services and other mortgage lending practices, including definitions, are included in the bill. Mortgage brokers are required to submit an annual unaudited financial statement, but may also elect to submit an audited financial statement. Submitting an unaudited financial statement permits the department to require the submission of an audited financial statement if the department finds an audit to be necessary. Mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers must adhere to sufficient capital, net worth, and liquidity requirements based on the type of mortgage lender or servicer.

Provisions regarding criminal history checks are revised to permit commercial backgrounds in lieu of requiring Georgia Crime Information Center checks and fingerprints. The department is entitled to review the files of any applicant or merchant acquirer limited purpose bank to ensure checks have been conducted and all employees are qualified.

HB 159 Georgia Housing and Finance Authority; increase outstanding bond limit

By: Rep. Clint Crowe (118th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 159 revises the outstanding bond limit for the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority from $3 billion to $6 billion.

HB 240 **Mortgage lenders and brokers; prohibit unfair or deceptive practices in consumer transactions related to mortgage trigger leads**

By: Rep. Noel Williams (148th) ***Through the Banks & Banking Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 240 prohibits engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices when using a mortgage trigger lead, or a consumer report whose issuance is triggered by a credit inquiry, to solicit a consumer who has applied for a loan with another mortgage lender or broker.

Those acts or practices include: failing to state in the initial solicitation that the person is not affiliated with the mortgage lender with which the consumer initially applied; failing to conform to applicable law relating to prescreened solicitations using consumer reports; using the information of consumers who have opted out of prescreened offers of credit or who are on the federal do-not-call registry; or soliciting a consumer with an offer of certain rates and terms while knowing that those rates and terms will subsequently change to the consumer's detriment.

HB 241 **Contracts; convenience fees for payment by electronic means; revise provisions**

By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) ***Through the Banks & Banking Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 241 revises law related to convenience fees by authorizing a lender or merchant to collect, in lieu of the actual cost, a fee which does not exceed the average of the actual cost incurred for a specific type of electronic payment, or a fee of up to five dollars, whichever is greater.

SB 119 **Manufactured or Mobile Homes; limited exceptions to circumstances under which a manufactured home shall become real property; provide**

By: Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) ***Through the Banks & Banking Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 119 revises provisions regarding when manufactured homes become real property, specifically through a certificate of permanent location. When a certificate of permanent location is filed, the commissioner will notify the holders of all listed security interests that a certificate has been filed and the certificate of title has been surrendered.

The filing of a certificate of permanent location and the surrender of a certificate of title will not impair the rights and remedies of a prior interest holder until the interest has been satisfied. Additionally, the filing of a certificate of permanent location and the surrender of a certificate of title will not impose additional licensing or conduct requirements on the lien or security interest holder.

Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee — Staff: Sara Arroyo

SB 46 **"Government Serves the People Act"; enact - Governor's Veto Statement HERE**

(Vetoed) ***By: Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)*** ***Through the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 46 creates the 'Government Serves the People Act.' The bill directs the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) director to appoint a State of Georgia Government Service Delivery Lead within GTA to improve state government service delivery.

To improve service delivery, the appointed lead will collect and report qualitative and quantitative information and measures, evaluate the quality of service delivery through the creation of performance metrics, engage with service delivery and design experts to identify effective practices, and advise agency directors concerning improvements.

The bill requires state agency heads to appoint a lead agency service delivery official to improve service delivery in their agency. Beginning in 2026, the GTA director must submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House an annual report on current and future government-wide efforts to improve service delivery.

Code Revision Committee **Staff: Brock Perry**

HB 484 General Assembly; digitization and electronic publication of Georgia Laws; provide
By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd) ***Through the Code Revision Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 484 permits the publishing of the Georgia Laws to be electronic or in hardbound volumes. The Code Revision Commission is charged with providing assistance and oversight of the digitization and electronic publication of the Georgia Laws in a permanent digital repository.

SB 96 Official Code of Georgia Annotated; provisions creating certain boards, panels, authorities, centers, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, and other such bodies; update and modernize
By: Sen. Drew Echols (49th) ***Through the Code Revision Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 96 makes modifications with respect to particular boards, advisory councils, commissions, and other similar bodies. Certain bodies are abolished, with liabilities and obligations of those bodies assumed by the state. The composition, appointment procedures, member terms, and requirements of particular bodies are revised.

SB 153 Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions in, and reenact the statutory portion of said Code
By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) ***Through the Code Revision Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 153 is the annual Code revision bill to revise, modernize, and correct errors or omissions to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The bill reflects the work of the Code Revision Commission to repeal portions of the Code that are obsolete, declared unconstitutional, or preempted or superseded by subsequent laws. Lastly, the bill provides for other matters relating to revision, reenactment, and publication of the Code.

Creative Arts & Entertainment Committee **Staff: Patrick Mock**

HB 475 Income tax credit; film, gaming, or digital production; revise a definition
By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) ***Through the Creative Arts & Entertainment Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 475 refines Georgia's film tax credit program by further specifying the "qualified production activities" that are eligible for tax incentives. The bill also authorizes the Department of Economic Development to charge fees associated with the project certification process.

Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee **Staff: Amber Mack**

HB 53 Georgia veterans; allow certain persons to be buried in Georgia veterans cemeteries
By: Rep. Josh Bonner (73rd) ***Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 53 updates criteria for veterans to be eligible for burial in a Georgia veterans cemetery. Members will qualify in accordance with the federal 'Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2021,' provided the member died after August 1, 1990 and completed a full term of service with an honorable discharge. Reserve and National Guard members who died during service as well as immediate family members are also eligible. The Department of Veterans Service may charge burial fees.

Economic Development & Tourism Committee **Staff: Bailey Jordan**

HB 216 Richard H. Smith Georgia CHIPS Advancement in Research and Economic Development Act; enact

By: Rep. Vance Smith (138th) ***Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 216 establishes the 'Richard H. Smith Georgia CHIPS Advancement in Research and Development Act.' The bill creates a commission to attract and support semiconductor companies to Georgia by assembling private and public stakeholders, identifying workforce development and training opportunities, and establishing a system for attracting investments.

The commission will consist of three members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the president of the Senate, two members appointed by the speaker of the House, the chancellor of the University System of Georgia or their designee, and the president of the Technical College System of Georgia or their designee.

Education Committee **Staff: Cortney George**

HB 37 Education; require local school systems to notify employees regarding social security withholdings and eligibility for certain benefits

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 37 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-55 to provide for payment of the costs of health insurance coverage for family members of local boards of education.

Section 2 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-219.1, to require local school systems to notify new hires whether Social Security taxes are withheld from employee's paychecks beginning July 1, 2025. Every five years and upon separation of employment, the school system must remind employees whether Social Security taxes are withheld from the employee's pay during employment.

HB 81 Interstate Compact for School Psychologists; enter into

By: Rep. Bethany Ballard (147th) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 81 creates the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists to establish a pathway for school psychologists to obtain equivalent licenses in member states to ensure that safe, effective school psychological services are available and delivered by appropriately qualified professionals in an educational setting.

HB 105 Public officers and employees; increase indemnification award of certain state public school personnel in the event of death

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 105 is the 'Daniel D. Podsiadly, Jr. Act.' The bill requires the State Board of Workers' Compensation to investigate and notify the Department of Administrative Services when a peace officer is awarded benefits and suffered catastrophic injury under certain circumstances. Law enforcement agencies must notify peace officers of the existence of the Georgia State Indemnification Fund within 10 days of a temporary or permanent disability suffered in the line of duty.

Section 4 amends O.C.G.A. 45-9-78, which increases the indemnification award from $75,000 to $150,000 for certain state public school personnel in the event of death.

HB 175 Education; employee comprehensive background checks for early care and education programs and Head Start programs; revise provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 175 amends O.C.G.A. 20-1A-2 to require comprehensive background checks for employees of early care and education programs, and Head Start programs. The bill provides for revocation and nonissue of licenses and commissions for early care and education programs for noncompliance.

HB 192 Top State for Talent Act; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 192 creates the 'Top State for Talent Act,' which references programs included in the High Demand Career List published by the State Workforce Development Board with respect to the State Board of Education's minimum course of study in career education for students in grades six through 12.

The bill aligns all workforce-related Code sections and incorporates all agencies that are performing workforce readiness. The High Demand Career List will be consulted when the Georgia Department of Education creates course work for career education. The bill also requires a report on articulation agreements to make sure students do not repeat courses for skills already mastered and completed.

HB 235 Georgia Supporting Living Donor Educators Act; enact

By: Rep. Rick Townsend (179th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 235 amends O.C.G.A. 20-1-12, known as the 'Georgia Supporting Living Donor Educators Act,' to require employers of school employees, teachers, and postsecondary employees to provide a leave of absence for the donation of bone marrow and organs.

HB 268 Education; safety, health, and well-being of students and school communities; provide

By: Rep. Holt Persinger (119th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 268 is a comprehensive bill to provide for the safety, health, and well-being of students and school communities.

Part I
Panic Alert Buttons
Section 1-1 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-590, to enact 'Ricky and Alyssa's Law.' The bill requires local school systems to implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting disparate emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple state and local first responder agencies in the event of a school security incident.

School Mapping
Section 1-2, 1-3
The bill authorizes the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to adopt rules and regulations for the requirements for school mapping data. Schools shall procure school mapping data by July 1, 2026.

Part II
Student Records
Section 2-1
Student records must be requested from the transferring school within five school business days of notification by the custodian of a child in state custody or care. When a local unit of administration is tasked with educating a child in custody, all educational and medical records from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Department of Human Services (DHS), or the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) will be shared. These records must include, but are not limited to, whether the child has

been adjudicated delinquent of a felony; if the child is serving a suspension or expulsion and why; and if the child is subject to a disciplinary hearing, or other criminal action, disciplinary action, or behavioral correction plan. The custodian agency must release all records within five days to the requesting local unit of administration.

Section 2-7
Local boards of education must immediately provide an electronic copy of a student's complete education record to any parent, legal custodian, or another authorized person within three business days of the request. Should any part not be available electronically, the requesting individual will be notified on the third business day when it will be ready for retrieval.

Section 2-8
When a parent or legal custodian seeks permanent student enrollment of students above third grade, the parent or custodian must attest to the existence or non-existence of certain non-educational data when enrolling a new student. For example, the parent or guardian must disclose if the student has been adjudicated guilty of a class A felony or if the student is currently the subject of a notice of a disciplinary hearing.

Students may be provisionally enrolled for a 10-day period after the parent or custodian executes the document. Parents may request to view all student records forwarded to the transferring school, and no local board of education can have a policy which denies a parent or legal custodian of a student the ability to review the student's education records.

Section 2-14
Courts may intervene if it finds a parent or custodian has willfully and unreasonably failed to authorize the release of student education records.

Qualified Student Advocacy Specialist
Section 2-2
Each school system will earn reimbursement for one or more qualified student advocacy specialists based on the number of full-time equivalent enrollment totals. These coordinators will identify and facilitate appropriate interventions for students with or at risk of mental health concerns, including, but not limited to, telehealth services.

Student Affairs Officer
Section 2-4
Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) will designate one staff member as the RESA student affairs officer. RESAs are authorized to provide dispute resolution services related to data-sharing concerns between state agencies, local units of administration, local education agencies, and public and private schools.

Data Privacy
Section 2-6
The chief privacy officer will create a guidance document to provide to all local, state, and federal agencies that hold student education data, student health records, student data, and personally identifiable information of students and their families regarding current state and federal laws surrounding such data. This guidance should include what data can and cannot be shared with other educators, schools, DJJ, DHS, DFCS, and the federal Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). This guidance will also govern what these respective entities can and cannot share with law enforcement and other entities in the judicial system, and vice versa.

Notification - Children Taken into Custody
Section 2-10
Each official taking action pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-699, which is the Code section relating to the disposition of children taken into custody, will notify a school official, public or private, where the child is enrolled and the child's parent or guardian of the outcome of such disposition.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
Section 2-12
All local boards of education will implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) initiatives in all high needs elementary and middle schools in their districts.

Suicide Prevention and Youth Violence Training
Section 2-15
Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, public schools serving students in grades six through 12 must provide one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training, and one hour of youth violence prevention training each school year.

Absenteeism
Section 2-16
When a student is absent for 30 consecutive days, with certain conditions being met, the local school will refer the matter to DFCS to conduct an assessment and the RESA student affairs officer to determine whether the student has withdrawn.

Model Law Enforcement Agreements
Section 2-18
By August 1, 2025, the Department of Education must publish on its website model language for agreements between local school systems and law enforcement officers. Schools must update their written agreements with law enforcement officers by October 1, 2025. Such agreements must specify which educational information is accessible to law enforcement and what constitutes educational records that are protected by the federal 'Family Education Rights and Privacy Act' (FERPA).

School Safety Plan Updates
Sections 2-19 and 2-20 require school safety plans to include provisions to address the behavioral health needs of students and staff by January 1, 2027. Each school safety plan will also include a behavioral threat assessment management (BTAM) plan to provide a multidisciplinary process to identify, assess, and mitigate potential threats to school safety. The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) will provide training and technical assistance to the Department of Education, RESAs, all local school systems, and private schools on BTAM plans.

GEMA Emergency Alert Response System
Section 2-21
This section creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-1186, which requires GEMA/HS to establish an emergency alert response system that allows public and secondary schools to communicate information with the local school system about threats made on or impacting a school campus or emergency procedures initiated due to an active threat to safety.

Part III
Section 3-1 amends O.C.G.A. 15-11-2, relating to the juvenile Code by revising the definition of assault with a deadly weapon.

Section 3-2 amends O.C.G.A. 15-11-560, by giving superior courts concurrent and original jurisdiction relative to delinquency in which a child is alleged to have committed a crime which would be punishable by

loss of life, life without parole, or life in a penal institution were the child an adult. Superior courts have exclusive original jurisdiction over a trial when a 13 to 17-year-old has committed certain violent crimes.

Section 3-4
The bill clarifies what situations are considered disrupting or interfering with the operation of any public school, which is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. Local school systems must implement a system of progressive discipline that allows a school to move a student to remote learning when there has been a credible threat of violence until such time as an investigation has been concluded.

Section 3-5
Creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-1181.1, stating a person commits the offense of a terroristic threat of a school when they threaten to commit any crime of violence, release any hazardous substance, or burn or damage property.

Part IV
Section 4-1
The act will become law upon the approval of the governor or upon its becoming law without such approval. Sections 2-8, 3-3, and 3-4 will be applicable to any offences committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

HB 307 Quality Basic Education Act; students significantly at risk of not achieving grade level reading proficiency or with characteristics of dyslexia; include provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 307 amends O.C.G.A. 20-1-153, known as the 'Georgia Early Literacy and Dyslexia Act,' to include provisions for students significantly at risk of not achieving grade level reading proficiency or with characteristics of dyslexia to align instruction with the science of reading principles.

The bill prevents using three-cueing instruction as the primary means of providing literacy instruction. This Code section creates the Georgia Literacy Plan Coordination Council, which will support coordination of state literacy efforts to ensure training is standardized across the state. The bill repeals O.C.G.A. 20-2-159.6, relating to screening for dyslexia and related disorders, and joins the dyslexia Code section with the literacy act.

The bill extends the repeal date of the Georgia Council on Literacy from 2026 to 2030, and allows members of the council to receive per diem expenses for travel related to service on the council.

HB 340 Distraction-Free Education Act; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 340 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-324.8, to enact the 'Distraction-Free Education Act.' The bill requires local school systems and public schools to enact policies and procedures for the use of personal electronic devices at school and school-sponsored events by students in kindergarten through eighth grade by July 1, 2026.

The bill provides for permissible student use of personal electronic devices, school electronic devices, and authorizes the Department of Education to provide guidance and technical assistance.

HB 371 Quality Basic Education Act; state's maximum authorization of capital outlay funding; provide for an increase

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 371 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-260, relating to capital outlay funds generally under the 'Quality Basic Education Act.' The bill provides for an increase of the state's maximum authorization of capital outlay funding from $300 million to $375 million annually.

Section 2 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-261, to require new construction for all elementary schools commencing on or after July 1, 2027, to include an inclusive playground design. The playground must address the physical, sensory, cognitive, social, emotional, imaginative, and communication needs of students. The playground should include a sensory-diverse environment that enables children of all abilities to develop physically, socially, and emotionally.

HR 711 House Study Committee on Student Attendance in PreK-12 Education; create

By: Rep. Chris Erwin (32nd) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 711 establishes the House Study Committee on Student Attendance in Pre-K-12 Education. The study committee will conduct a comprehensive review of student attendance in pre-K through grade 12. The study committee will be composed of six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.

HR 887 House Study Committee on Reducing and Prioritizing Mandates for Public School Administration; create

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

Final Bill Summary: HR 887 establishes the House Study Committee on Reducing and Prioritizing Mandates for Public School Administration. The study committee will be composed of six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.

SB 1 'Fair and Safe Athletic Opportunities Act'; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 1 amends various titles in the Code, known as the 'Riley Gaines Act,' to provide for separate restrooms and changing areas for males and females during athletic events in schools and postsecondary institutions. Schools and postsecondary institutions must provide reasonable accommodations for individuals unwilling or unable to use a restroom or changing area designated for such an individual's sex. The bill provides for separation according to sex for sleeping arrangements on school trips.

All public schools, local school systems, and private schools participating in competitions or athletic events must designate each team, competition, or athletic event as for males, females, or coed.

The bill provides for legislative findings on the importance of certain distinctions between the sexes and student athletes deserve to have a competitively fair and safe opportunity to participate and succeed in sports. The term "gender" is replaced with "sex" throughout the Code.

SB 44 Equalization Grants, Annual Calculations, and Allocation; the definition of the term "qualified local school system" by reducing the minimum required millage rate; revise

By: Sen. Sam Watson (11th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 44 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-165, which revises the definition of the "qualified local school system" by reducing the minimum required or equivalent millage rate from 14 mills to 10 mills. This bill provides for a 25 percent reduction of equalization grant awards for local school systems whose millage rate or equivalent millage rate does not meet the minimum requirement.

A report created by the Department of Education will be sent to certain members of the General Assembly, the House Budget and Research Office, Senate Budget and Evaluation Office, and Office of Planning and Budget each year by September 1. The report will show systems that received an equalization grant the previous fiscal year, the total amount of equalization earned over the past 10 years, and list any systems with a millage rate less than 10 percent.

SB 63 "Quality Basic Education Act"; local school systems offer certain exams to home study students; require

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 63 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-324.8, which requires that local school systems allow home school students to take the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, PreACT, ACT, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or Advanced Placement exams offered by the school system to resident students. The local school system may require home school students to pay for such an exam if the school is requiring all students to pay a fee to take the exam.

SB 82 "Local Charter School Authorization and Support Act of 2025"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 82 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-260, enacting the 'Local Charter School Authorization and Support Act of 2025.' The bill requires the Office of Charter School Compliance to prepare guidelines for local boards of education for the evaluation of charter school petitions and revises reporting. Local boards of education must provide a written statement of denial to the charter petitioner, the state board, and the office within 10 days of denial by the local board. Local school boards of education that deny charter schools which are later approved by the Charter Schools Commission could face the loss of the current charter system contract or strategic waivers school system contract.

The bill also provides for the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the State Charter Schools Commission, to establish a program for the purposes of promoting and supporting the approval of new local charter school petitions by local boards of education, and to provide $250,000 incentive grants to local boards of education that approve new local charter school petitions.

SB 93 "Georgia Early Literacy Act"; the three-cuing system from inclusion in high-quality instructional materials or structured literacy; prohibit

By: Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 93 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-153.1 to provide for the Professional Standards Commission to adopt rules to require that the content standards align with the science of reading for core curricula for state-approved educator preparation programs.

SB 123 Compulsory Attendance; provisions of the state's compulsory school attendance laws; update and revise

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 123 amends O.C.G.A. 20-4-141, 20-2-690, and 20-2-690.1. The bill updates and revises provisions of the state's compulsory school attendance laws. The bill provides that no student will be expelled by a public school due solely to absenteeism.

Beginning in 2026, and every other year after, the Department of Education will submit a county-by-county report of compliance by local school systems with provisions related to the student attendance and school climate committee to the chairs of the House Education Committee and the Senate Education and Youth Committee.

If a school system has a chronic absenteeism rate of 10 percent or higher, the system must create an attendance review team. If one or more schools has a school chronic absenteeism rate of 15 percent or higher, the system will establish an attendance review team for each such school.

SB 154 United States Department of Education; references from the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise or remove

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 154 amends multiple Code sections by adding the words "or its successor" across Georgia Code after references to the U.S. Department of Education. The bill updates dated language by replacing a reference to student aid reports with Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in O.C.G.A. 20-3-660.

SB 212 "Quality Basic Education Act,"; disclosure of public student directory information to political candidates or persons or groups acting on their behalf; prohibit

By: Sen. Shawn Still (48th) ***Through the Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 212 prevents the disclosure of confidential voter registration record information to unauthorized persons, and prohibits the disclosure of public student directory information for political use. The bill amends O.C.G.A. 21-5-16 to prevent students from being solicited to organize political events on school property when such event is otherwise prohibited by law or by policy of the local school system or school.

Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee **Staff: Bailey Jordan**

HR 429 House Study Committee on Funding for Next Generation 9-1-1; create

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) ***Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 429 establishes the House Study Committee on Funding for Next Generation 9-1-1. The committee will consist of five members appointed by the speaker of the House. The committee will be abolished December 1, 2025.

SB 13 Georgia Environmental Finance Authority; finance and perform certain duties in connection with projects relating to natural gas facilities; authorize

By: Sen. Carden Summers (13th) ***Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 13 allows the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to provide loans for the supply, distribution, and storage of natural gas. The bill provides for the transition from electrical lines aboveground to underground.

SB 256 Electric Membership Corporation; disclose certain acquisitions and other information to its members within a certain time frame; require

By: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) ***Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 256 requires any electric membership cooperation (EMC) that exceeds 15 percent of the net utility plant invested in an EMC gas affiliate to disclose the yearly cost of the gas sold to its members.

Game, Fish, & Parks Committee **Staff: Patrick Mock**

HB 167 Game and fish; authorize fluorescent pink hunting outer garments

By: Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th) ***Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 167 revises restrictions relating to hunting feral hogs, bears, and deer. The bill makes the color fluorescent pink an acceptable outer garment color that can be worn while hunting these animals under specific circumstances.

HB 287 Environmental Protection Division; Environmental Advisory Council; update reference date to standards, rules, and regulations

By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) ***Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 287 updates multiple sunset dates and authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue free courtesy hunting or fishing licenses to paralyzed or disabled individuals participating in approved organized events.

The bill also introduces a new fee structure for resident shellfish crew licenses. It creates two categories: one for up to 10 harvesters at an annual fee of $200, and another for unlimited harvesters at an annual fee of $400.

HB 454 Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund Act; enact

By: Rep. Houston Gaines (120th) ***Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 454 is known as 'The Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund Act' and establishes a dedicated trust fund to support the preservation of historic battlefields in Georgia. Administered by the Department of Natural Resources, the fund will receive money from state appropriations, grants, and private donations to provide matching grants for purchasing or protecting battlefield lands. Organizations applying for grants must provide matching contributions, and meet specific criteria related to historical significance, proximity to other protected lands, and threats to preservation.

HB 491 Game and fish; remove an exception for use of air guns to hunt wildlife

By: Rep. Johnny Chastain (7th) ***Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 491 removes a sunset date related to hunting wildlife with an air gun. The bill also makes it unlawful to take any catfish species from state waters using a bow and arrow except under certain conditions.

Governmental Affairs Committee **Staff: Molly Aziz**

HB 113 State government; prohibit the state or its agencies from purchasing goods from certain foreign countries or related entities

By: Rep. Lauren McDonald III (26th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 113 requires the Georgia Technology Authority to maintain a list of concerned goods produced by a foreign company of concern or a foreign country of concern. State entities are prohibited from purchasing concerned goods from a foreign company of concern, a foreign country of concern, or a third-party vendor or reseller.

HB 137 Contracts; increase dollar value of certain public works contracts exempt from provisions relating to retention of contractual payments

By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 137 increases the contract value amount from $100,000 or less to $250,000 or less for certain contracts that are exempt from specified contracting and bidding requirements.

HB 155 Local government; selection and objection to arbitrators; revise procedures

By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 155 provides guidelines and requirements for objecting to a proposed annexation and the arbitration process that follows. The bill allows for the direct appeal of all final judgements or orders reviewing a zoning decision. The bill allows for the right to appeal to a local government board or authority for specified permit decisions. The bill adjusts certain provisions related to timing and notice requirements related to zoning decisions.

The bill restricts a county development authority from operating or undertaking any projects within certain municipalities if they adopt a resolution to limit such development and if the municipality is part of a massively municipalized county.

The bill requires a referendum vote of impacted county voters to approve specified types of annexations.

HB 399 Property; require certain residential landlords to have in-state staff to manage tenant communications

By: Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (84th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 399 requires out-of-state landlords owning or operating rental properties in the state to employ a licensed broker, that may or may not reside in this state, and if the broker resides out-of-state, at least one person located within the state for purposes of managing and responding to communications from the landlord's tenants related to property issues.

HB 416 Local government; enterprise zones; revise class of retailer from which fees may be collected

By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 416 amends O.C.G.A. 36-88-6, relating to enterprise zone criteria, to restrict annual enterprise zone infrastructure fees assessed by local governing bodies to being assessed only on retailers that are qualifying businesses or service enterprises receiving a sales and use tax exemption for being located within a designated enterprise zone.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 36-88-10, relating to time limitations for enterprise zones, to change the start of the 30-year duration of an enterprise zone authorized by O.C.G.A. 36-88-6 from beginning to the completion of the redevelopment project, and retiring of any revenue bonds related to the project to the first issuance of a bond with a principal amount of at least $100,000.

HB 513 Local government; criteria for service delivery strategy; revise provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 513 provides for the use of additional funding sources related to county services jointly funded by the county and one or more municipalities. The bill requires the county to provide an annual report of the funding of such jointly funded services.

The bill authorizes local government entities to continue existing local ordinances related to video surveillance at gas stations if such ordinances were adopted prior to May 6, 2024.

SB 12 Inspection of Public Records; documents and records in the possession of private persons or entities; revise provisions

By: Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 12 requires public agencies to act as custodians of public records and to produce specified public records on behalf of a private entity when necessary.

SB 16 Public Officials; bail bond business; modify provisions

By: Sen. Matt Brass (6th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 16 prohibits any member of the governing authority of a local government to engage directly or indirectly in a bail bond business within the jurisdiction of their respective local government.

SB 199 State Ethics Commission; shall not accept or reject complaints made against candidates 60 days prior to an election; provide

By: Sen. Sam Watson (11th) ***Through the Governmental Affairs Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 199 prohibits the State Ethics Commission from accepting, rejecting, or issuing a complaint against a candidate in the 60 days preceding the date of their election. The bill requires local elected officials to file financial disclosures with the State Ethics Commission, rather than locally.

The bill provides requirements for certain political action committees. It also changes filing dates for certain financial disclosure reports. Local elected officials are required to acknowledge the requirement for specified training when submitting certain forms. The bill clarifies the information to be included in a candidate's financial statement and revises lobbyist disclosure requirements.

Health Committee — Staff: Morgan Hall

HB 94 Insurance; medically necessary expenses for standard fertility preservation services when a medically necessary treatment for cancer, sickle cell disease, or lupus may directly or indirectly cause an impairment of fertility; require coverage

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 94 requires every health benefit policy renewed or issued after January 1, 2026 to include coverage for expenses related to starting fertility preservation when a medically necessary treatment may cause infertility.

HB 196 State employees' health insurance plan; drugs dispensed for self-administration; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 196 requires health insurers to reimburse a pharmacy for a drug dispensed to a covered person on the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) based on the national average drug acquisition cost (NADAC). Additionally, the bill requires a professional dispensing fee that is not less than the professional dispensing fee paid by the state under the 'Social Security Act.'

HB 197 Insurance; health care provider to respond to a private review agent or utility review entity's attempt to discuss the patient's care; detail the effort

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 197 implements a callback telecommunications system for peer to peer communications in the event a clinical peer is not available upon first contact effort. Additionally, this bill addresses prior authorization practices.

HB 322 Ga. Board of Dentistry; issuance of a dental or dental hygiene license for the sole purpose of teaching in an accredited dental, dental hygiene school, or academic medical center; revise provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 322 creates additional provisions for dental school teaching applicants to accomplish before submitting a teaching application to the Georgia Board of Dentistry.

HB 428 Health; codify right to in vitro fertilization for individuals

By: Rep. Lehman Franklin (160th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 428 clarifies that an individual will not be prohibited or prevented from obtaining in vitro fertilization.

HB 473 Controlled substances; Schedule I; provide certain provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 473 adds certain drugs to the Code sections defining Schedule I controlled substances and defines dangerous drugs.

HB 567 Professions and businesses; authorize and regulate teledentistry by licensed dentists

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 567 authorizes teledentistry by licensed dentists, while establishing requirements and restrictions. The bill allows for the coverage of teledentistry healthcare services under dental benefits plans.

HR 69 Biomedical Research Day; every third Thursday in April; recognize

By: Rep. Imani Barnes (86th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 69 creates Biomedical Research Day, which will take place every third Thursday in April.

HR 72 House Study Committee on Cancer Care Access; create

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

Final Bill Summary: HR 72 creates the House Study Committee on Cancer Care Access. The committee is to be comprised of 12 committee members appointed by the speaker of the House.

SB 6 Controlled Substances; determine whether a controlled substance has been adulterated; authorize the use of testing equipment

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 6 allows for drug analysis equipment to be used to determine whether a controlled substance or its packaging has been altered.

SB 58 "Georgia Transporting Life-Saving Organs and Personnel Act"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 58, known as the 'Georgia Transporting Life-Saving Organs and Personnel Act,' authorizes the emergency transportation of necessary personnel, organs, tissue, or medical supplies to a time-critical organ transplant procedure.

SB 72 "Hope for Georgia Patients Act"; enact

By: Sen. Matt Brass (6th) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 72 allows for a terminally ill patient's right to try investigational drugs, biological products, and devices to expand their access to individualized treatments.

SB 130 Health; medical education funding and the service cancelable loan program; expand

By: Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) ***Through the Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 130 expands the ability for a resident or fellow to be taught in a teaching hospital or a medical facility that meets the stated criteria. This bill also allows a resident or fellow to apply for the service cancelable loan program through the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce.

SB 140 Optometrists; doctors of optometry to dispense and sell pharmaceutical agents to patients under certain conditions; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 140 authorizes a doctor of optometry to dispense and sell pharmaceuticals that are related to the treatment of diseases and conditions of the eye, except those that are controlled substances.

Higher Education Committee **Staff: Molly Aziz**

HB 38 Education; needs based financial aid program; revise definition of eligible student

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 38 provides Georgia College Completion Grant (GCCG) eligibility to students who have completed 70 percent of a four-year program or 45 percent of a two-year program. The sunset date for the GCCG program is extended from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2029.

HB 150 Combating Threats from China Act of 2025 - Higher Education; enact

By: Rep. Tim Fleming (114th) ***Through the Higher Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 150 creates the 'Combating Threats from Foreign Countries of Concern Act of 2025 - Higher Education.' The bill requires the university system to submit a semiannual report to the governor and the chairs of the House and Senate Higher Education Committees detailing the funding received by the system from a foreign country of concern, a foreign entity of concern, or a foreign individual of concern.

HB 172 Veterinary education; limits on student loan forgiveness program; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 172 clarifies eligibility for the Veterinary Education Loan Repayment Program to include former students and specifies that applicants must have practiced in the required specialty for 10 years or less. The maximum award amount for repayment is increased from $80,000 to $90,000, to be paid in increments of $30,000 per 12 months of service.

HB 217 Education; make Dual Achievement Program a permanent state-wide program

By: Rep. Soo Hong (103rd) ***Through the Higher Education Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 217 updates provisions related to local school system enrollment counts as they relate to local board of education elections. The bill authorizes the Education Savings Authority to submit the income information of Promise Scholarship applicants to the Department of Revenue for verification.

The bill extends the Dual Achievement pilot program sunset date to July 1, 2031. It also provides for the distribution of QBE formula earnings from the State Board of Education to the TCSG board based on the number of eligible students participating in the program.

SB 20 Veterinarians; student loan repayment; who practice shelter medicine and in nonprofit pet sterilization clinics; provide; create the State Veterinary Education Board for Shelter Medicine and Pet Sterilization

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 20 expands eligibility for the Public Safety Memorial Grant to include spouses of law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, emergency medical technicians, or highway response operators who have died or been permanently disabled in the line of duty. The bill increases the maximum award amount from $2,000 per academic year to $18,000 per academic year, and increases the lifetime award amount from $8,000 to $72,000.

The bill provides for the distribution of grants to the child or spouse of a public school teacher or public school employee who has been killed or permanently disabled by an act of violence in the line of duty. Eligible students attending an approved school will receive no more than $18,000 per academic year, with a maximum total award amount of $72,000.

The bill expands membership of the State Veterinary Education Board to include: an executive director of an animal shelter or a nonprofit pet sterilization clinic in this state and a veterinarian employed full time in the practice of shelter medicine or pet sterilization services in this state, both to be appointed by the governor.

The bill provides for a loan repayment program for veterinarians who have been practicing for less than 10 years and who practice shelter medicine or practice full time at a nonprofit pet sterilization clinic. The maximum award amount for repayment is $75,000, to be paid in increments of $25,000 per 12 months of service.

SB 85 Grants for Foster Children; a grant program to provide grants to former foster youth who meet eligibility requirements, subject to specific appropriations; establish

By: Sen. Matt Brass (6th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 85 creates the 'Georgia Foster Care Scholarship Act.' The Act provides grants to eligible students who are current or former foster care children. The total award amount per semester is not to exceed the costs of the eligible student's tuition, room, board, meal plan, and books associated with matriculation at an eligible postsecondary institution, minus any amount covered by federal or other state grants or scholarships. The maximum award per year will not exceed $30,000.

Students will remain eligible for such awards until one of the following events occurs: the student earns a bachelor's degree, a maximum amount of hours has been attempted, or the student has received the scholarship for 10 years.

SB 149 Tuition Equalization Grants at Private Colleges and Universities; definition of approved school; revise

By: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 149 revises the institution eligibility for tuition equalization grants to require classification as a Level VI institution by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

SB 180 High Demand Apprenticeship Program; opportunities for apprenticeship sponsors to enter into apprenticeship program contracts with State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 180 allows apprenticeship sponsors to perform specified tasks related to conducting an apprenticeship program.

SB 193 State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; establish the adult workforce high school diploma program; authorize

By: Sen. Matt Brass (6th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 193 authorizes the Technical College System of Georgia to establish the adult workforce high school diploma program, which has a sunset date of July 1, 2031.

Human Relations & Aging Committee — Staff: Amber Mack

HB 645 Health; COVID-19 testing of staff members in long term-care facilities; repeal certain provisions

By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) Through the Human Relations & Aging Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 645 removes the COVID-19 testing requirement for new residents and staff in long-term care facilities. The bill also lowers the age at which a patient shall be offered a vaccination for the influenza virus at hospital discharge from 50 to 18 years old.

Industry and Labor Committee — Staff: Brian Heinze

SB 55 "Dignity and Pay Act"; enact

By: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 55 is the 'Dignity and Pay Act,' which removes the ability of the Georgia Department of Labor to offer exemptions to the minimum wage laws. Further, no employer is permitted to utilize a certificate issued by the U.S. Department of Labor that allows the company to pay individuals with disabilities below the minimum wage.

If a company currently utilizes a federal certificate, then that company must pay individuals with disabilities at least half of the minimum wage between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027. Starting on July 1, 2027, those employers will not be able to utilize those certificates to pay individuals with disabilities less than the minimum wage.

SB 191 Employment Security; certain notice provisions relating to benefits and appeals; revise

By: Sen. Shawn Still (48th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 191 allows for electronic delivery of decisions by the Department of Labor involving unemployment insurance. The applicant can elect to use this electronic delivery or have their paperwork mailed to them. The bill also provides a definition of "issue date," which includes a provision that allows the department, through regulations, to waive or alter the time limit provisions of when a decision becomes final, as long as it complies with due process for all interested parties.

Insurance Committee — Staff: Patrick Mock

HB 348 Insurance; expand lines of insurance or reinsurance in which a limited purpose subsidiary and captive insurance company may engage

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 348 defines the term "sponsor" and further clarifies a sponsor's role in supporting and funding limited purpose subsidiaries and captive insurance companies.

HB 410 Insurance, Department of; efficiency in the practices; provide
By: Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 410 removes language from Title 33 of the O.C.G.A related to administrative processes and regulatory oversight within the Georgia Department of Insurance. The bill also moves agency license renewals from an annual schedule to a biennial schedule.

HB 422 State employees' health insurance; include high deductible health plans
By: Rep. Derrick McCollum (30th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 422 requires the state employees' health insurance plan (SHBP) to include at least two high deductible health plans. The bill allows enrolled employees to make pretax contributions to their health savings accounts. Government entities outside the scope of this bill are encouraged to offer similar pretax contribution options for their employees.

SB 5 Private Review Agents; health insurers to implement and maintain a program that allows for the selective application of reductions in prior authorization requirements; provide
By: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 5 requires health insurers to implement a program that reduces prior authorization requirements for providers based on quality metrics.

The bill also requires that all health benefit policies administered by the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) provide coverage for healthcare services related to Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS).

Coverage must align with nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and apply to diagnosis, treatment, management, and monitoring of these conditions. The bill prohibits special deductibles, coinsurance, or copayments beyond those generally applicable to other covered healthcare services.

SB 35 Property Insurance Policies; notice required to be given a policyholder before the nonrenewal of his or her homeowners' insurance policy; increase the number of days
By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 35 extends the required notice period for the nonrenewal of certain property insurance policies from 30 days to 60 days.

SB 109 Life Insurance; a policy of group life insurance from excluding or restricting liability for certain deaths occurring while an individual is an active duty service member; prohibit
By: Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 109 prohibits group life insurance policies in Georgia from excluding or restricting liability for the death of an insured individual who is an active-duty service member, unless the death is directly or indirectly caused by war or a related act or hazard.

SB 121 Uninsured Motorist Coverage; minimum required under motor vehicle liability policies for a individual convicted of driving under the influence or reckless driving; increase
By: Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 121 requires individuals convicted of driving under the influence in Georgia to obtain higher minimum motor vehicle liability insurance coverage. Enhanced insurance coverage must be maintained uninterrupted for three years in order to requalify for a standard rate.

SB 276 Recovery of Medical Assistance from Third Party; certain provisions to comply with federal law; revise

By: Sen. Drew Echols (49th) ***Through the Insurance Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 276 introduces new obligations for third-party health insurance payers, regarding medical assistance claims. The bill prohibits third-party payers from withholding payment for healthcare services that have already been rendered, preventing them from denying payment solely due to a lack of prior authorization. The bill also requires insurers to respond to inquiries from the state regarding the status of claims within 60 days.

Intragovernmental Coordination Committee — Staff: Michael Satterfield

HB 73 Seminole County; Board of Education; provide nonpartisan elections

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 73 changes future elections for the Seminole County Board of Education to be nonpartisan.

HB 593 Baker County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 593 provides nonpartisan elections for the probate court judge of Baker County.

SB 138 Incorporation of Municipal Corporations; transition of certain services related to newly incorporated municipalities in certain counties; provide

By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 138 revises certain requirements of service between a qualified municipality and its county during the transition period, which is the period of the transition of governmental services from a county to that municipality. A qualified municipality is a new municipality created by local Act that becomes law on or after January 1, 2024. The county must have 15 or more municipalities for the provisions to apply.

The bill requires the county to provide police or law enforcement services within the boundaries of the municipality, until the municipality notifies the county of their intention to assume those services. If more ad valorem tax is collected within the municipality boundaries than the costs for police services provided by the county, the county must pay the excess funds to the municipality.

During the transition period, the municipality will assume ownership over any road rights of way within its boundaries. The county will be responsible for maintenance of those roads during the transition period, at the municipality's discretion. The county will also be responsible for any infrastructure designed to temporarily retain 1,000 gallons or more of storm water, dams, or detention ponds within the municipality, unless otherwise agreed upon.

The county will reimburse the municipality a certain percentage of those fees collected of any permitting or application process within the municipality that is not completed when the municipality assumes that service. Any service delivery strategy (SDS) that is in place upon the creation of the municipality will not be required to be renegotiated. The bill allows the municipality to opt into any service provided to another city under the present SDS.

If any service is assumed by the municipality in the middle of the county's tax year, the county will give the municipality a pro rata share of any tax or fee collected within the municipality. Certain insurance taxes may be collected by the municipality if all necessary legal steps have been taken to do so within 18 months of a referendum incorporating the municipality. The county must also reimburse any legal expenses

resulting from legal action taken against the municipality that is found to be related to actions of the county during the transition period.

If a court finds that a county violates any mentioned responsibility, the sovereign immunity of the county is suspended for one year from the date of the judicial ruling.

SB 139 City of Mulberry; change the corporate limits of the city
By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 139 annexes certain described property into the City of Mulberry.

SB 252 Real and Personal Property; conveyance of municipal property interests to independent school systems; provide
By: Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 252 allows municipalities with a population 300,000 or higher to lease out, grant easements over, or convey property to an independent school system within its boundaries. Property conveyed will be replaced with other property(s) that the governing authority deems to be of equivalent or greater value.

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee — Staff: Michael Satterfield

HB 5 Decatur County; board of commissioners; change district residency requirements for candidates
By: Rep. Joe Campbell (171st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 5 changes the minimum age to serve on the Decatur County Board of Commissioners to 21 years of age, and requires that a person must also be a resident of their district for at least 12 months prior to taking office.

