

**SUMMARY OF  
GENERAL STATUTES ENACTED  
AT THE  
2<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE 157<sup>th</sup>  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA  
2024**

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL**

**316 STATE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334**





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## FOREWORD

We are pleased to present to you the Summary of General Statutes Enacted at the 2024 Session of the General Assembly of Georgia. This represents one of the services which the Legislative Services Committee and the Office of Legislative Counsel perform for the legislative branch of government. Other services include bill drafting, research, statutory and Code revision, rendering of opinions, counseling, legislative reference, interim committee staffing, and preparation of reports.

This document contains a summary of the general statutes of state-wide application which were enacted at the 2024 regular session of the General Assembly of Georgia. No resolutions, local Acts, or uncodified "population Acts" have been included. The document also includes a table of Code sections amended and enacted at the 2024 session.

Minutely analyzing each statute would be impractical, because doing so would defeat the main purpose which we hope that this document accomplishes. It is intended to