HB 6 Mitchell County; Board of Commissioners; filling vacancies; revise provisions
By: Rep. Joe Campbell (171st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 6 revises vacancy and special election provisions for the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners.

HB 13 Echols County; Board of Education; provide for compensation
By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 13 provides compensation for the Echols County Board of Education in the amount of $500 for each regular meeting and $50 at called meetings, while not exceeding a total monthly compensation of $600.

HB 28 Colquitt County; ad valorem tax for county purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Charles Cannon (172nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 28 provides a homestead exemption from Colquitt County ad valorem taxes in the amount of $10,000 for all residents.

HB 29 Colquitt County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Charles Cannon (172nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 29 provides a homestead exemption from Colquitt County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount of $10,000 for all residents.

HB 30 Catoosa County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Mitchell Horner (3rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 30 provides a homestead exemption from Catoosa County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount of $100,000 for residents 67 years of age or older.

HB 32 Cook County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. Charles Cannon (172nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 32 authorizes the Cook County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 33 Cook County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. Charles Cannon (172nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 33 authorizes the Cook County Magistrate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 39 Habersham County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee
By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 39 authorizes the Habersham County Magistrate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 103 Troup County; ad valorem tax; educational purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Vance Smith (138th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 103 revises a homestead exemption from Troup County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 65 years of age or older by increasing the amount from $40,000 to $100,000, and increasing the income cap from $40,000 to $50,000.

HB 157 Braselton, Town of; annex certain properties
By: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (31st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 157 annexes certain property in Jackson County into the Town of Braselton.

HB 160 Carroll County; State Court; provide additional judge
By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 160 provides a chief judge and an additional judge to the Carroll County State Court.

HB 174 Centerville, City of; Municipal Court; charge a technology fee
By: Rep. Bethany Ballard (147th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 174 authorizes the City of Centerville Municipal Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 226 Cochran, City of; change corporate limits
By: Rep. Danny Mathis (133rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 226 annexes certain described property into the City of Cochran.

HB 236 Bartow County; appointment of a county surveyor; provide
By: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 236 abolishes the elected office of the county surveyor of Bartow County and creates the office of county surveyor to be appointed by the governing authority of Bartow County with terms of one year.

HB 252 Newnan, City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 252 provides a homestead exemption from City of Newnan ad valorem taxes in an amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base value of the homestead.

HB 355 Doraville, City of; office of councilmember or mayor; filling vacancies; provide
By: Rep. Long Tran (80th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 355 provides vacancy provisions for the City of Doraville City Council.

HB 356 City of Doraville Building and Public Facilities Authority Act; enact
By: Rep. Long Tran (80th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 356 creates the City of Doraville Building and Public Facilities Authority.

HB 359 Cedartown, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum
By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 359 provides for a referendum to authorize the City of Cedartown to exercise all redevelopment and other powers.

HB 380 Lower Chattahoochee Regional Airport Authority; repeal Act –
(Vetoed) **Governor's Veto Statement HERE**
By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 380 repeals the 'Lower Chattahoochee Regional Airport Authority Act.'

HB 381 Lower Chattahoochee Regional Transportation Authority; add Clay, Marion, and Webster counties
By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 381 adds Clay, Marion, and Webster Counties to the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Transportation Authority.

HB 396 Acworth, City of; adopt by reference a certain map
By: Rep. Lisa Campbell (35th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 396 adopts a map by reference of the City of Acworth boundaries.

HB 404 Conyers, City of; revise city boundaries
By: Rep. Rhonda Taylor (92nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 404 annexes certain described property into the City of Conyers.

HB 411 Banks County; Board of Commissioners; change description of districts
By: Rep. Chris Erwin (32nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 411 reapportions the Banks County Commission districts.

HB 412 Polk County Water Authority; reappointment of members; change certain provisions
By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 412 revises the reappointment eligibility for Polk County Water Authority members.

HB 448 Gilmer County; appointment of a county surveyor; provide
By: Rep. Johnny Chastain (7th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 448 abolishes the elected office of the county surveyor of Gilmer County, and creates the office of county surveyor to be appointed by the governing authority of Gilmer County with terms of one year.

HB 462 Toombs County; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum
By: Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 462 provides a referendum to authorize Toombs County to exercise all redevelopment and other powers.

HB 468 Heard County; Board of Education; revise compensation of members
By: Rep. David Huddleston (72nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 468 revises the compensation of the Heard County Board of Education to $450 per month for each member. Expenses for travel for meetings outside of the county will also be reimbursed.

HB 476 Watson-Stephens-Petrea-Franklin Tax Relief Act; enact
By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 476 provides a homestead exemption from City of Newnan ad valorem taxes in an amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base value of the homestead.

HB 498 Garden City Charm and Tourism Act; enact
By: Rep. Lynn Heffner (130th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 498 authorizes Augusta-Richmond County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 514 Kennesaw, City of; corporate limits; change provisions
By: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (34th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 514 annexes certain described property into the City of Kennesaw.

HB 534 Fairburn, City of; levy an excise tax
By: Rep. Derrick Jackson (68th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 534 authorizes the City of Fairburn to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 536 Public Facilities Authority of the City of Fairburn Act; enact
By: Rep. Derrick Jackson (68th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 536 creates the Public Facilities Authority of the City of Fairburn.

HB 538 Schley County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee
By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (151st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 538 authorizes the Schley County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 539 Gwinnett County; school district ad valorem tax; increase homestead exemption
By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 539 revises a homestead exemption from Gwinnett County school district ad valorem taxes for homesteads of residents who occupy that home by increasing the amount to $10,000 of the assessed value.

HB 540 Gwinnett County; ad valorem tax for educational purposes; expand additional homestead exemption to certain veterans and employees
By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 540 revises a homestead exemption from Gwinnett County school district ad valorem taxes for certain public service employees by expanding the additional $2,000 exemption to also apply to disabled veterans, and all employees of the Gwinnett County and Buford City school systems.

HB 553 Taylor County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee
By: Rep. Patty Stinson (150th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 553 authorizes the Taylor County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 568 Euharlee, City of; levy an excise tax
By: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 568 authorizes the City of Euharlee to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 572 Braselton, Town of; annex certain properties
By: Rep. Holt Persinger (119th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 572 annexes certain property into the Town of Braselton.

HB 587 Cartersville, City of; provide for a finance director
By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 587 provides for a finance director for the City of Cartersville and authorizes the Municipal Court to collect a technology fee which will expire on July 1, 2030.

HB 591 Cleveland, City of; Municipal Court; charge a technology fee
By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 591 authorizes the City of Cleveland Municipal Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 592 Cleveland, City of; provide new charter
By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 592 provides a new charter for the City of Cleveland.

HB 594 Baker County; board of commissioners meet on the first Tuesday of each month; provide
By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 594 provides for the Baker County Board of Commissioners to meet on the first Tuesday of each month.

HB 595 Early County; homestead exemption from school district ad valorem tax; remove sunset date

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 595 removes the sunset date of a homestead exemption from Early County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older.

HB 596 Colquitt County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee

By: Rep. Charles Cannon (172nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 596 authorizes the Colquitt County State Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 603 Banks County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee

By: Rep. Chris Erwin (32nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 603 authorizes the Banks County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 608 Muscogee County; School District; revise how vacancies on board are filled

By: Rep. Tremaine Teddy Reese (140th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 608 revises how vacancies are filled on the Muscogee County School Board.

HB 619 Donalsonville, City of; election schedule for mayor and councilmembers; revise

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 619 revises the election schedule for the mayor and city council of the City of Donalsonville to provide for staggered terms of election.

HB 622 Hoboken, City of; revise compensation of mayor and councilmembers

By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 622 revises the compensation of the mayor and city council of the City of Hoboken. The mayor will receive $475 per month, and council members will receive $175 per month.

HB 623 Carroll County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 623 authorizes the Carroll County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 624 Carroll County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 624 authorizes the State Court of Carroll County to collect a technology fee.

HB 625 Fulton County; State Court; provide additional judge

By: Rep. Deborah Silcox (53rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 625 provides for two additional judges for the State Court of Fulton County.

HB 637 Cobb County; board of commissioners; revise a requirement for public hearings

By: Rep. Terry Cummings (39th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 637 increases the qualifying amount of a requirement for the Cobb County Board of Commissioners to hold a public hearing before spending $200,000 to employ a consultant, consulting firm, or an independent study or survey.

HB 640 Alpharetta, City of; election of city offices by majority vote; provide
By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 640 provides for election by majority vote for any office of the City of Alpharetta.

HB 648 College Park, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; homestead exemption; remove income cap
By: Rep. Kim Schofield (63rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 648 removes the income cap from a homestead exemption from City of College Park ad valorem taxes in the full amount of the assessed value of the homestead for residents who are disabled or are 65 years of age or older.

HB 685 Bartow County Community Improvement Districts Act; enact
By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 685 provides for the creation of a community improvement district in Bartow County.

HB 697 Chickamauga, City of; ad valorem tax; educational purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Steve Tarvin (2nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 697 provides a homestead exemption from the City of Chickamauga school district ad valorem taxes in the amount of $50,000 for residents 70 years of age or older, and in the full amount of the assessed value for residents 75 years of age or older.

HB 698 Walker County; ad valorem tax for educational purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Steve Tarvin (2nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 698 provides a homestead exemption from Walker County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount of $50,000 for residents 70 years of age or older, and in the full amount of the assessed value for residents 75 years of age or older.

HB 699 Dawson County; board of elections and registration; provide staggered terms
By: Rep. Will Wade (9th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 698 provides staggered terms for the Dawson County Board of Elections.

HB 701 Terrell County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (151st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 701 authorizes the Terrell County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 703 Peachtree City, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; homestead exemption; increase income cap
By: Rep. Josh Bonner (73rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 703 revises a homestead exemption from City of Peachtree City ad valorem taxes for residents 65 years of age or older by increasing the amount to $30,000 and raising the income cap to $60,000.

HB 709 Demorest, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum
By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 709 provides a referendum for the City of Demorest to exercise all redevelopment powers.

HB 714 Rincon, City of; designation of electors; revise provisions
By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 714 revises the appointment and election of board members of community improvement districts for the City of Rincon.

HB 719 Worth County; board of education; revise compensation of chairperson and members
By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 719 revises the compensation for the chairperson and members of the Worth County Board of Education. The per diem for each day of attending an official meeting will be $300 for the chairperson, and $200 for a board member.

HB 720 Lee County; Board of Education; revise compensation of members
By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 720 increases the compensation for Lee County Board of Education members to $175 per month.

HB 722 Bryan County; State Court; provide for a chief judge and an associate judge
By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 722 creates the office of chief judge and provides a new associate judge for the Bryan County State Court.

HB 724 Pembroke, City of; mayor and city council members; provide four-year terms
By: Rep. Lehman Franklin (160th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 724 increases the terms of the mayor and city council of the City of Pembroke to four years.

HB 730 Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless; provide for membership
By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 730 revises the membership of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless to provide for 13 members. The purpose provision is also revised to include operational standards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HB 732 Glynn County; levy an excise tax
By: Rep. Rick Townsend (179th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 732 authorizes Glynn County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 734 Vidalia, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum
By: Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 734 provides a referendum for the City of Vidalia to exercise all redevelopment powers.

HB 735 Lyons, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum
By: Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 735 provides a referendum for the City of Lyons to exercise all redevelopment powers.

HB 737 Haralson County; levy an excise tax
By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 737 authorizes Haralson County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 738 Butts County; appointment of county surveyor; provide
By: Rep. Clint Crowe (118th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 738 abolishes the office of elected county surveyor and provides for the appointment of a county surveyor by the Butts County Commission. The term will be for one year.

HB 739 Lawrenceville, City of; annexation of certain territory; provide
By: Rep. Sam Park (107th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 739 provides for a referendum for the City of Lawrenceville to annex certain described property.

HB 741 Petrea-Stephens-Franklin-Watson Tax Relief Act; enact
By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 741 provides a homestead exemption from Bryan County school district ad valorem taxes in an amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base value of the homestead.

HB 742 Broxton, City of; increase compensation of mayor and councilmembers
By: Rep. Angie O'Steen (169th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 742 increases the compensation of the mayor and city council of the City of Broxton. The mayor will receive $625 per month and city council members will receive $425 per month.

HB 743 Social Circle, City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Tim Fleming (114th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 743 provides a homestead exemption from City of Social Circle ad valorem taxes in an amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base year value of the homestead.

HB 744 Walnut Grove, City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (112th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 744 provides a homestead exemption from City of Walnut Grove ad valorem taxes in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base year value of the homestead.

HB 745 Loganville, City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Reynaldo Martinez (111th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 745 provides a homestead exemption from City of Loganville ad valorem taxes in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base year value of the homestead.

HB 746 Monroe, City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (112th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 746 provides a homestead exemption from City of Monroe ad valorem taxes in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base year value of the homestead.

HB 747 Cobb County; State Court; change compensation of judges
By: Rep. Terry Cummings (39th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 747 revises the compensation of judges for the State Court of Cobb County. The Division 1 state court judge salaries are increased to $217,134.20 per year. The chief judge will receive an additional $11,328.25 in compensation per year.

HB 748 Carroll County; change compensation of coroner
By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 748 increases the salary of the coroner of Carroll County to $43,620 per year, with an annual expense allowance of $3,100.

HB 749 Carroll County; Board of Commissioners; chairperson and members; change annual salary
By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 749 revises the salaries of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners. The chairman will receive the same annual salary as the sheriff of Carroll County, and board members will receive $20,250 per year.

HB 754 Catoosa County; Board of Education; require an internal audit function and establish position of internal auditor
By: Rep. Mitchell Horner (3rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 754 establishes an internal auditor for the Catoosa County Board of Education. The auditor is required to conduct one-year and five-year performance and financial audits of the school system.

HB 755 Cherokee County; levy an excise tax
By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 755 authorizes Cherokee County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 756 Chatham Area Transit Authority; abolish current memberships; provide new board
By: Rep. Edna Jackson (165th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 756 abolishes the current membership and provides for new membership appointment of the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

HB 758 Spalding County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Karen Mathiak (82nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 758 provides a homestead exemption from Spalding County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 65 years of age or older in three separate amounts. The first amount is 100 percent of the assessed value with an income cap of $25,000. The second amount is 50 percent of the assessed value with an income requirement between $25,000 and $53,000. The third amount is 25 percent of the assessed value with an income cap of $53,000.

HB 759 Spalding County; board of elections; terms of members; update provisions
By: Rep. Beth Camp (135th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 759 revises the terms of the members the Spalding County Board of Elections. It also renames the elections supervisor to the elections director and allows the board to hire legal counsel.

HB 760 Glynn County; board of commissioners; chairperson and members; change annual salary
By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 760 revises the annual salary of the Glynn County Board of Commissioners by changing the chairperson's salary to $28,000, the vice chairperson's salary to $27,000, and the members' salary to $26,000.

HB 761 Lilburn, City of; ad valorem tax; provide additional homestead exemption
By: Rep. Jasmine Clark (108th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 761 provides a homestead exemption from City of Lilburn ad valorem taxes for residents in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the prior year assessed value by more than eight percent. An existing exemption from City of Lilburn ad valorem taxes for residents 65 years of age or older is also revised by increasing the amount from $10,000 to $50,000.

HB 762 Savannah Music Commission Act; enact
By: Rep. Carl Gilliard (162nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 762 creates the Savannah Music Commission.

HB 763 Richmond Hill-Bryan County Airport Authority Act; enact
By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 763 creates the Richmond Hill-Bryan County Airport Authority.

HB 764 Nelson, City of; office of mayor or city council member; provide for appointments to vacancies
By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 764 revises how vacancies are filled for the mayor and city council of the City of Nelson.

HB 768 Gwinnett County; State Court; supplement for chief judge; provide
By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 768 provides an annual supplement of $10,000 to the chief judge of the Gwinnett County State Court.

HB 769 Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; salary supplements for judges; change provisions
By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 769 increases the supplement of the judges of the Gwinnett County Superior Court to $80,200.

HB 770 Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; additional supplement for chief judge; provide
By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 770 provides an additional annual supplement of $10,000 to the chief judge of the Gwinnett County Superior Court.

HB 771 Cherokee County; school district ad valorem tax; extend homestead exemption
By: Rep. Brad Thomas (21st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 771 revises a homestead exemption from Cherokee County school district ad valorem taxes in the full amount of the value of the homestead for residents who are disabled or are 62 years of age and older by including surviving spouses of eligible residents without the five-year residency requirement.

HB 772 Norcross, City of; ad valorem tax; raise homestead exemption amounts
By: Rep. Ruwa Romman (97th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 772 revises a homestead exemption from City of Norcross ad valorem taxes for residents 62 years of age or older and occupy their homesteads by increasing the amount to $45,000.

HB 774 Dekalb County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. Omari Crawford (89th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 774 authorizes the DeKalb County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 775 Butts County; school district ad valorem tax; increase homestead exemption
By: Rep. Clint Crowe (118th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 775 revises a homestead exemption from Butts County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 62 years of age or older by increasing the amount to $15,000.

HB 776 Fulton County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 776 provides a homestead exemption from Fulton County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older in the amount of 50 percent of the assessed value of the homestead.

HB 777 Fulton County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 777 provides a homestead exemption from Fulton County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 65 years of age or older in the amount of 25 percent of the assessed value of the homestead.

HB 778 Upson County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. Robert Dickey (134th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 778 authorizes the Upson County Magistrate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 780 Greensboro, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 780 provides a homestead exemption from City of Greensboro ad valorem taxes for all residents in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base year assessed value of the homestead.

HB 781 Crawford County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. Robert Dickey (134th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 781 authorizes the Crawford County Magistrate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 782 Chatham County Schools' Tax Relief Act; enact
By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 782 provides a homestead exemption from Chatham County school district ad valorem taxes in an amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base value of the homestead.

HB 783 Columbia County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Gary Richardson (125th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 783 provides a homestead exemption from Columbia County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount of $8,000 for all residents.

HB 784 Columbia County; ad valorem tax for county purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Gary Richardson (125th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 784 provides a homestead exemption from Columbia County ad valorem taxes in the amount of $8,000 for all residents.

HB 785 Crawford County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. Robert Dickey (134th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 785 authorizes the Crawford County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 786 Dodge County Building and Public Facilities Authority; create
By: Rep. Danny Mathis (133rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 786 creates the Dodge County Building and Public Facilities Authority.

HB 787 Chickamauga, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Steve Tarvin (2nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 787 provides a homestead exemption from the City of Chickamauga ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older and have been residents of the city for at least five years in the amount of $50,000.

HB 788 Macon County; rename position of chief election official as chief election supervisor
By: Rep. Patty Stinson (150th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 788 renames the chief election official to the chief election supervisor of Macon County, and places the nonelection duties of the position under the supervision of the county manager of Macon County. Provisions related to the board of elections members' oath and meetings are also revised.

HB 789 Oglethorpe, City of; certain hearings of the governing authority; revise provisions
By: Rep. Patty Stinson (150th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 789 revises powers of the mayor, city council, and municipal court of the City of Oglethorpe.

HB 790 Macon County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. Patty Stinson (150th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 790 authorizes the Macon County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 791 Butts County; ad valorem tax; increase homestead exemption
By: Rep. Clint Crowe (118th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 791 increases a homestead exemption from Butts County ad valorem taxes for residents 62 years of age or older from $4,000 to $20,000.

HB 793 Brunswick, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide for a new homestead exemption
By: Rep. Rick Townsend (179th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 793 provides a homestead exemption for the City of Brunswick ad valorem taxes in the following percentages off of the assessed value based on the number of years the resident has owned the home: five years or less, five percent; six to 10 years, 10 percent; 11 to 20 years, 20 percent; 21 to 29 years, 30 percent; and 30 years or more, 50 percent.

HB 794 Clayton County; Board of Commissioners; code of ethics and board of ethics; revise and update provisions
By: Rep. Sandra Scott (76th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 794 revises the powers and other provisions of the board of ethics of Clayton County.

HB 797 Homelessness Prevention Act of Chatham County; enact
By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 797 creates the Interagency Council on Homelessness for the City of Savannah and Chatham County.

HB 798 Spalding County; State Court; modernize, update, and readopt provisions
By: Rep. Karen Mathiak (82nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 798 revises the governing provisions, jurisdiction, and powers of the Spalding County State Court. It adds an additional judge and reauthorizes the court to collect technology fees.

HB 799 Long County; Board of Education; provide compensation for members
By: Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 799 revises the compensation for Long County Board of Education members.

HB 801 Long County; Board of Commissioners; revise powers of chairperson
By: Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 801 revises the powers of the Long County Board of Commissioners chairperson and provides for a county manager.

HB 802 Cedartown, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum
By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 802 provides for a referendum to authorize the City of Cedartown to exercise redevelopment powers.

HB 803 Dublin, City of; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Matt Hatchett (155th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 803 provides a homestead exemption from City of Dublin school district ad valorem taxes through the 2030 tax year in the following amounts: $7,000 for residents between 62 and 64

years of age; $14,000 for residents between 65 and 72 years of age; $21,000 for residents between 73 and 79 years; and in the full value of the homestead for residents 80 years of age or older.

HB 805 Dublin, City of; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Matt Hatchett (155th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 805 provides a homestead exemption from the City of Dublin school district ad valorem taxes through the 2030 tax year in the amount by which the assessed value exceeds the base year value of that homestead, while being subject to annual increases up to 20 percent.

HB 806 Oglethorpe County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 806 provides a homestead exemption from Oglethorpe County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 67 years of age or older in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base year value of the homestead.

HB 807 Woodstock, City of; ad valorem tax; extend homestead exemption to surviving spouses
By: Rep. Brad Thomas (21st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 807 revises a homestead exemption from City of Woodstock ad valorem taxes for residents 62 years of age or older in the full amount of the homestead by clarifying the five-year residency requirement while extending the exemption to surviving spouses, without regard of the residency requirement.

HB 811 Lowndes County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 811 provides a homestead exemption from Lowndes County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount of $40,000 for residents 65 years of age or older, and $50,000 for residents 70 years of age or older.

HB 813 Lowndes County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 813 provides a homestead exemption from Lowndes County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount of $12,000 for all residents.

HB 814 Lowndes County; ad valorem tax for county purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 814 provides a homestead exemption from Lowndes County ad valorem taxes for residents in the amount of $40,000 for residents 65 years of age or older, and $50,000 for residents 70 years of age or older.

HB 815 Lowndes County; ad valorem tax for county purposes; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 815 provides a homestead exemption from Lowndes County ad valorem taxes for all residents in the amount of $12,000.

HB 816 Greene County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact
By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 816 creates the Greene County Public Facilities Authority.

HB 819 Jasper County; levy an excise tax
By: Rep. Dale Washburn (144th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 819 authorizes Jasper County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 820 Jasper County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Dale Washburn (144th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 820 provides a homestead exemption from Jasper County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount of $40,000 for residents 65 years of age or older.

HB 823 Dawson County; ad valorem tax; homestead exemption; revise definition of senior citizen
By: Rep. Will Wade (9th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 823 revises a homestead exemption from Dawson County ad valorem taxes to include any residents who have resided in the county for at least 30 years.

HB 824 Dawson County; ad valorem tax; close new applications for certain homestead exemptions for senior citizens
By: Rep. Will Wade (9th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 824 closes the applications for several homestead exemptions from Dawson County ad valorem taxes and school district ad valorem taxes on January 1, 2026. Residents already receiving one of the listed exemptions are able to continue with that exemption or apply for a different exemption already provided.

HB 832 Paulding County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 832 provides a homestead exemption from Paulding County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted base year assessed value.

HB 834 Cedartown, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum
By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 834 provides for a referendum to authorize the City of Cedartown to exercise redevelopment powers.

HB 835 Dalton, City of; school district ad valorem tax; increase homestead exemption
By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 835 revises a homestead exemption from City of Dalton school district ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older by increasing the amount to $325,000.

HB 836 Coweta County; School District ad valorem tax; raise homestead exemption amounts
By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 836 revises a homestead exemption from Coweta County school district ad valorem taxes by increasing all amounts for several certain groups of residents.

HB 837 Richmond County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee
By: Rep. L.C. Myles (126th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 837 authorizes the Augusta-Richmond County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

HB 838 Newnan, City of; change corporate limits
By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 838 annexes certain described property into the City of Newnan.

HB 839 Jackson County; board of commissioners; filling vacancies; revise provisions
By: Rep. Houston Gaines (120th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 839 revises vacancy provisions of Jackson County board of commissioners.

HB 840 Pickens County Airport Authority; repeal Act
By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 840 repeals the Pickens County Airport Authority.

HB 841 Pickens County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 841 provides a homestead exemption from Pickens County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 62 years of age or older, whose income does not exceed $40,000, in the amount of $40,000.

HB 842 Whitfield County; ad valorem tax; revise homestead exemption amount
By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 842 revises a homestead exemption from Whitfield County ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older by increasing the amount to $325,000.

HB 843 Dalton, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; increase homestead exemption
By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 843 revises a homestead exemption from City of Dalton ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older by increasing the amount to $325,000.

HB 844 Whitfield County; School District ad valorem tax; revise homestead exemption amount
By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 844 revises a homestead exemption from Whitfield County school district ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older by increasing the amount to $325,000.

HB 845 Cherokee County; Board of Education; require an internal audit function and establish position of internal auditor
By: Rep. Jordan Ridley (22nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 845 establishes an internal auditor for the Cherokee County Board of Education. The auditor is required to conduct one-year and five-year performance and financial audits of the school system.

HB 846 *(Vetoed)* Cherokee County; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption - Governor's Veto Statement HERE
By: Rep. Brad Thomas (21st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 846 provides a homestead exemption from Cherokee County ad valorem taxes for all residents in the amount of up to 100 percent as determined from the proceeds generated from the collection of a retail homestead option sales and use tax.

HB 848 Polk County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 848 provides a homestead exemption from Polk County school district ad valorem taxes in the following amounts: the greater of 50 percent or $60,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents 65 years of age; the greater of 75 percent or $80,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents at least 70 years of age; and the full assessed value of the homestead that does not exceed $500,000 appraised fair market value for residents at least 77 years of age, with an annual aggregate cap of $150 million in calendar year 2026.

HB 849 Lower Chattahoochee Regional Airport Authority; rename
By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 849 renames the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Airport Authority to the Randolph County Airport Authority.

HB 850 Augusta-Richmond County; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Mark Newton (127th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 850 provides a homestead exemption from Augusta-Richmond County ad valorem taxes for all residents in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base year value of that homestead.

HB 853 Tunnel Hill, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide new homestead exemption
By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 853 provides for a homestead exemption from City of Tunnel Hill ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older in the amount of $325,000.

HB 854 Cohutta, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; increase homestead exemption
By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 854 revises a homestead exemption from City of Cohutta ad valorem taxes for residents 70 years of age or older by increasing the amount to $325,000.

HB 855 Thomasville, City of; excise tax; expenditure of certain proceeds; revise provisions
By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 855 authorizes the City of Thomasville to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 856 Brooks County Development Authority; appointment of members; revise provisions
By: Rep. John LaHood (175th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 856 revises the appointment of members of the Brooks County Development Authority.

HB 859 Cartersville, City of; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: HB 859 provides a homestead exemption from City of Cartersville school district ad valorem taxes through the 2032 tax year in the following amounts: $60,000 for residents between 65 and 69 years of age or totally disabled; $80,000 for residents between 70 and 74 years old; $100,000 for residents between 75 and 79 years old; and $200,000 for residents 80 years old or older.

HB 860 Gordon County; school district ad valorem tax; increase homestead exemption for certain residents

By: Rep. Matt Barton (5th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 860 increases a homestead exemption from Gordon County school district ad valorem taxes in the following amounts: $50,000 for residents between 65 and 69 years of age; $115,000 for residents between 70 and 74 years of age; $125,000 for residents 75 years of age or older.

HB 861 Calhoun, City of; school district ad valorem tax; increase homestead exemption for certain residents

By: Rep. Matt Barton (5th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 861 increases a homestead exemption from City of Calhoun school district ad valorem taxes in the following amounts: $50,000 for residents between 65 and 69 years of age; $115,000 for residents between 70 and 74 years of age; and $125,000 for residents 75 years of age or older.

HB 869 Bartow County; joint airport authority; legislative delegation to appoint a member; provide

By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 869 provides for the legislative delegation of Bartow County to appoint a member to the City of Cartersville and Bartow County Joint Airport Authority.

HB 870 Clayton County; ad valorem tax for county purposes; provide homestead exemption

By: Rep. Yasmin Neal (79th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 870 provides a homestead exemption from Clayton County ad valorem taxes in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead for residents who are disabled veterans, senior citizens, unremarried surviving spouses of a peace officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty, and 100 percent disabled veterans, through December 31, 2030.

SB 70 "Conyers Community Improvement Districts Act"; enact

By: Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 70 provides for the creation of community improvement districts in the City of Conyers.

SB 77 City of Cartersville; independent school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes; provide a homestead exemption

By: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 77 provides a homestead exemption from City of Cartersville school district ad valorem taxes in an amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base value of the homestead with a sunset date of December 31, 2030.

SB 78 "City of Tybee Island Buildings and Public Facilities Authority Act"; enact

By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 78 creates the City of Tybee Island Building and Public Facilities Authority.

SB 83 Bartow County; school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes; provide a homestead exemption

By: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 83 provides a homestead exemption from Bartow County school district ad valorem taxes in an amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base year value of the homestead.

SB 137 **City of Mulberry; provisions related to jurisdiction of the municipal court; revise**
By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 137 revises county services provided to the City of Mulberry Municipal Court during the transition period. All government services and functions provided from the county to the now incorporated area during 2023 and 2024 will continue at the same cost, unless otherwise provided.

SB 206 **"South Georgia Energy Authority Act"; enact**
By: Sen. Carden Summers (13th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 206 creates the South Georgia Energy Authority.

SB 234 **City of Dalton; independent school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes; provide a homestead exemption**
By: Sen. Chuck Payne (54th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 234 provides a homestead exemption from City of Dalton school district ad valorem taxes in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base year value of the homestead.

SB 235 **Whitfield County; school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes; provide a homestead exemption**
By: Sen. Chuck Payne (54th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 235 provides a homestead exemption from Whitfield County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base year value of the homestead.

SB 237 **Newton County Public Facilities Authority; contracts and borrowing of funds; revise provisions**
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 237 revises the contracts, borrowing, and revenue bond provisions of the Newton County Public Facilities Authority.

SB 238 ***(Vetoed)*** **Rockdale County; board of commissioners; increase the board of commissioners to five members - Governor's Veto Statement HERE**
By: Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 238 increases the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners to five members.

SB 302 **Peach County; ad valorem taxes for county purposes; provide a homestead exemption**
By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 302 provides a homestead exemption from Peach County ad valorem taxes in the amount of 10 percent of the assessed value of the homestead for all residents.

SB 328 **State Court of Henry County; additional judge; provide**
By: Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***
Final Bill Summary: SB 328 adds an additional judge to the Henry County State Court.

SB 329 Flint Judicial Circuit; chief judge; annual stipend in addition to county compensation to superior court judges; provide

By: Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 329 provides a supplement to the chief judge of the Flint Judicial Circuit superior court.

SB 330 City of Atlanta; independent school district ad valorem for educational purposes; provide homestead exemption

By: Sen. Jason Esteves (35th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 330 provides a homestead exemption from City of Atlanta school district ad valorem taxes for residents 65 years of age or older, with an aggregate cap of $487,804,878, in the amount of $50,000.

SB 331 City of Winder and the County of Barrow; creating and establishing a joint airport authority; repeal

By: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 331 repeals the City of Winder and Barrow County Joint Airport Authority.

SB 332 County Board of Education of DeKalb County; board members shall only be elected by electors of the DeKalb County school district; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 332 provides that DeKalb County Board of Education members will be elected only by residents of that school district.

SB 336 Dade County; school district ad valorem taxes; homestead exemption

By: Sen. Colton Moore (53rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 336 provides a homestead exemption from Dade County school district ad valorem taxes in the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the base year value of that homestead.

SB 340 City of Tybee Island; selection of a mayor pro tem; provide

By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 340 revises the selection and vacancy process of the mayor pro tem of the City of Tybee Island.

SB 344 Probate Court of Crawford County; assessment and collection of a technology fee; authorize

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 344 authorizes the Crawford County Probate Court to collect a technology fee.

SB 345 Magistrate Court of Crawford County; the assessment and collection of a technology fee; authorize

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 345 authorizes the Crawford County Magistrate Court to collect a technology fee.

SB 347 Brunswick and Glynn County Development Authority; method of appointing the membership; change

By: Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) ***Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 347 changes the appointment method for members of the Brunswick and Glynn County Development Authority.

Judiciary Committee **Staff: Brock Perry**

HB 36 Guardian and ward; revise list of providers who are authorized to participate in the processes for appointment of a guardian for an adult

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 36 revises Georgia guardianship law by adding physician assistants, nurses, and professional counselors to the types of approved professionals authorized to participate in appointments of guardians or conservators, as well as those who evaluate the state of a ward or proposed ward. An adult will not be presumed to be in need of a guardian solely because of a finding that the adult has a developmental disability. A proposed ward or proposed ward's legal counsel may challenge the sufficiency and weight of the results and conclusions of the evaluation. Additionally, definitions for "gross settlement" are provided with respect to applicable financial arrangements.

HB 55 Alapaha Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide for an additional judge

By: Rep. Jaclyn Ford (170th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 55 increases the number of superior court judges in the Alapaha Judicial Circuit from two to three. The third judge will be appointed for a term beginning January 1, 2026, continuing through December 31, 2028. A successor will be elected at the nonpartisan judicial election in 2028.

HB 85 Superior Court Judicial Compensation Reform Act; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 85 revises superior court judicial compensation to have the annual salary of each superior court judge set by the General Assembly, with that salary not to exceed 90 percent of the annual salary fixed for judges of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. The new structure also caps the locality pay for each superior court judge at no more than 10 percent of the state annual salary. In the event the annual salary exceeds $201,060, the maximum locality pay will be capped at 10 percent and further reduced by a fixed percentage if the annual salary exceeds that dollar amount. The bill does not alter retirement benefits that were previously in existence.

Superior court judges in office on July 1, 2025 will opt into this compensation structure by filing written notification with the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia and the governing authority of each county comprising the judge's judicial circuit. A superior court judge who does not exercise this option maintains the existing compensation structure for that judge.

All local laws, ordinances, and resolutions in effect that tie a state, county, or local salary to that of any superior court judge's salary will be suspended until July 1, 2026, with that state, county, or local salary remaining the same during that period of suspension. That salary will remain unchanged until the suspension is terminated, local legislation sets the compensation, or local ordinance becomes effective.

HB 86 Public officers and employees; calculating and setting the salaries of certain state officials; revise provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 86 revises salaries for justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court of Appeals, the judge of the State-wide Business Court, and the judge of the Georgia State Tax Court. Fixed dollar amounts are repealed and replaced with a base salary equal to that of judges of the U.S. District Court for

the Northern District of Georgia, with each justice of the Supreme Court not receiving more than 100 percent of that base salary, each judge of the Court of Appeals not receiving more than 99 percent of that base salary, and the judge of the State-wide Business Court as well as the judge of the Tax Court not receiving more than 95 percent of that base salary.

HB 131 Self-service storage facilities; revise advertisement requirements before an owner can enforce an owner's lien

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 131 revises self-service storage facility advertising requirements so that storage facility owners attempting to enforce a lien are not required to advertise an auction once a week for two consecutive weeks, but are instead required to publish an auction advertisement once in the legal organ for the county or in any other commercially reasonable manner when the property being sold is anything other than a motor vehicle, motorcycle, trailer, watercraft, or recreational vehicle. The advertisement is deemed commercially reasonable if at least three independent bidders attend the auction.

HB 177 Domestic relations; protection for household pets in both family violence and dating violence protective orders; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 177 permits a family violence or dating violence protective order or consent agreement to provide for the care, custody, and control of any animal kept as a household pet by either party or by a minor child living in that party's household. The order or agreement may also order the respondent to refrain from harassing, harming, taking, or concealing the household pet.

HB 179 Appellate practice; digital recording of certain trial proceedings; provide

By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 179 allows the transcript of evidence and proceedings in certain felony, all misdemeanor proceedings, and all civil cases to be either reported and prepared by a court reporter or, in the judge's discretion, be recorded with a digital recording system according to uniform court rules adopted by the Supreme Court with the advice and consent of affected trial courts.

A district attorney may also use a digital recording system to record grand jury proceedings. The court reporter will complete the transcript and provide a certificate attesting to the correctness of the transcript. The recording will not be considered the record of the proceeding unless transcribed and certified.

HB 180 Probate courts; modify certain requirements for probate judges

By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 180 requires candidates for the office of probate court judge in counties with a population of 90,000 or more to file a supplemental affidavit stating they satisfy the additional qualifications specific to counties of 90,000 or more (must be 30 years of age, a member of good standing of the State Bar of Georgia, and have practiced law for seven years) as currently set forth in O.C.G.A. 15-9-4.

HB 199 Courts; protection of personally identifiable information of judges and their spouses; modify provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 199 revises provisions related to the protection of personally identifiable information of judges and judicial spouses. State and local government entities will remove or redact any personally identifiable information from publicly available content that specifically identifies a protected person as a judge, justice, or spouse.

Content held by a state or local government entity that includes personally identifiable information of a protected person, but does not specifically identify a person as a judge, justice, or spouse will be removed

upon request by the protected person through submission of a request in writing. The removing or redacting of information will take place within 30 days of receiving a valid request.

HB 270 Eviction Service and Airplane Evictions Act; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 270 allows a judge or clerk in the relevant court to grant and issue a summons to a sheriff, lawful constable, or approved process server.

HB 325 Domestic relations; Protective Order Registry; revise certain definitions

By: Rep. Reynaldo Martinez (111th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 325 allows a member of the state organized militia who alleges stalking by another member of the organized militia to seek a protective order, with subject matter jurisdiction established by evidence that a nexus exists between the alleged conduct constituting stalking and the organized militia. The military judge may grant a protective order on a temporary or permanent basis or approve a consent agreement, and may punish a party's disobedience with contempt.

HB 327 Official Code of Georgia Annotated; amend various titles

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 327 makes comprehensive revisions to the law of wills, probate, administration of estates, guardianships, trusts, and powers of attorney as it pertains to fiduciary law.

The bill adds a duty by the executor of an estate to notify beneficiaries of an estate with a will that the will is being probated as well as the name and mailing address of the executor within six months after qualifying as the executor.

The bill revises statute related to trusts by allowing trusts to be in electronic form and signed by electronic signature, as well as changing the statute of limitations for breach of trust actions to two years from the date on which a document disclosing the existence of a claim is sent to a trust beneficiary.

The bill makes further revisions to trust law, including who can serve as a trust director, the governance of particular trusts, and the fiduciary duties of trustees. The bill revises provisions with respect to the determination of heirs, inheritance involving nonmarital children, and assisted reproduction.

HB 339 Motor vehicles; exempt ride share drivers or ride share network services from definition of motor carrier

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 339 exempts ride share network services from liability for any injury to persons or damage to property committed by a ride share driver, provided that there has been no negligence or criminal misconduct by the ride share network service; the ride share network service is in compliance with the law regarding ride share drivers; and the ride share network service obtains a background check for each ride share driver at least once every two years.

HB 358 Agriculture; prohibiting acquisition of possessory interest in certain land by certain foreign persons and entities; provide for a definition

By: Rep. Vance Smith (138th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 358 defines "military installation" for purposes of prohibiting land possession by certain foreign persons or entities as a facility owned and operated by a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that shelters military equipment and personnel, and facilitates training and operations for those branches.

HB 392 Georgia Tax Court; certain events; revise dates

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 392 revises dates related to the establishment of the Georgia Tax Court, with the initial chief judge serving an initial term beginning on April 1, 2026, and persons able to petition the court for relief beginning on and after July 1, 2026.

All contested cases pending before the Georgia Tax Tribunal as of June 30, 2026, will automatically transfer to the court as of July 1, 2026. Any petitioner with a case pending before the tribunal that does not wish for the case to be transferred to the court will make a written demand to the tribunal on or before December 31, 2025, with proceedings to conclude prior to June 30, 2026.

HB 426 Courts; nonpartisan election of magistrates; provide

By: Rep. Kimberly New (40th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 426 provides for the nonpartisan election of probate and magistrate judges.

SB 36 "Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act"; enact

By: Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 36 permits state and local governments to substantially burden a person's exercise of religion only if the entity demonstrates that the application of the burden to the person is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and it is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

A person who has been burdened in violation of law may assert the violation in a judicial proceeding and obtain appropriate relief, including a reasonable attorney fee in particular circumstances. Nothing in this bill will be construed to affect the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

SB 88 Douglas Judicial Circuit; a fourth judge of the superior courts; provide

By: Sen. Tim Bearden (30th) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 88 increases the number of superior court judges in the Douglas Judicial Circuit from three to four. The fourth judge will be appointed for a term beginning January 1, 2026, continuing through December 31, 2028. The successor will be elected at the nonpartisan judicial election in 2028.

SB 100 "Andee's Law"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 100 allows an adult who had been adopted to request and receive a copy of their original Georgia birth certificate following payment of a fee. The copy will indicate it is not a certified copy. A parent, sibling, or descendant of a deceased person may receive a copy of the decedent's birth certificate under the same procedure.

SB 145 Augusta Judicial Circuit; a sixth judge of the superior courts; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 145 increases the number of superior court judges in the Augusta Judicial Circuit from five to six. The sixth judge will be appointed for a term beginning January 1, 2026, continuing through December 31, 2028. The successor will be elected at the nonpartisan judicial election in 2028.

SB 245 Grandparents; include within the category of persons who may seek to revoke or amend an existing grandparent visitation order

By: Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) ***Through the Judiciary Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 245 permits grandparents who have been granted visitation rights to their grandchild following the death, incapacitation, or incarceration of the parent of the child to petition the court for revocation or amendment of the visitation rights, as long as the petition has not been filed more than once during any two-year period.

SB 298 Judgements and Rulings; certain appellate procedures regarding the denial of sovereign and any other immunity available to the state; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 298 permits the right of one direct appeal from all judgments, orders, or rulings related to the granting or denial of immunity to one or more parties based upon sovereign, municipal, official, qualified, or any other immunity. All judgments, orders, or rulings related to one or more parties' legislative privilege or legislative immunity will have the right of direct of appeal to be exercised within 30 days of any judgment, order, or ruling.

Judiciary Non-Civil Committee **Staff: Brian Heinze**

HB 123 Criminal procedure; pretrial proceedings in capital offense cases where the death penalty is sought when the accused has an intellectual disability; provide

By: Rep. William Werkheiser (157th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 123 changes the standard, in a capital case for which the death penalty is being sought, for determining when the accused has an intellectual disability (ID) from beyond a reasonable doubt to preponderance of the evidence.

When the death penalty is sought, the defendant can file a pretrial notice of intent to raise a claim of ID, so long as they provide information to the prosecutor at least 60 days prior to the hearing. The hearing may be conducted upon motion of the defendant, which is at the discretion of the court or upon joint consent motion of the defendant and the state. The pretrial determination of ID will be made by the court sitting as the finder of fact.

If the court does not find that the defendant has an ID, then the defendant is not precluded from raising it again in further proceedings. Either party may seek immediate review of the trial court's determination regarding the ID ruling.

When the death penalty is sought and the defendant contends that they have ID, after finding the defendant guilty, the court will allow the defendant to present evidence of the ID and will then instruct the jury on the procedure. If the jury agrees with the defendant, then they will enter a separate finding of "intellectual disability" and can be sentenced to life imprisonment or life imprisonment without parole.

HB 161 Georgia Bureau of Investigation; authority to issue subpoenas of electronic communication records for purposes of investigating certain cyber enabled threats to life and property; provide

By: Rep. Clint Crowe (118th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 161 revises the statute that allows the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to subpoena computers or electronic devices to include investigations of Title 16, Chapter 9, Article 8 (Identity Fraud) and O.C.G.A. 16-9-93 (Computer Crimes), 16-10-28 (Transmitting a False Public Alarm), 16-11-37 (Terroristic Threats and Acts), 16-11-39.1 (Harassing Communications), and 16-11-221 (Domestic Terrorism - Penalties).

The bill allows a court to find someone in contempt if they fail to obey these subpoenas, and restricts the subpoena from becoming public during the investigation or prosecution beyond the extent necessary for the issuance and compliance of the subpoena. This also removes the specific references to Code sections when the GBI can provide information in furtherance of a federal, local, or state criminal investigation so that it applies to all criminal investigations.

The bill also adds a definition of assassination for purposes of the crime of domestic terrorism. Assassination is defined as the intentional killing of an elected public official by an individual who is acting to prevent the performance of their official duties.

HB 176 Appeal and error; judgments deemed directly appealable; change a provision

By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: Section 1-1 of HB 126 defines the term "final judgment" to include cases in which some counts are ordered "dead docketed," so that the case will not remain pending and unable to be appealed. This is a response to the Supreme Court of Georgia's decision in Seals v. Georgia (2021).

Section 1-2 provides the statutory authority for the applicable appellate courts to hear direct appeals from guilty pleas on appeal.

Section 1-3 allows a defendant who missed the deadline for filing a motion for a new trial or notice of appeal, but is still within 100 days of that deadline, to file an out-of-time motion for that new trial or notice of appeal, if they can meet certain requirements.

The requirements are: 1) the defendant must file an initial motion that would later allow for the out-of-time motion, if approved; 2) the defendant must show the court one of the following rationales for missing the deadline: A) has the consent of the state, B) can show excusable neglect, C) can show that failure to timely file the motion for new trial or notice of appeal was due to the deficient performance of their counsel, or D) can show other good cause; and 3) if the judge grants the initial motion, then the defendant has 30 days to file the out-of-time motion for new trial or notice of appeal with that judge. The judge has discretion to allow for extensions of time on this motion.

Further, those who had their original out-of-time appeal dismissed due to the Supreme Court of Georgia's decision in Cook v. State (2022), or a case following its precedent, for leave to file another motion until June 30, 2026. An indigent defendant is entitled to representation for both the original motion and, if approved, the subsequent out-of-time motion for new trial or notice of appeal.

Section 2-1 clarifies that when a defendant substantially amends their motion for a new trial, then the prosecution will be given 10 days to respond and present evidence, although the court has discretion to provide a longer amount of time.

Section 3-1 allows a person to withdraw their guilty plea that results in a conviction after the term of the court ends so long as it is still within 30 days of the entry of the judgment, to address caselaw that said the defendant lacked jurisdiction to allow the defendant to withdraw their guilty plea when the term of court in which that defendant was sentenced expired.

HB 222 Criminal procedure; inclusion of certain contact information on bonds and recognizances; require

By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 222 requires a bond to include the full name, email address, and phone number of the principal and each surety.

HB 582 Georgia Survivor Justice Act; enact

By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 582 is the 'Georgia Survivor Justice Act.' When a defendant in a prosecution under Title 16, Chapter 5 (crimes against the person) raises a justification defense under O.C.G.A. 16-3-21, the defendant may offer relevant evidence that they had been subjected to acts of family violence, dating violence, or child abuse that was committed by the alleged victim to establish that the defendant was justified in using force or deadly force.

This evidence can include seeking law enforcement assistance, seeking services from a counselor or social worker, seeking medical attention, showing effects of battering and post-traumatic stress disorder, or relevant protective orders. Any evidence introduced is still subject to Evidentiary Rules 401, 402, and 403.

Section 3 limits the exception for murder to malice murder in which a person is immune from criminal liability due to coercion, and extends it to when there is imminent death of a third party.

Section 4 specifies that for O.C.G.A. 16-10-1 (violation of oath by public officer), which carries an existing penalty of imprisonment of one to five years, peace officers can only be subject to prosecution under the Code section for violations of their oath. No officer will be subject to prosecution for violation of their oath of office under the Code section unless the violation is predicated on the commission of a felony or a high and aggravated misdemeanor.

Section 5 allows a defendant previously sentenced to submit a petition to the court that requests they be sentenced under these new mechanisms, so long as the offense was committed prior to July 1, 2025, or the petition includes evidence that was not part of the record of the case at any sentencing hearing. The petition must be served upon the district attorney, and the state has 60 days to respond to the petition. There is a presumption that the hearing should be granted, although if a court denies the hearing, it must provide written findings for its reasoning. A hearing that is granted must be held within 90 days of the petition.

Section 6 allows a defendant to present evidence, at the time of sentencing, that they were subjected to acts of family violence, dating violence, or child abuse, and that those acts were a significant contributing factor to the offense that the defendant is being sentenced for. This section allows the following evidence to be introduced: hearsay; character evidence; evidence indicating they sought assistance from law enforcement, a counselor or social worker, or medical professionals; prior statements regarding these acts; evidence of the effects of battering and post-traumatic stress disorder; evidence pertaining to the alleged perpetrator's history of other types of these acts; expert testimony; or any other evidence that the court determines is credible and has sufficient probative value.

The judge may impose a different sentence if they believe that the defendant was subjected to these types of acts and that they were a significant contributing factor to the offense, or if the best interests of justice and welfare of society would be served. If the judge finds that one of those elements are met and the person was convicted of a crime punishable by death or life imprisonment, then they will be sentenced to imprisonment for between one and 30 years.

If that person was convicted of a felony other than one punishable by life or imprisonment or death, then they will be sentenced to imprisonment for between one and one-half the maximum period of time for which they could have been sentenced, by one-half the maximum fine to which they could have been subjected, or both.

Section 7 provides for the evidentiary privilege in court proceedings for communications made in the context of victim-centered practices or victim-offender dialogues, as provided in O.C.G.A. 24-5-511, which is created in Section 8.

Section 8 creates the evidentiary privilege for communications made at any time while preparing for participating in a victim-centered practice or victim-offender dialogue. This information is not subject to discovery in court proceedings or public inspection. Parties involved in these practices or dialogues can refuse to share their communications relating to this and prevent others in court from doing so. Facilitators of these programs are immune from civil damages for statements, actions, omissions, or decisions made in the course of these practices or dialogues unless it was grossly negligent and made with malice or made with willful disregard for the safety or property of any party to the practice or dialogue.

Section 9 amends O.C.G.A. 45-3-7 to create a specific oath that all officers must take after July 1, 2025. The oath will be before the chief executive officer of the agency or any authorized judicial official, and that oath will be filed in and entered into the records of that agency. Agencies can add additional language, although it must be aspirational only and of no legal effect in any criminal proceeding. This also makes any aspirational language that is added have no legal effect in any civil or criminal proceeding.

SB 42 Penalties for violating Code Sections 16-6-9 through 16-6-12; certain penalty provisions for the offense of prostitution, keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, and pandering; repeal

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 42 repeals 16-6-13(b), which currently is a criminal penalty of between 10 and 30 years of imprisonment and a maximum fine of $100,000 when anyone violates the crimes of keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, or pandering, when the offense involves someone under the age of 18 years old. This is to correct for a rule of lenity issue with the crime of human trafficking.

SB 79 "Fentanyl Eradication and Removal Act"; enact

By: Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) ***Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 79 is the 'Fentanyl Eradication and Removal Act.'

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 16-13-31 regarding the manufacture, delivery, distribution, possession, or sale of noncontrolled substances to strike the references that cite to fentanyl in Schedule II and fentanyl analogue structural class. If a person sells, manufactures, delivers, brings into the state, or has possession of at least four grams of fentanyl, a fentanyl analog structural class, or any mixture containing these substances, then they are guilty of trafficking in fentanyl.

The penalty for at least four grams, but less than eight grams, is a mandatory minimum of eight years and a fine of $75,000. The penalty for at least eight grams, but less than 14 grams, is a mandatory minimum of 15 years and a fine of $150,000. The penalty for at least 14 grams, but less than 28 grams, is a mandatory minimum of 25 years and a fine of $250,000. The penalty for 28 grams or more is a mandatory minimum of 35 years and a fine of $750,000.

The bill also revises the penalties that can be imposed once the individual meets the requirements for a judge, and the judge agrees to depart from the mandatory minimums. New sentencing ranges are also added to the Code.

Further, the bill responds to a court case and ensures that mandatory minimums cannot be suspended, stayed, probated, deferred, or otherwise withheld by the court.

SB 132 Insanity and Mental Incapacity; hearing before a court orders an evaluation of the mental competency of an accused person to stand trial; require

By: Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 132 provides that individuals whom are charged with a non-violent misdemeanor must receive a competency evaluation within 45 days, while those charged with anything other than a non-violent misdemeanor still must receive a competency evaluation within 90 days. Offenses of driving under the influence and domestic violence charges are not included within the 45-day timeline. This also provides that judges must provide a hearing before ordering the mental competency evaluation if the request comes from the defense. Upon holding that hearing, if the judge orders an evaluation, he or she must explain why they have a bona fide doubt in an order about the accused's competency. If a defendant makes a special plea claiming incompetency, then the court must hold a bench trial unless either side requests a jury trial. If charged with a non-violent offense, the court may allow outpatient evaluation instead of jail-based evaluation.

SB 244 Criminal Proceedings; the award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs in a criminal case to the defendant upon such defendant making a successful motion to disqualify the prosecuting attorney for misconduct in connection with the case; provide

By: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 244 provides that if a motion is made to disqualify a prosecutor based on improper conduct, and it results in disqualification, the defendant is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. If the disqualification of the prosecutor results in the criminal case being dismissed against the defendant due to improper conduct, the defendant is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the defendant in defending the case. These costs and fees will be paid from the county treasury.

SB 244 is also the 'Wrongful Conviction Compensation Act.' This provides the Office of State Administrative Hearings (OSAH) to consider claims of wrongful conviction and for making recommendations as to whether the claimant qualifies for compensation and, if so, how much compensation. These claims must be filed directly with OSAH, must be filed within three years after the date of the acknowledgement, or within three years after July 1, 2025 (whichever occurs later).

In certain situations, the statute of limitations is different. If during the two years before this would normally expire (which provides for three years after the date of acknowledgement or within three years of July 1, 2025), the claimant obtains new evidence that they could not have previously obtained with reasonable diligence, then they can file a claim within two years from the date of obtaining that new evidence. If after that period has passed and the claimant obtains new evidence, they can file a claim within two years of finding that evidence. These claims can be brought by heirs.

To receive compensation, a claimant must establish by a preponderance of the evidence that: 1) they were convicted of a felony in the state and served all or part of that sentence; 2) the claimant did not commit the crime and did not commit any lesser-included offense; and 3) one of the following apply: A) the conviction was reversed or vacated and the charges were dismissed after the conviction was reversed or vacated, B) the claimant's conviction was reversed or vacated and the claimant entered an Alford plea or nolo plea, when the claimant would otherwise be entitled to a new trial, C) the conviction was reversed or vacated and was acquitted upon retrial, or D) the claimant received a pardon based on innocence for the conviction.

The administrative law judge shall make the payment, unless he or she determines that the claimant was an accomplice to the crime or the claimant intentionally and voluntarily caused the conviction by entering a guilty plea, by committing perjury, or by fabricating evidence at trial. The OSAH judge must provide the attorney general, within 15 days of being designated, the notice of the claim and an opportunity to respond within 60 days and commence a hearing and make a determination within 180 days. All proceedings must be in accordance with Title 50, Chapter 13, Article 2 (Office of State Administrative Hearings). The rules of evidence in 50-13-15 apply (Rules of Evidence in Contested Cases/Administrative Hearings). The claimant

can obtain judicial review of the administrative judge's decision, per 50-13-19 (Judicial Review of Contested Cases).

The payments will be for $75,000 for each year incarcerated and an additional $25,000 for each year while awaiting a sentence of death based on the conviction, reasonable attorney's fees, reimbursement of restitution or fines paid, and reimbursement for any reasonable reintegrative services and healthcare costs. These amounts are indexed to the Consumer Price Index. In calculating time of incarceration, the judge must use the calculation in 17-10-11 (Granting of Credit Generally/Parole Eligibility).

The bill creates a trust fund as a separate fund within the treasury, and the state treasurer must credit all appropriated money in the same manner as funds are invested by the State Depository Board. Any award must award $6,000 to the claimant within 60 days. If the recommendation is issued after September 1, the advance is $18,000. Afterward, the General Assembly shall appropriate through an amended appropriations bill for a judgment issued before September 1 of that year for an amount sufficient to pay the remainder of the award. If the award exceeds $1.5 million, the General Assembly must appropriate the amounts in equal amounts over three separate fiscal years.

The state also explicitly waives sovereign immunity. These payments are offset when the individual has received a civil judgment or settlement from or against the state. This bill exempts these claims from Title 28, Chapter 5, Article 4, Part 2 (Claims Advisory Board/Claims Against State or Departments or Agencies).

Judiciary, Juvenile Committee — Staff: Brian Heinze

SB 98 Guardian and Ward; county conservators; provide

By: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) ***Through the Judiciary, Juvenile Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 98 changes various references in the Juvenile Code to reflect "county conservators" rather than "county guardians," and adds references to "county conservators" to various other sections of the Code. After July 1, 2025, in matters related to a conservatorship when an individual designated as a county guardian is serving as a county conservator, the designation of that individual will be county conservator.

SB 110 Definitions Relative to the Juvenile Code; definition of neglect and to provide for new definitions

By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) ***Through the Judiciary, Juvenile Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 110 defines the term "blatant disregard" within the Juvenile Code as a real, significant, and imminent risk of harm that is so obvious to a legal custodian that a reasonable person would not expose a child to that imminent risk of harm without exercising certain precautionary measures. It also defines the term "independent activity" to be one that is not under the direct supervision of a legal custodian or parent and includes playing outdoors, walking to school, running errands, and traveling to local commercial or recreational facilities.

The bill modifies the definition of "neglect" to be when someone fails to provide necessary parental care, rather than proper parental care. It also narrows the requirements of when a parent must provide certain supervision necessary for the health and safety of a child to require the parent to avoid creating a real, significant, and imminent risk of harm to the child as a result of blatant disregard for the parent's responsibilities. This further narrows what constitutes abandonment of a child under the definition of "neglect" to exclude when a parent or guardian permits a child in engage in independent activities that reasonably avoid substantial risk of harm.

The bill also modifies O.C.G.A. 16-5-60 to amend the crime of when a person causes bodily harm to or endangers the bodily safety of another through conscious disregard of another's safety to explicitly not

include when a parent or legal custodian permits a child to engage in one or more independent activities unless doing so constitutes neglect.

SB 259 Juvenile Code; certain procedures to be followed when there is a determination of suspected child abuse or neglect; provide

By: Sen. Matt Brass (6th) ***Through the Judiciary, Juvenile Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 259 is 'Ridge's Law,' and it requires a physician holding a child in temporary protective custody to make reasonable efforts to inform the child's parents of their right to obtain an independent medical evaluation or pediatric specialty consultation. The bill also requires the physician to inform the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) of the basis of their determinations regarding suspected abuse or neglect and whether a physical examination was conducted and what medical records were reviewed.

The bill defines pediatric specialty consultation as a consultation with a physician with specific experience in the listed fields. A parent of a child who is taken into temporary protective custody has the right to obtain an independent medical evaluation of the child at their own expense unless prohibited by court order. If an independent evaluation is obtained, the court will consider the results in any dependency proceeding that occurs due to alleged abuse. No hearing can be continued solely because the results from the independent evaluation are unavailable.

Motor Vehicles Committee **Staff: Anna Smith**

HB 114 Motor vehicles; federal regulations regarding safe operation of commercial motor vehicle and carriers; update reference date

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 114 addresses federal regulations for safe operations for drivers and vehicles transporting hazardous materials, changing the effective date from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025.

HB 116 Public Safety, Department of; Motor Carrier Compliance Division to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; change name

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 116 renames the Motor Carrier Compliance Division within the Department of Public Safety to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, and updates further language to reflect this change.

HB 208 Special license plates; support state parks and historic sites; establish

By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 208 revises the definition for "totally disabled veteran" and allows a totally disabled veteran to be issued a free license plate for up to two motorcycles or passenger cars after proper application is processed. Veterans who have been discharged from the military under conditions that are other than dishonorable, but who are not considered totally disabled are likewise able to be issued a special license plate for up to two motorcycles or passenger cars after proper application is processed.

The bill additionally creates seven specialty license plates. The first honors the Shepherd Center, with funds raised disbursed to Shepherd Center, Inc.; the second honors Georgia veterans and their families, with funds raised disbursed to the Georgia Veterans Service Foundation; the third honors Southern University Alumni, with funds raised disbursed to the Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter of Southern University Alumni Federation of Georgia, Inc.; the fourth honors Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., with funds raised disbursed to the Delta Life Development Center; the fifth honors Alabama State University alumni, with funds raised disbursed to the Alabama State University Metro Atlanta Alumni Chapter; the sixth supports

the Department of Natural Resources State Parks and Historic Sites Division, with funds raised allocated to the same division; and the seventh promotes the conservation and enhancement of black bass populations, with funds raised allocated to the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation.

HB 296 Motor vehicles; presentation of a driver's license in a certain electronic format; provisions

By: Rep. Houston Gaines (120th) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 296 clarifies language relating to poll workers in O.C.G.A. 21-2-417 to denote that a Georgia driver's license must be in physical format and issued by the Department of Driver Services.

The bill clarifies language relating to hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses in O.C.G.A. 27-2-2 and 27-2-3.1 to denote that a physical driver's licenses is required to identify an individual. The bill further allows licensees who are required to present their license to a law enforcement officer who possesses proper equipment to show them their electronic format-issued license. The bill notes that by July 1, 2027, all law enforcement officers will acquire equipment that can verify electronic licenses.

HB 296 creates definitions for "for-hire charter bus or motor coach" and "special modified rental vehicles" as it relates to ad valorem taxes to require individuals applying for a title for these two vehicles to pay 50 percent of title ad valorem tax fees at time of application and the remaining 50 percent within 12 months of filing the application.

HB 308 *(Vetoed)* Motor vehicles; operation of miniature on-road vehicles on certain highways; provide

Governor's Veto Statement HERE

By: Rep. Rob Clifton (131st) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 308 adds a definition for "miniature on-road vehicle" in Title 40 and lists its characteristics including: can transport people; operates between 25 and 45 miles per hour; has an overall width of 80 inches or less; is designed to travel on four plus wheels; uses a steering wheel; contains a non-straddle seat; has a gross vehicle weight of less than 4,000 pounds; and is not designed to be a golf cart, multi-purpose off-highway vehicle, or all-terrain vehicle.

The bill excludes miniature on-road vehicles manufactured 25 years prior to a registration application from having to comply with federal emission standards unless the vehicle has been modified by an importer registered with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Further Code sections pertaining to license plates, license fees, registration, taxation returns, and vehicle operations are revised to include miniature on-road vehicles.

The bill requires an intelligent speed assistance device to be installed on vehicles belonging to individuals who have a second or subsequent conviction of a violation in regards to reckless driving outlined in O.C.G.A. 40-6-390.1. The maximum speed limit for the device will be no greater than 20 percent above the posted speed limit, and costs related to installation are incurred by the offender.

HB 551 Motor vehicles; conditions, procedures, and limitations for issuance of temporary operating permits; provide

By: Rep. Jason Ridley (6th) ***Through the Motor Vehicles Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 551 relates to motor vehicle temporary operating permits (TOPs) and requires individuals who become a resident of Georgia to register their vehicle within 30 days of becoming a resident. Those in violation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and face a $100 fine for each day of noncompliance. Vehicles owned, rented, leased, or operated in the state are required to be registered.

The bill makes it unlawful for individuals to operate vehicles without a valid license plate or TOP, and removes existing language regarding used and new motor vehicle dealers issuing temporary operating

permits. Given there is enough space, if a vehicle does not have a county name decal on its license plate, the individual in violation is subject to a fine no greater than $25.

The bill outlines the process for dealers of new or used vehicles issuing TOPs. The issuance of a TOP is done without a fee unless certain circumstances are applicable. TOPs are to be designed by the Department of Revenue and may bear the name of the dealer and its location, and the permit will have an expiration date that is 45 days from point of purchase.

The department is allowed to develop and maintain an electronic TOP issuance system and is responsible for monitoring those who violate provisions regarding TOPs. If the department decides to suspend a dealer's access to the TOP issuance system, the dealer has the right to a formal hearing to be held within 30 days of the department's decision. If a dealer has been found to issue TOPs unlawfully, they will be suspended for up to 24 months and will be issued a fine of no more than $100 per offense. The bill further revises language relating to dealership plates, dealer recordkeeping, established places of business, and passive entities that own motor vehicles.

Section 9 creates a definition for immobilization device and allows for owners of private property to use or authorize use of an immobilization device on trespassing vehicles. The notice on the trespassing vehicle must include contact information for removing the device, the full legal name of the company immobilizing the vehicle, and the fee required to remove the device. Only companies permitted by the Department of Public Safety are authorized to use immobilization devices on trespassing vehicles.

The bill further creates a definition for "passive entity" and provides penalties for Georgia residents who own at least 50 percent of a passive entity that owns a motor vehicle if they fail to submit an application to register the motor vehicles within 60 days of receiving the title.

HR 558 House Study Committee on the State Board of Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers; create

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

Final Bill Summary: HR 558 creates the House Study Committee on the State Board of Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers. The study committee will be comprised of the following members: four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House, one of which is the chairperson of the Motor Vehicles Committee and one of which is the chairperson of the Regulated Industries Committee; the secretary of state or their designee; the commissioner of the Department of Revenue or their designee; one representative of a state or local law enforcement agency with experience in motor vehicle crime; and one member of the Georgia Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Advisory Board. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2025.

SB 291 Special License Plates; establish an "America First" specialty license plate

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 291 creates a special license plate featuring the American flag and the words "America First." Funds raised from the sale of this plate will be deposited into the state general fund.

Natural Resources & Environment Committee **Staff: Anna Smith**

HB 143 Water resources; water-measuring devices for farm use of surface and ground water; revise provisions

By: Rep. Robert Dickey (134th) ***Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 143 relates to water permits for agricultural use and removes language from Title 12 that requires permittees to have an acceptable type of water measuring device within one year of the updated effective date on a revised permit.

The bill removes other language that requires the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Department of Natural Resources to document the withdrawal or lack of irrigation infrastructure at a given site, and further allows trained and certified EPD staff to install water measuring devices at no charge to the permittee. EPD is also allowed to undertake other repairs and replacements of these devices when necessary.

HB 351 Board of Natural Resources; modify powers and duties

By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) ***Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 351 pertains to solid waste management systems and the Board of Natural Resources. In the case that a solid waste management facility has been identified for future use, an applicant must submit written verification from its host local government that identifies the facility, describes its location by tax parcel identification number, states that the facility complies with local zoning if applicable, and states that the facility is developed in accordance with O.C.G.A. 12-8-13.1.

The bill further requires the host local government to notify the public at least 14 days and again at least seven days prior to a public meeting that details the new solid waste facility. Language relating to the Department of Community Affairs is replaced with the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division.

Public and Community Health Committee — Staff: Amber Mack

HB 89 Public Health, Department of; require healthcare providers, facilities, and pharmacies to provide the Maternal Mortality Review Committee with psychiatric or other clinical records

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 89 authorizes the release of psychiatric records of a deceased person who is the subject of a maternal death review to the Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

The bill also creates the Regional Perinatal Center Advisory Committee that will advise on the adequacy of regional perinatal centers in the state. The adequacy assessment will consider various factors such as patient safety, interfacility coordination, evaluation of high-risk pregnancies and deliveries, and transportation adequacy.

The committee will be made up of 11 to 21 four-year term members appointed by the commissioner of the Department of Public Health. Any approved changes to the regional perinatal centers will require a budget request submission to the Office of Planning and Budget and the General Assembly.

Any facility seeking to become a regional perinatal center will need to share a readiness plan with the Department of Public Health. The department will submit a plan with funding considerations to the speaker of the House of Representatives, president of the Senate, and governor every four years beginning July 1, 2026.

HB 352 Georgia Gestational Diabetes Management Act; enact

By: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (34th) ***Through the Public and Community Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 352 is the 'Georgia Gestational Diabetes Management Act,' which includes patients with gestational diabetes on the list of those eligible for Medicaid covered continuous glucose monitors.

HB 584 Health; reassign licensing and oversight of certain treatments and programs from Departments of Community Health to Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) ***Through the Public and Community Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 584 reassigns licensing and oversight of drug abuse treatment and education programs, narcotic treatment programs, community living arrangements, and adult residential mental health programs from the Department of Community Health (DCH) to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).

Community service boards will be the governing bodies.

Rules and regulations created and implemented by December 31, 2025 will remain in effect until revoked. All issued and provisional licenses provided by DCH on December 31, 2025 will be valid until they are revoked, renewed, surrendered, or terminated. The reassignment will be effective January 1, 2026.

The bill also mandates reporting of the abuse or exploitation of a resident of a community living arrangement when there is reasonable cause by certain persons. The initial report must be made to appropriate law enforcement or prosecuting attorney. The department is required to maintain a record of such reports and take action to address and prevent harm after the conclusion of an investigation.

HR 304 House Study Committee on the Costs and Effects of Smoking; create

By: Rep. Michelle Au (50th) ***Through the Public and Community Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 304 creates the House Study Committee on the Costs and Effects of Smoking. The study committee will consist of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the House.

HR 611 House Study Committee on Abandoned Child Placement Following Hospital Discharge; create

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

Final Bill Summary: HR 611 creates the House Study Committee on Abandoned Child Placement Following Hospital Discharge, which will study the abandonment of children after psychiatric hospitalization and other types of out-of-home care. The committee will be comprised of five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.

HR 847 House Study Committee on Evaluating Funding for Public Health; create

By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) ***Through the Public and Community Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 847 creates the House Study Committee on Evaluating Funding for Public Health. The committee will be comprised of five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

SB 101 Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; testing in the newborn screening system; require

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) ***Through the Public and Community Health Committee***

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 101 requires all benefits policies renewed on or after January 1, 2026 to include coverage for orthotic and prosthetic devices that are medically necessary for the following: activities of daily living, essential job-related activities, personal hygiene-related activities, and physical activities.

Coverage will be provided for no more than three orthotic devices or prosthetic devices per affected limb per covered person during any three-year period.

Coverage considered as habilitative or rehabilitative benefits will be comparable to coverage for other medical and surgical benefits, may be subject to the same cost-sharing requirements that apply to other medical devices, and may be limited for out-of-network providers. The bill requires the commissioner to submit a report to the House Insurance Committee and the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee regarding implementation of coverage by July 1, 2032.

SB 185 Correctional Institutions of State and Counties; use of state funds or resources for certain treatments for state inmates; prohibit

By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) Through the Public and Community Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 185 prohibits the use of state funds or resources for sex reassignment surgeries, hormone replacement therapies, or sex characteristic altering cosmetic procedures or prosthetics for state inmates. Exceptions may be considered for medically necessary treatments when the condition is not related to sex reassignment or gender dysphoria, treatment for those with a sex development disorder, treatment for partial androgen insensitivity syndrome, and hormone replacement therapy for those receiving such treatment prior to the effective date of the bill for the purpose of transitioning off of treatment.

SB 233 Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission; revise the subcommittees

By: Sen. Matt Brass (6th) Through the Public and Community Health Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 233 increases the number of members of the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission from 24 to 30. The six members added must be: a certified addiction recovery specialist with lived experience; an intellectual and developmental disabilities provider; an individual who has lost an immediate family member to a drug overdose; a leader of an intellectual and developmental disabilities advocacy organization; an executive director of an addiction and recovery nonprofit; and someone with or a parent of someone with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The bill also replaces the Involuntary Commitment and Workforce and System Development subcommittees of the commission with Addictive Diseases and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The commission's abolishment date is extended from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2026.

Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee — Staff: Abby Day

HB 238 Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council; create and maintain an at-risk adult training course focusing on officer response to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or dementia

By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 238 requires the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to create and maintain an at-risk adult training course focusing on officer response to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

HB 288 Appeal and error; declaratory judgments in instances involving accusations made by a prosecuting attorney regarding credibility of a peace officer; provide

By: Rep. Houston Gaines (120th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 288 requires that a prosecuting attorney, when placing an officer on a Giglio list, to notify both the officer and the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council for review. The bill allows for a request for reconsideration of that action. The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council will develop the policies and procedures for notification.

The bill requires that a person qualifying as a candidate for the office of sheriff be a certified peace officer not under revocation or suspension by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council.

The bill also allows for an exception for anyone who is not a certified peace officer at the time of qualifying to run for sheriff but is a first responder, former military officer, or is a former or current local, state, or federal law enforcement officer, and can complete the training for certification within six months of taking office.

HB 423 **Emergency telephone number 9-1-1 system; Next Generation 9-1-1 systems and services; provide**

By: Rep. Will Wade (9th) ***Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 423 provides for Next Generation 9-1-1 systems and services, and requires all new 9-1-1 systems to conform to wireless enhanced 9-1-1 standards. The bill revises the duties and responsibilities of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority, adds members to the board of directors, and revises the role of the executive director of the authority.

HB 433 ***(Vetoed)*** **Human Services, Department of; authorized to access restricted and sealed information to conduct employee oversight in certain circumstances; provide –**

Governor's Veto Statement HERE

By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) ***Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 433 authorizes the Department of Human Services to have access to restricted and sealed information at the Georgia Crime Information Center to verify eligibility for prospective or existing foster parents or adults in the home of such foster parents, as well as to verify eligibility for prospective and existing employees and contractors.

SB 56 **Georgia State Indemnification Fund; the Department of Administrative Services to purchase annuities for the payment of indemnification claims; authorize**

By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) ***Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 56 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to purchase annuities for the payment of indemnification claims. The bill allows for indemnification payments for claims relating to deaths of public safety officers related to COVID-19 when the death occurred on or before April 15, 2022. Applications for payment must be submitted no later than August 1, 2025.

SB 99 **Crimes and Offenses; definition of law enforcement officer; provide**

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 99 establishes the definition of "law enforcement officer" to include a peace officer; any state or federal law enforcement personnel who render assistance to a law enforcement agency of the state or any political subdivision therein; an appointed chief of police or department head of a law enforcement unit while pursuing required training; a federal law enforcement officer employed by the U.S. government as a full-time law enforcement officer; and an individual certified in another state hired in Georgia while pursuing training required by the 'Peace Officer Standards and Training Act.'

SB 147 **Correctional Institutions of State and Counties; consent for the release of certain criminal history, vocational, and educational information for inmates upon release; provide**

By: Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) ***Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee***

Final Bill Summary: SB 147 allows state correctional institutions to provide for the release of certain criminal history, vocational, and educational information for inmates upon release. The bill provides for the issuance of an identification card, and a program and treatment completion certificate.

Regulated Industries Committee — Staff: Brian Heinze

HB 74 **Georgia Lottery for Education Act; correct a reference**

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 74 amends the general powers of the Georgia Lottery Corporation and makes the promulgation of licenses, rules, and regulations concerning coin operated amusement machines (COAMs) and administrative hearings concerning COAMs subject to the 'Administrative Procedure Act.'

HB 148 Accountants; education and experience requirements; revise provisions

By: Rep. John Carson (46th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 148 revises the education requirements for becoming a certified public accountant (CPA) and allows a person to obtain licensure after obtaining a master's degree from a college or university involving a concentration in accounting or taxation and after achieving one year of experience in the accounting field.

Alternatively, the bill allows someone to become certified as a CPA after obtaining a bachelor's degree with a concentration in accounting and at least two years of relevant experience in the accounting field. Further, accounting firms can perform certain work under mobility practice privileges without having an office in the state.

HB 630 State Board of Registration; remove used car division and the used parts division; provisions

By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 630 revises requirements for the State Board of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers to be composed of 10 members. The bill revises requirements for applicants and existing applicants. In addition, both divisions within the board are merged to provide for more flexibility.

HB 635 State Licensing Board for Residential and Commercial General Contractors; revise provisions

By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 635 revises board requirements and licensing requirements related to the State Licensing Board for Residential and Commercial General Contractors. This removes the limitation on the amount of terms that board members can serve, and allows certain members of the board to have prior experience as a public building official rather than be currently in that position. A residential light commercial contractor or commercial general contractor must have at least four years of aggregate, academic credits from college-level courses in specific fields.

The board also has the ability to revoke licenses if a licensee knowingly enters into a contractual agreement to lawfully engage in or provide the use of their license to engage in contracting or perform the functions of a contractor.

SB 40 Secondary Metals Recyclers; the definition of the term "used, detached catalytic converters" to said article; provide for applicability

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 40 prohibits a secondary metals recycler from paying more than $100 in cash for any transaction to a seller. These recyclers are also prohibited from paying cash for used, detached catalytic converters or coils, used utility wire, used communications copper, copper wire, or a battery.

The bill revises certain requirements related to registered agents, and requires the locality to remit $100 of each registration fee to the locality's general fund and $100 to the Georgia Sheriff's Association. The bill also allows a municipal solid waste disposal facility operated by private enterprise to impose a surcharge of $1 per ton of nonmetallic waste resulting from the shredding of vehicles or household appliances.

SB 81 Motor Vehicle Franchise Practices; protection of consumer data in motor vehicle sales; provide

By: Sen. Matt Brass (6th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 81 extends requirements regarding consumer data in motor vehicles to affiliates of a franchisor, manufacturer, or distributor. The bill also makes it a crime for a third party to access, share,

sell, copy, or use certain protected dealer data from a motor vehicle. In addition, it prohibits a third party from including any limitation on a dealer's ability to protect, store, copy, share, or use any protected dealer data or to permit access to protected dealer data without prior, express, and written consent by the dealer. Vendors of dealer data systems are required to adopt a standardized integration framework for "over-the-air" systems, and additional protections are provided for dealers with regard to accessing data from manufacturers, franchisors, distributors, or their affiliates.

Every franchisor, manufacturer, or distributor must provide compensation to dealers for any assistance provided to a buyer or lessee whose vehicle required a change, repair, or update by remote means. The bill also defines "new motor vehicle dealer" to include when a dealership offers motor vehicles for sale at the location, and requires those locations to provide maintenance to customers.

SB 125 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; decouple the sequential order of experience and examination requirements

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

Final Bill Summary: Section 1-1 of Part I and all of Part III of SB 125 are a modernization update to the licensing Code for electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low voltage contractors, and utility contractors.

These parts make numerous changes, including: 1) revising requirements for State Construction Industry Licensing Board members; 2) revising what plumber classifications can install, maintain, alter, or repair medical gas piping systems; 3) exempting any licensed conditioned air contractor who also is a registered professional engineer from certain continuing education requirements; 4) removing the cap on continuing education that both the Division of Electrical Contractors and the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers can require; 5) requiring each division to make all reasonable efforts to provide continuing education online or through home study courses; 6) clarifying that any licensed master plumber, or company that holds a valid utility contractor license, can construct, alter, or repair any plumbing system that extends from the property line up to five feet of any building; and 7) allowing for applicable licensee's partners, officers, and employees to continue operating for 60 days after the death of a licensee, in addition to allowing the applicable division to provide one additional 60-day grace period.

These parts also revise dates and timelines, add references to internet advertising, and revise fine amounts.

Section 1-2 removes a requirement for licensure as a professional engineer that requires a person to subsequently pass an exam after obtaining required educational experience.

Part II requires the Office of the Secretary of State to institute a unified system for tracking continuing education credits completed by licensees of the various boards under the secretary of state's purview. Beginning on January 1, 2026, a professional licensing board will not renew a license until the applicant has complied with all applicable continuing education requirements.

SB 213 "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975," commercial cheating services that target students and examinees seeking a professional license as an unlawful, unfair, and deceptive trade practice; ban

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 213 makes it unlawful to provide, for a commercial purpose, work product for students in a substantially completed form. A violation of this provision will constitute a violation of the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975,' and enforcement will be by the attorney general and not by a private right of action. This bill exempts tutoring, as well as certain automated systems.

SB 241 Funeral Directors; organic human reduction as a means of disposing of deceased human bodies; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 241 provides for regulations related to organic human reduction, as a form of disposing of bodies upon death. Organic human reduction facilities are required to obtain a license from the State Board of Funeral Service. These facilities must meet certain requirements including: having a room with a minimum space for 30 people where funeral services are conducted, having and maintaining at least one hearse and church truck, and not being located within 1,000 feet from a residential subdivision.

Retirement Committee **Staff: Sara Arroyo**

HB 78 Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; total percentage of funds invested in alternative investments; raise limit

By: Rep. Lehman Franklin (160th) ***Through the Retirement Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 78 allows the Firefighters Pension Fund to invest up to 20 percent of assets in alternative investments. The bill allows the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) of Georgia to invest up to 10 percent of assets in alternative investments. The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

HB 406 Judicial Retirement System; increase retirement age of superior court judges first taking office on or after July 1, 2026

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 406 allows a member of the Judicial Retirement System (JRS) to retire at age 60, but the retirement allowance is reduced by any time served as a superior court judge. Once the member reaches 65, their retirement allowance is adjusted to reflect all their years of creditable service earned as a member of JRS. The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

Rules Committee **Staff: Leonel Chancey**

HR 885 House Study Committee on Election Procedures; create

By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) ***Through the Rules Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 885 establishes the House Study Committee on Election Procedures. This committee will examine Georgia's election laws, policies, and procedures, many of which have not been updated since 1964. The committee will recommend any necessary actions or legislation to ensure a secure and effective electoral system. It will consist of House members appointed by the Speaker, who will also designate the chairperson. The committee is set to be dissolved on December 1, 2025.

SB 68 Civil Practice; substantive and comprehensive revision of provisions regarding civil practice, evidentiary matters, damages, and liability in tort actions; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 68 revises civil practice, motor vehicle, and tort laws. It limits arguments regarding noneconomic damages, alters discovery timelines, and modifies dismissal rules. The recovery of attorney's fees is restricted, and the admissibility of seatbelt evidence has been updated. Additionally, the bill establishes a new framework for claims related to negligent security, limiting property owners' liability in specific circumstances. It also changes how medical expense damages are calculated and allows for bifurcated trials.

Section 1 of the bill amends O.C.G.A. 9-10-184, stating that if counsel is entitled to make the opening and concluding arguments, they may not argue the worth or monetary value of noneconomic damages during

the concluding argument unless they have claimed this during the opening argument. Counsel is not permitted to discuss the worth or monetary value of noneconomic damages in the concluding argument if it differs from what was argued in the opening argument. However, this section does not prohibit counsel from asking potential jurors during voir dire if they could return a verdict that does not award damages or one that exceeds an unspecified amount, as long as such questions are supported by evidence.

Section 2 amends Code section 9-11-12, indicating that the court must decide on a motion to dismiss within 90 days after the conclusion of the briefings on that motion. If the court fails to rule on the motion to dismiss within this 90-day period, a party may file a motion to terminate or modify, but this remedy does not prevent other available remedies for the court's failure to rule timely, including, but not limited to, a writ of mandamus.

Section 3 amends Code section 9-11-41, allowing for filing a written notice of dismissal at any time before the 60th day after the opposing party serves an answer.

Section 4 adds Code section 9-15-16, limiting the recovery of attorney's fees and litigation costs to avoid double recovery.

Section 5 allows the failure to wear a safety belt to be used as evidence in negligence cases, which could reduce damages, but cannot affect insurance coverage.

Section 6 amends Code section 51-3-51, stipulating that a property owner or occupier is liable for negligent security if the plaintiff can prove, by clear and convincing evidence, that prior occurrences of similar wrongful conduct by a third person led to an injury. This is contingent upon the owner or occupier knowing or having reason to know that the third person was or would be on the premises, and having actual knowledge of such prior wrongful conduct.

Section 7 introduces Code section 51-12-1.1, specifying that medical damages are limited to the reasonable value of necessary care as determined by the trier of fact, overriding the common law collateral source rule.

Section 8 amends Code section 51-12-15, stating that if the plaintiff is the legal guardian of a minor who has been injured by an alleged sexual offense and is likely to suffer severe psychological or emotional distress from testifying more than once in a bifurcated proceeding, or if the amount in controversy is less than $150,000, the provisions apply.

SB 69 "Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 69, the 'Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act,' regulates third-party litigation financing in Georgia. This legislation requires litigation financiers to register with the Department of Banking and Finance and to disclose pertinent information. It also includes specific restrictions, such as a prohibition on foreign affiliations.

The bill outlines contract requirements, disclosure obligations, and cancellation provisions to protect consumers. It also allows for the discovery of litigation financing agreements and establishes penalties for law violations. Key Provisions in the bill include:

Registration - Individuals or entities must be registered as litigation financiers to finance litigation in Georgia.

Criminal Convictions - The department may deny registrations if the applicant or key individuals have felony convictions within the last ten years.

Decision-Making Prohibition - Litigation financiers cannot direct or make decisions regarding civil actions or legal claims they finance. Decision-making rights remain with the parties involved and their legal representatives.

Prohibitions for Financiers:
1. No commissions or fees for referring consumers to the financier.
2. Commissions are not accepted for providing goods or services to consumers.
3. Cannot recover more than the plaintiffs' share of proceeds after legal costs.
4. No false or misleading advertising.
5. Consumers cannot be required to hire specific service providers.
6. Must promptly deliver a signed financing contract to consumers.
7. Cannot offer legal advice.
8. Cannot assign or securitize financing agreements unless retaining responsibility.

Liability - Financiers providing $25,000 or more in funding may be jointly liable for any costs or sanctions related to frivolous litigation against a consumer or their legal representative in financed proceedings.

SB 255 General Assembly; authorization of statutory investigatory powers to certain committees of the General Assembly; codify a process

By: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) Through the Rules Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 255 amends Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, establishing a process for granting investigatory powers to General Assembly committees.

The Senate or the House of Representatives may authorize committees to exercise investigatory powers per Code Section 45-15-19 through rules or resolutions. They may also approve joint committees to exercise powers outlined in Code Section 45-15-9. Authorized committees can administer oaths, compel testimony, require witness attendance, demand document production, and take depositions. They may also issue subpoenas for witnesses and documents, which can be served statewide as allowed by Code Section 24-13-24. If someone refuses to comply with a subpoena, the committee can seek assistance from the superior court in the relevant jurisdiction. The court can compel attendance and impose contempt of court penalties for noncompliance.

Confidentiality of materials and information during investigations is protected by law. If a subpoena application seeks confidentiality, the court will act to preserve it. The chairperson may either abandon the request or proceed based on the court's determination regarding privacy.

This section and related provisions do not limit any authority, privilege, or power of the General Assembly or its committees. Additionally, it does not affect investigations or subpoenas issued by committees before this amendment's effective date.

Rural Development Committee **Staff: Leo Chancey**

HR 753 House Study Committee on Improving Access to Internal Medicine in Rural Areas; create

By: Rep. Sandy Donatucci (105th) Through the Rural Development Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 753 establishes the House Study Committee on Improving Access to Internal Medicine in Rural Areas. The committee will examine the conditions, needs, issues, and challenges related to healthcare access in rural Georgia, particularly in communities facing shortages in health transportation.

It will consist of eight members, including legislators and healthcare providers. The committee is tasked with recommending necessary actions and legislation, with a report to be submitted by December 1, 2025.

Special Rules Committee **Staff: Michael Satterfield**

HB 233 State symbols; Brunswick stew as the official state stew; designate
By: Rep. Rick Townsend (179th) Through the Special Rules Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 233 designates Brunswick stew as the official state stew, cornbread as the official bread, and the fourth Friday in November of each year as "National Sugarcane Syrup Day" in Georgia. It also prohibits companies of foreign countries from submitting contract proposals to a state agency.

HR 40 House Study Committee on Reinsurance for Essential Industries; create
By: Rep. Demetrius Douglas (78th) Through the Special Rules Committee
Final Bill Summary: HR 40 creates the House Study Committee on Reinsurance for Essential Industries. The committee will have seven members. The speaker of the House will appoint five representatives from the House Insurance Committee, one of whom will serve as chairperson. The speaker will also appoint the Insurance and the Agriculture commissioners, or their designees. The committee will be abolished on December 1, 2025.

HR 347 Georgia high schools; establish flag football programs for girls; urge
By: Rep. Brent Cox (28th) Through the Special Rules Committee
Final Bill Summary: HR 347 urges Georgia high schools to establish flag football programs for girls.

State Planning & Community Affairs Committee **Staff: Michael Satterfield**

HB 516 State government; authorize county and regional library boards to conduct meetings via teleconference
By: Rep. Kimberly New (40th) Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 516 allows county and regional library boards and community service boards to conduct meetings via teleconference. It also designates the attorney general as an applicable elected representative who can approve the issuance of certain private activity bonds to finance or refinance a state charter school.

HR 273 City of Incheon, South Korea; designate as sister city-state of State of Georgia
By: Rep. Soo Hong (103rd) Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: HR 273 designates the City of Incheon, South Korea as the sister city-state of the State of Georgia.

State Properties Committee **Staff: Anna Smith**

HB 303 Original 33 Memorial Act; enact
By: Rep. Carl Gilliard (162nd) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 303 creates the 'Original 33 Memorial Act,' which allows a monument honoring the Original 33, the Black legislators expelled from the General Assembly after the end of Reconstruction, to be placed on capitol grounds or in another prominent place. This is subject to the availability of private funds.

HR 97 Property; conveyance of certain state owned property; authorize
By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 97 is a conveyance resolution for properties located in 13 counties, conveying property owned by the State of Georgia or amending those conveyances as follows:

Article 1 conveys approximately 0.132 of an acre of land located in Bryan County, being a portion of the Bryan County Forest Fire Tower Site, under the custody of the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), to Bryan County for a consideration of $5,634 for right of way and driveway easement.

Article 2 leases approximately 0.03 of an acre located in Cherokee County, being a portion of Pine Log Mountain, under the custody of GFC, to the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners for a term of six years and for the consideration of $10 annually for a telecommunication tower, and the requirement that GFC have access to tower space, a generator, and a shed on the premises.

Article 3 conveys approximately 2.957 acres located in Clarke County, known as the Athens Field Office, under the custody of the Department of Community Supervision, to Mallory and Evans Development, LLC for an exchange of a like or better improved property.

Article 4 conveys approximately 5.468 acres located in Colquitt County, being a portion of Southern Regional Technical College, under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), to the Moultrie-Colquitt County Development Authority for fair market value; or 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 $10, as long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity.

Article 5 amends a lease of 1.6 acres located in Effingham County, being a portion of Savannah Technical College and Career Academy, under the custody of TCSG, with the Effingham County Board of Education for $10 annually.

Article 6 conveys approximately 0.006 of an acre located in Fulton County, being a portion of the Georgia World Congress Center, under the custody of the Department of Economic Development, to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for a consideration of $10 for right of way.

Article 7 conveys approximately three acres located in Fulton County, being a portion of Lower Wall Street, under the custody of the State Properties Commission, to the City of Atlanta for a fair market value and the State of Georgia, Georgia Building Authority, and CSX will retain an access easement, or for a consideration of $10.

Article 8, to settle all disputes of ownership on approximately 4,086.07 acres of marshland, the State would convey to Glynn New Hope 1043, LLC the entire 4,086.07 acres of marshland, in exchange for 20 percent of any mitigation banks approved on any portions of the 4,086.07 acres within the 10-year timeframe. The settlement agreement calls for an eventual return of the entire 4,086.07 acres of marshland back to the State after exhaustion of all credits from any approved mitigation banks, or after 25 years from any approved mitigation banks for which not all mitigation credits have been generated or released, whichever is earlier.

Article 9 conveys approximately 4.75 acres located in Habersham County, being a portion of Lee Arrendale Correctional Institute, under the custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC), to the Town of Alto for a consideration of $10 so long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity.

Article 10 conveys approximately 20 acres located in Habersham County, being a portion of Lee Arrendale Correctional Institute, under the custody of DOC, to Habersham County for a consideration of $10 as long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity.

Article 11 conveys approximately up to 180 acres located in Habersham County, being a portion of Lee Arrendale Correctional Institute, under the custody of DOC, to Habersham County for a consideration of $10 as long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity.

Article 12 conveys approximately 3.707 acres located in Hall County, being a portion of Lanier Technical College, under the custody of TCSG, to GDOT for a consideration of $229,180 for the right of way and easement (PI0016074).

Article 13 leases communication tower space located in Hall County, being a portion of State Patrol Post 6, under the custody of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), to Southern Linc for a term of 25 years for fair market value.

Article 14 conveys approximately 0.339 of an acre located in Henry County, being a portion of the Henry County campus of Southern Crescent Technical College, under the custody of TCSG to Henry County for a consideration of $67,150 for right of way and easement (PI0015089).

Article 15 leases communication tower space located in Miller County, being a portion of State Patrol Post 14, under the custody of DPS, to Southern Linc for a term of 25 years for fair market value.

Article 16 leases communication tower space located in Sumter County, being a portion of State Patrol Post 10, under the custody of DPS, to Southern Linc for a term of 25 years for fair market value.

Article 17 conveys approximately 11.561 acres located in Sumter County, being the former site of the Sumter Armory and Annex, under the custody of the Department of Defense, to the Sumter County Board of Commissioners for a fair market value and the removal of the public purpose use restriction.

Article 18 leases communication tower space located in Tattnall County, being a portion of State Patrol Post 18, under the custody of DPS, to Southern Linc for a term of 25 years for fair market value.

HR 98 Property; granting of nonexclusive easements; authorize

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 98 authorizes the State of Georgia, acting through the State Properties Commission, to grant easements over certain state-owned properties in 16 counties listed below:

Article 1 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 1.0 acre, located in Barrow County, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at Fort Yargo State Park, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground single-phase facilities, conversion of existing overhead and underground distribution lines, pad mount transformers, and associated equipment for $10.

Article 2 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 15 acres, located in Barrow County, under the custody of the DNR at Fort Yargo State Park, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground fiber optic cable lines for a fair market value no less than $650.

Article 3 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 2.34 acres, located in Bryan County, under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) at the Hyundai EV QuickStart Training Center, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the TCSG EV Training Center (TCSG-398) for $10.

Article 4 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.78 of an acre, located in Chatham County, under the custody of TCSG at the Pooler Regional Training Center QuickStart, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground wire and pad mount transformer, distribution line, and associated equipment to serve the EV Training Center Expansion (TCSG-399) for $10.

Article 5 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 4.53 acres, located in Cherokee County, under the custody of the DNR at McGraw Ford Wildlife Management Area, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a transmission tie line and associated equipment to connect a battery storage station to Georgia Power Company's McGraw Ford substation for fair market value no less than $650.

Article 6 grants an easement to Spectrum Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 3.0 acres, located in Coweta County, under the custody of the DNR at Chattahoochee Bend State Park, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground and overhead fiber optic lines and associated equipment for $10.

Article 7 grants an easement to the City of Atlanta or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.09 of an acre, located in Fulton County, under the custody of the State Properties Commission over the Western and Atlantic Railroad, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of the Central Avenue Bridge replacement project for $96,400.

Article 8 grants an easement to the Brunswick-Glynn Joint Water and Sewer Commission or its successors, and assigns approximately 8 acres, located in Glynn County, under the custody of the DNR at Hofwyl Planation, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of various underground utilities and associated equipment for $10.

Article 9 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.24 of an acre, located in Habersham County, under the custody of TCSG at the Main Campus of North Georgia Technical College, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a three-phase primary underground wire and one three-phase pad mount transformer for $10.

Article 10 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 1.6 acres, located in Hall County, under the custody of TCSG at Lanier Technical College, for relocation of distribution lines, transformer, and terminating cabinet for a fair market value no less than $650.

Article 11 grants an easement to Atlanta Gas Light or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.76 of an acre, located in Haralson County, under the custody of TCSG at the Murphy Campus of West Georgia Technical College, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground distribution lines to serve TCSG-392 Industrial Building for $10.

Article 12 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 2.22 acres, located in Haralson County, under the custody of TCSG at West Georgia Technical College Murphy Campus, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a new transformer, underground distribution lines, and associated equipment to serve the new Industrial Building (TCSG-392) for $10.

Article 13 grants an easement to the Satilla Rural Electric Membership Corporation or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.03 of an acre, located in Jeff Davis County, under the custody of the Department of Driver Services at the Hazelhurst Customer Service Center, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment for $10.

Article 14 grants an easement to the City of Barnesville or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.40 of an acre, located in Lamar County, under the custody of the Department of Community Supervision at the Barnesville Field Office, for the sewer system upgrade project for $10.

Article 15 grants an easement to the Jefferson Energy Cooperative or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.50 of an acre, located in McDuffie County, under the custody of the DNR at the McDuffie Public Fishing Area, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground distribution line and associated equipment for $10.

Article 16 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.20 of an acre, located in Paulding County, under the custody of the DNR at Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of underground distribution line and associated equipment to serve a Paulding County 911 Communication Tower for $10.

Article 17 grants an easement to the North Georgia Electric Membership Corporation or its successors, and assigns approximately 0.20 of an acre, located in Walker County, under the custody of the DNR at Crockford Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve a new maintenance facility for $10.

Article 18 grants an easement to the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority or its successors, and assigns over 7.0 acres, located in Walton County, under the custody of the Department of Economic Development at the Rivian Site, for the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a water tower, underground water, and sewer lines and associated equipment for $10.

HR 121 John W. Mixon Georgia Forestry Building; Dry Branch Community; dedicate

By: Rep. Beth Camp (135th) ***Through the State Properties Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 121 dedicates the Georgia Forestry Commission building located in Dry Branch as the John W. Mixon Georgia Forestry Building.

Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee — Staff: Patrick Mock

HB 58 Aviation; adoption of local ordinances, resolution, regulations, or policies that restrict the flight of unmanned aircraft systems over mass public gatherings; authorize

By: Rep. Gary Richardson (125th) ***Through the Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 58 defines the term "ticketed entertainment event" and makes it illegal to fly an unmanned aircraft over or within 400 feet of a ticketed entertainment event without proper consent. It is specified that anyone found guilty of violating the terms of this bill will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

HB 156 Transportation, Department of; authority over vertiports; provide

By: Rep. Todd Jones (25th) ***Through the Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 156 defines the term "vertiport" and includes vertiports in the definition of "landing field" which grants the Department of Transportation authority over vertiports. The bill also revises the term "tourism product development" to include air service product expansion at air carrier airports for taxation purposes.

HB 652 **Motor fuel tax; electricity delivered by certain electric vehicle charging stations; provide exception**

By: Rep. Todd Jones (25th) ***Through the Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 652 amends Georgia's motor fuel tax code to clarify taxation of electricity used as a motor fuel through electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The bill introduces a fuel tax exemption for EV charging stations owned or operated by nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, as long as they meet certain requirements.

Transportation Committee **Staff: Abby Day**

HB 164 **Highways, bridges, and ferries; allowable variance for weight limitations upon a vehicle or load; repeal automatic repeal provisions**

By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 164 repeals the sunset on the allowable 10 percent variance on weight limitations upon a vehicle or load hauling certain commodities within certain areas of the state.

The legislation allows for enforcement of dimensions and weight of vehicles by local law enforcement officers trained to do so. The bill requires that any violation found during enforcement of weight and load provisions related to licensing or fuel tax registration and identification requirements be reported to the Georgia Department of Revenue by the officer or employee observing the violation.

HB 224 **Highways, bridges, and ferries; construction or maintenance of roads upon military bases or installations paid for by the United States Department of Defense or other entities; authorize**

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 224 authorizes the Georgia Department of Transportation to construct or maintain a private road on a military base or military installation when done through agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and when paid for by the Department of Defense.

HB 575 **Transportation, Department of; authorize notice of certain public hearings by electronic publication**

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 575 allows the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to use electronic publication for notifications of certain public hearings. The bill states that in any instance where federal or state law is unclear as to whether a public hearing is required, the GDOT is required to hold a hearing.

The bill authorizes the GDOT to negotiate acquisition of common property of a condominium association or property owners' association with the designated board for either such association. The bill also authorizes establishment of a program by the department for the clearing of rights of way and the removal of wrecked or abandoned heavy duty vehicles from the rights of way of interstate highways and limited access highways.

The bill provides for payment of costs related to the removal or relocation of public utilities through agreement between the department and the utility provider.

HR 7 **George C. Trulock, Jr. Memorial Highway; Grady County; dedicate**

By: Rep. Joe Campbell (171st) ***Through the Transportation Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 7 is the annual House road dedication package. The resolution includes:

HR 7, dedicating the portion of State Route 38/Highway 84 from the East Whigham City Limit to the West Whigham City Limit in Grady County as the George C. Trulock, Jr. Memorial Highway;

HR 31, dedicating the bridge on U.S. Highway 29/State Route 8 over South Fork Broad River in Madison County as the R. George Strickland, Jr. Memorial Bridge;

HR 96, dedicating the portion of State Route 155 from I-285 to Snapfinger Road in DeKalb County as the Dr. Gregory B. Levett, Sr. Parkway;

HR 303, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 75 and U.S. 280 in Crisp County as the Honorable Johnny Floyd Interchange;

SR 265, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 20 and State Route 92 in Douglas County as the Samuel Micah Moon Memorial Interchange;

SR 267, dedicating the intersection of U.S. 78 and Campbellton Street in Douglas County as the Aj'anaye Hill Memorial Intersection;

SR 284, dedicating the portion of State Route 92 from the Douglas County line to the Cobb County line as the Peace Officer Memorial Highway;

SR 348, dedicating the intersection of State Route 3 and Roach Hollow Road in Catoosa County as the Trooper William Black, Jr. Memorial Intersection;

SR 359, dedicating the portion of State Route 92 from Interstate 20 to Riverside Parkway in Douglas County as the Perry Parkway;

SR 371, dedicating the portion of State Route 16 from State Route 14 to State Route 54 in Coweta County as the Investigator Eric Anthony Minix Highway;

SR 378, dedicating the portion of Interstate 85 from Mile Point 73.872 to Mile Point 75 in Fulton County as the Jeff Foxworthy Highway;

SR 413, dedicating the bridge on State Route 49 over Interstate 75 (Exit 149) in Peach County as the Sgt. Patrick Sondron Memorial Bridge;

SR 414, dedicating the bridge on State Route 247 over Interstate 75 in Peach County as the Deputy Daryl Smallwood Memorial Bridge;

SR 439, dedicating the portion of State Route 40 from Charlie Smith Senior Highway/State Route 40 Spur to Church Street in Camden County as the Senator Sheila McNeill Memorial Highway;

SR 463, dedicating the intersection of State Route 400 and Whelchel Road in Lumpkin County as the Trooper First Class 2 Chase W. Redner Memorial Intersection;

SR 349, dedicating the portion of State Route 337 from State Route 48 to the Georgia/Alabama line in Chattooga County as the Martha Kay Tucker Memorial Highway;

SR 454, dedicating the portion of State Route 15 from mile marker 241.62 to mile marker 247.64 in Greene and Oconee counties as the Cary Williams, Jr. Highway; and

HR 328, dedicating the portion of Interstate 75 from the Riverdale exit to the Tara Boulevard exit in Clayton County as the Jeffrey E. Turner Highway.

SR 7 State Highway System; dedicate certain portions

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

Final Bill Summary: SR 7 is a Senate road dedication package held over from the 2024 Regular Session.

Dedicating the portion of State Route 145 from Athens Street to Hubbard Road in Franklin County as the Dr. Robert F. Sullivan Memorial Highway;

dedicating the bridge on State Route 133 over Dry Creek in Worth County as the Lary Jack Moree Memorial Bridge;

dedicating the intersection of U.S. 41 at Pine Mountain Court/Watts Drive in Cobb County, as the "Coach" Jerry L. Waller, Sr. and Frances R. Waller Memorial Intersection;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 9 and Deputy Bill Cantrell Memorial Road in Forsyth County as the Dr. Jim Morrow Memorial Intersection;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 154/Memorial Drive and Capitol Avenue Southeast in Fulton County as the J.D. Winston Memorial Intersection;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 400 and Setting Down Circle in Forsyth County as the Lawhorne Memorial Intersection;

dedicating the intersection of U.S. Route 19/State Route 3 at State Route 96 in Taylor County as the Michael Anthony Woodall Memorial Intersection;

dedicating the bridge on State Route 49 over Sweetwater Creek in Sumter County as the George R. Eusner Memorial Bridge;

dedicating the bridge on State Route 94 over the Alapaha River in Echols County as the U.S. Army Cpl. Dewey E. Rewis Jr. Memorial Bridge;

dedicating the portion of State Route 204 from mile point 21.5 to 27.7 in Chatham County as the Chairman Pete Liakakis Memorial Highway;

dedicating the interchange at State Route 25/U.S. Route 17 and State Route 204 in Chatham County as the Frances Bright Johnson Memorial Interchange;

dedicating the interchange of State Route 405 and State Route 204 in Chatham County as the Rev. Dr. Hosea Williams and Rep. Juanita T. Williams Memorial Interchange;

dedicating the portion of State Route 369 from Gravitt Road to State Route 400 in Forsyth County as the Bobby Thomas Highway;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 53 and Steve Tate Highway in Pickens County as the Jeff Downing Intersection;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 139 and Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive Southwest in Fulton County as the Maceo A. Brown Memorial Intersection;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 3 and State Route 9 in Fulton County as the Carolyn Long Banks Memorial Intersection;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 316 and State Route 53 in Barrow County as the Douglas "Doug" H. Garrison Memorial Interchange;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 112 and Abney Road/Willis-Howell Road in Bleckley County as the Ricky Dykes Intersection;

dedicating the overpass of U.S. Route 23/State Route 87 Bypass over Southern Railroad in Bleckley County as the Van Dykes Railway Overpass;

dedicating the bridge on State Route 54 over Whitewater Creek in Fayette County as the Colonel Ben Malcom Memorial Bridge;

dedicating the bridge on State Route 341 over Chattanooga Creek in Walker County as the Cameron Scroggins Memorial Bridge;

dedicating the interchange of U.S. Route 80 and Harry Truman Parkway in Chatham County as the Representative Edward "Mickey" Stephens Memorial Interchange;

dedicating the intersection of State Route 61 and State Route 8/U.S. Route 78 in Carroll County as the J. Richard Smith Memorial Intersection;

dedicating the roundabout of State Route 36 and State Route 212 in Newton County as the LTC Benjamin Fred and Sandra Kitchens Christian Roundabout;

dedicating the roundabout of State Route 219 and Bradley Park Drive in Muscogee County as the Medal of Honor Recipient Colonel Ralph Puckett, Jr. Roundabout;

dedicating the intersection of U.S. Route 27/Turner McCall Boulevard and Avenue A in Floyd County as the C. Max Toles Intersection; and

dedicating the intersection of State Route 81 at Ozora Church Road in Walton County as the Ashley MacDonald Callahan Memorial Intersection.

SR 8 Deputy Brandon Cunningham Memorial Intersection; Paulding County; dedicate
By: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) Through the Transportation Committee
Final Bill Summary: SR 8 is the annual Senate road dedication package. The resolution includes:

SR 141, dedicating the portion of State Route 139/Riverdale Road from Church Street to Garden Walk Road in Clayton County as the Honorable Valencia Seay Highway;

SR 205, dedicating the intersection of State Route 139/Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard and Lee Street Southwest in Fulton County as the Senator Vincent D. Fort Memorial Intersection;

HR 66, dedicating the bridge on State Route 100 over Turkey Creek in Carroll County as the Masen "Mase" McIntyre Memorial Bridge;

HR 71, dedicating the portion of State Route 49 from the Milledgeville Bypass SR 29/U.S. 441 to the Macon Bibb County line in Baldwin County as the Latasha R. Butts Memorial Highway;

HR 189, dedicating the bridge on Interstate 85/Interstate 75 over Edgewood Avenue Southeast in Fulton County as the Dr. Roy Charles Bell Memorial Bridge;

HR 427, dedicating the portion of State Route 15 from mile point 76.17 to 76.716 in Appling County as the Dr. Esco Hall, Jr. Highway;

HR 480, dedicating the portion of State Route 51 from Hill Street to State Route 164 in Banks County as the World War II Veteran Bobby Blackwell Memorial Drive;

HR 539, dedicating the bridge on Interstate 95/State Route 405 at State Route 204/Fort Argyle Road in Chatham County as the Nolan S. Smith, Jr. Bridge;

HR 547, dedicating the portion of State Route 92 from State Route 29 to Bay Street in Fulton County as the Mother Frankie Mae Arnold Memorial Highway;

HR 548, dedicating the portion of State Route 29 from State Route 138 to State Route 74 in Fulton County as the Mayor Betty Hannah Memorial Highway;

HR 559, dedicating the intersection of State Route 369 and Bannister Road in Forsyth County as the Ruby and Loy Grogan Memorial Intersection;

HR 567, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 75 and Springhill Road in Cook County as the Zera D. Storey Memorial Interchange;

HR 653, dedicating the entire portion of State Route 206 in Coffee County as Veterans Perimeter Road;

HR 657, dedicating the bridge on State Route 52 East over Owl Town in Gilmer County as the Emma Lou Stover Bridge;

HR 658, dedicating the portion of State Route 140 from Darnell Road to East Cherokee Drive in Cherokee County as the David Allen Donley Memorial Parkway;

HR 660, dedicating the intersection of State Route 234/Gillionville Road and Eight Mile Road in Dougherty County as the Lamar Hudgins Intersection;

HR 751, dedicating the bridge on State Route 83 over the Towaliga River in Monroe County as the William A. Fickling, Jr. Bridge;

HR 810, dedicating the intersection of State Route 25/U.S. Route 17 and Little Neck Road in Chatham County as the Benjamin R. Polote, Sr. Intersection;

HR 812, dedicating the bridge on Interstate 95 over the Ogeechee River Tributary in Chatham County as the Coach Carl Middleton Bridge;

HR 814, dedicating the portion of State Route 11 from Maddox Street to West Greene Street in Jasper County as the Honorable Susan Holmes Highway; and

HR 886, dedicating the intersection of State Route 25 Spur/Satilla Bluff Road and Pine Forest Drive in Camden county as the Rachel Hodge Memorial Intersection.

SR 231 Officer Jeremy Labonte Memorial Interchange; Fulton County; dedicate

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

Final Bill Summary: SR 231 dedicates various road facilities for fallen law enforcement officers. The resolution includes:

SR 231, dedicating the interchange of State Route 400/U.S. 19 and State Route 140/Holcomb Bridge Road in Fulton County as the Officer Jeremy Labonte Memorial Interchange;

SR 8, dedicating the intersection of State Route 92 and State Route 120 in Paulding County as the Deputy Brandon Cunningham Memorial Intersection;

HR 70, dedicating the intersection of U.S. Route 129 and Wayne Poultry Road/Village Parkway in Jackson County as the Christopher Lee Ruse Memorial Intersection;

HR 809, dedicating the intersection of State Route 316 and Hi Hope Road in Gwinnett County as the Officer Scott Riner Memorial Intersection; and

HR 813, dedicating the bridge on State Route 324 over Interstate 85 in Gwinnett County as the Trooper Jimmy Cenescar Memorial Bridge.

Ways & Means Committee — Staff: David Hartman

HB 90 Revenue and taxation; increase maximum acreage to qualify for assessment and taxation as a bona fide conservation use property

By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 90 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-20, related to bona fide conservation use property, to increase the maximum acreage to qualify as a bona fide conservation use property from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres.

These changes are effective on January 1, 2027 only if the related constitutional amendment is ratified by voters in the statewide election held in November 2026.

HB 92 Revenue and taxation; postpone date by which local governing authorities can opt out of base year homestead exemption

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 92 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-44.2, relating to base year homestead exemptions, by allowing a governing authority that has opted out of the homestead exemption program provided for in this chapter to rescind their opt out resolution through 2029. For the recension of the opt out to be effective in tax year 2025, the governing authority must take appropriate steps by April 30, 2025, or by March 1 of any given tax year from 2026 through 2029. A governing authority that has opted out of the homestead exemption program provided for in this chapter must complete the same existing opt out procedures again by March 1, 2027 if they elect to remain opted out. Related to the definition of 'homestead' as it pertains to this statewide homestead exemption, eligible homesteads are a primary residence and up to five acres of land. Additionally, the exemption may pass to a surviving spouse without the need for reapplying for the homestead exemption.

Local school systems that have adopted a base year value or adjusted base year value homestead exemption may be exempted from local sales and use taxes collected on the purchase of construction materials utilized for projects funded using E-SPLOST revenue.

As it relates to the sales tax provided for in O.C.G.A. 48-8-109.31, a municipality that levies a property tax and has a population that represents less than 5% of the county's total population will not disqualify an otherwise FLOST-eligible county and municipalities.

If a local government or school system opts out of the homestead exemption provided for in O.C.G.A. 48-5-44.2 and does not otherwise have a base year value homestead exemption, then the tax bill issued by the governing authority shall contain specific language stating the governing authority has opted out of the statewide homestead exemption program.

Relating to requirements for annual notices of current assessments, the bill allows for a levying or recommending authority to provide an estimate for the current year's taxes utilizing the previous year's millage rate and current assessment if the estimated rollback rate is not certified by the time the annual notice is given.

Additionally, the bill allows for a homestead exemption applicant to complete an application for an exemption during or in lieu of an appeal of a homestead reassessment.

HB 111 Income tax; reduce rate of tax

By: Rep. Soo Hong (103rd) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 111 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-20, relating to individual income tax rates, to lower the individual income tax rate effective on January 1, 2025 from 5.39 percent to 5.19 percent.

HB 112 Income tax; one-time tax credit for taxpayers who filed returns for both 2023 and 2024 taxable years; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 112 provides a one-time income tax refund to taxpayers who filed returns for both the 2023 and 2024 tax years equal to the lesser of either the taxpayer's 2023 income tax liability or $250 for a taxpayer filing as single; $375 for a taxpayer filing as head of household; or $500 for a married couple jointly filing a return. The refund will not be made available to nonresident alien individuals, individuals claimed as a dependent during the 2023 tax year, or an estate or trust.

HB 129 Ad valorem tax; bona fide conservation use property; remove a limitation on leased property as to certain entities

By: Rep. Charles Cannon (172nd) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 129 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-7.4, related to bona fide conservation use property, to allow property leased by a corporation, partnership, general partnership, limited partnership or corporation, or a limited liability company to qualify as bona fide conservation use property if it meets the following conditions: entity is owned by at least one natural or naturalized citizen, and the primary purpose of the property is related to production of agricultural or timber products.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-40.26A, relating to tax credits for postproduction expenditures, by extending the programs effective date to January 1, 2026 until January 1, 2031.

HB 136 Income tax; contributions to foster child support organizations; expand tax credit

By: Rep. Mark Newton (127th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 136 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.24, relating to tax credits for contributions to foster child support organizations, to expand qualified expenditures for the credit to include wraparound services for aging foster children and justice involved youth who meet one of the following criteria: are enrolled in a public or private postsecondary education institution; enrolled in a program to obtain a high school diploma or equivalent; enrolled in a vocation school; or participating in a registered and compliant

apprenticeship program. The bill adds to the definition of "aging foster children" former foster children between 16 and 25 years old who were in foster care for at least six months after the age of 14.

HB 136 adds to the definition of "justice involved youth" by including those between the ages of 16 and 25 who were in foster care for at least six months after reaching age 14.

The bill includes mentorship services provided to justice involved youth as a qualified expense, and limits the amount of contributions that can be used for expenses other than qualified expenses to no more than 20 percent. The annual compensation threshold to receive the credit is increased from $500 to $1,200 per year, and payments made to employees of a qualified mentorship organization that provide services other than mentorship are a qualified expense.

Corporations contributing under this program are limited to credits totaling no more than 30 percent of the entity's income tax liability. The bill further adds business enterprises, defined as an insurance company required to pay the tax provided for in O.C.G.A. 33-8-4, to be eligible for the credit for qualified expenditures related to wraparound services. The bill raises the aggregate cap for credits under this program from $20 million to $30 million, and eliminates the ability to carry forward any unused tax credit. No more than $10 million in aggregate can be used by business enterprises.

The bill allows for the Division of Family and Children Services to decertify an organization that does not meet program requirements or has violated any other law. An organization seeking to be certified, but is not a licensed child-placing agency, must demonstrate it has operated an aging out program, and provided services to at least 50 aging foster children or justice involved youth over the course of at least two calendar years. After receiving certification, the organization must annually demonstrate that it is continually providing these services.

The bill adds that each qualified organization is required to post on its website a certification, signed by the organization's chief executive officer, that contains language provided for in the bill, to include a description of how qualified contributions were utilized.

HB 136 also creates a tax credit to be claimed by eligible employers that offer child care payments of at least $1,000 per year directly to child care facilities for employees. An employer may earn $500 per child per year that the payments are made, or $1,000 per child for the first year an employer offers such incentive. The annual aggregate limit for the program is $20 million and the credit may not be carried forward to any subsequent tax year. Additionally, a taxpayer with a qualifying child may claim a tax credit of $250 per child under the age of 6, provided that the credit shall not exceed the taxpayer's income tax liability. Additionally, a taxpayer may claim a credit equal to 50% of a qualified child or dependent's care expenses, provided that the credit shall not exceed the taxpayer's income tax liability.

The bill is effective on July 1, 2025 and applicable to all taxable years beginning on January 1, 2026.

HB 144 Income tax; certain medical preceptor rotations; revise tax credit

By: Rep. Mark Newton (127th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 144 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.22, relating to tax credits for medical preceptor rotations, to add licensed dentists to the eligible professions to receive a tax credit as a community-based faculty preceptor. The credit is changed to $1,000 for each preceptorship rotation completed by a physician or licensed dentist in a calendar year, and $750 for each preceptorship rotation completed in a calendar year by an advanced practice registered nurse.

The credit will not exceed an aggregate cap of $6 million per year, and the sunset date is changed from December 31, 2026 to December 31, 2030.

HB 153 Sales and use tax; maintenance and replacement parts for certain machinery used to mix or transport concrete; extend exemption sunset date

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 153 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3.2, relating to sales and use tax exemptions for certain manufacturing equipment, by extending the sunset date for an exemption on maintenance and replacement parts of machinery or equipment used with mixed concrete from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2031.

HB 223 Revenue and taxation; exclude from the calculation of taxable net income certain disaster relief or assistance grant program payments for agricultural losses suffered due to Hurricane Helene

By: Rep. James Burchett (176th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 223 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-27, relating to the computation of taxable net income, to exclude any federal disaster relief payments, federal assistance grants, and federal crop insurance proceeds received to address agricultural losses from Hurricane Helene for tax years 2024 through 2029.

The bill provides a tax credit that must be claimed by December 31, 2030 for an amount equal to 100 percent of a taxpayer's timber casualty loss to be calculated by multiplying the number of acres impacted by $400. The program may not exceed $200 million in aggregate. Tax credits may be carried forward for 10 years from the end of the taxable year in which they were claimed and any amount in excess of the taxpayer's liability may be refundable.

Governing authorities in areas that are affected by a disaster may offer relief from taxation of eligible standing timber, per O.C.G.A. 48-5-7.5, during the final quarter of 2024 and all of 2025. An eligible taxpayer that has already paid taxes based on affected timber will receive a refund. Governing authorities may receive reimbursement for lost revenue from the state based on the following: 1) estimated revenue loss; 2) relevant revenue received during each of the preceding three years; and 3) damage estimate provided for in the Hurricane Helene Timber Damage publication by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

The bill provides an exemption on sales and use tax for building materials used to repair or replace greenhouses or real property structures used for the production of animals.

HB 266 Income tax; exempt income received as personal compensation for full-time duty in the active military service of the United States

By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 266 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-27, relating to the computation of taxable net income, to increase the exclusion for income related to military retirement benefits for retired military members under 65 to $65,000.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.25, relating to income tax credits for contributions to law enforcement foundations, by adding to the definition of "law enforcement foundation" a nonprofit corporation that maintains a formal relationship with one or more local enforcement units or provides support to law enforcement statewide. Qualified expenditures is expanded to include the purchase or lease of supplies and materials for technology updates, and the lease of facilities and purchase of goods for community engagement initiatives.

Any contribution amount that has been preapproved, but not contributed, may be applied for and disbursed by the Department of Revenue at 95 percent of the amount otherwise allowed by this Code section. Any contribution by certain corporate entities is limited to being utilized against 50 percent of that entity's tax liability. The bill eliminates the ability to carry forward any unused portions of the tax credit to be used against future tax years' liabilities.

HB 290 Revenue and taxation; Internal Revenue Code and Internal Revenue Code of 1986; revise terms and incorporate certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 290 provides the annual Internal Revenue Code update to Georgia Code by revising definitions found in O.C.G.A. 48-8-2. The updates are applicable to tax years on or after January 1, 2024 for relevant federal laws passed on or before January 1, 2025.

HB 360 Revenue and taxation; rehabilitation of historic structures; revise tax credit

By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 360 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.8, relating to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures, to allow a taxpayer preapproved by the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to claim credits in tax year 2027 or 2028 for certified structures other than historic homes to receive the credit during tax year 2026 in amounts as follows: not to exceed 90% if the credit was preapproved for tax year 2027 or not to exceed 85% if the credit was preapproved for tax year 2028.

HB 511 Insurance; deductions from taxable income for contributions by taxpayers to catastrophe savings accounts and interest earned on such accounts; provide

By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 511 creates O.C.G.A. 48-7-28.5 to allow for the creation of a catastrophe savings account to be used during qualifying catastrophic events. The account will be a savings or money market account, and can only be used for catastrophic weather events declared a disaster or emergency be the state's governor. A qualifying expense is either an insurance deductible or any expenses related to the qualifying damage to a taxpayer's primary residence that is not covered by insurance.

The contribution limits are set at no more than $2,000 if a taxpayer's deductible is less than $1,000; twice the taxpayer's deductible for deductibles over $1,000, up to $25,000; or up to $250,000 if a taxpayer is self-insured. A taxpayer is granted a deduction on contributions to the account, interest income will be exempt from tax, and excluded from the taxpayer's income when making a qualifying distribution from the account.

HB 532 *(Vetoed)* Conservation and natural resources; grants and special revenue disbursements; revise provisions - Governor's Veto Statement HERE

By: Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HB 532 amends O.C.G.A. 12-6A-12 and 48-14-4, relating to annual grants for state-owned property and annual grants for counties with 20,000 or more acres of unimproved land owned by the Department of Natural Resources, by eliminating language that prohibited counties from receiving grant funding from both programs in any given year.

HB 586 Revenue and taxation; intangible recording tax; revise notes

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 586 amends O.C.G.A. 48-6-60, 48-6-66, and 48-6-68, relating to the application of the intangible recording tax, by changing the period length in the definitions of a long-term note secured by real estate, the placement of a lien upon real estate, and bonds for a title in the absence of a security deed from three years to 62 months.

HR 32 General Assembly; increase maximum acreage to qualify for assessment and taxation as a bona fide conservation use property - CA

By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) ***Through the Ways & Means Committee***

Final Bill Summary: HR 32 amends the Georgia Constitution to increase the maximum acreage allowable as bona fide conservation use property from 2,000 to 4,000 acres.

HR 42 General Assembly; motor fuel and diesel fuel taxes; ratify Governor Brian P. Kemp's Executive Orders

By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 42 ratifies executive orders issued by the governor between September 24, 2024 and October 16, 2024 related to suspension of the collection of motor fuel and diesel fuel taxes.

HR 557 House Study Committee on Georgia's Investment Funds; create

By: Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick (95th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 557 creates the House Study Committee on Georgia's Investment Funds. The committee will be comprised of five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker, of which two will be of the minority caucus. The committee will stand abolished on December 31, 2025.

SB 141 Revenue and Taxation; the appeal and protest period from 30 days to 45 days for tax assessments; extend

By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 141 extends the appeal or protest date for tax assessments, the denial claim for certain refunds, proposed assessment or license fees imposed by the Department of Revenue, erroneous payment of intangible taxes, and petition to provide information related to allocations and apportionments for their business activity, from 30 days to 45 days.

Additionally, the commissioner of the Department of Revenue is able to reinstate a canceled license within 45 days, rather than 30 days. The bill also extends the due date of any licenses or taxes, excluding ad valorem or income tax, from 30 days to 45 days after notice.

The bill further amends both O.C.G.A. 48-5-7.2 and 48-5-7.3, relating to preferential assessment for rehabilitated historic property and landmark historic property, to allow for a classification and assessment approved by a county to continue for up to an additional 12 years for income-producing property.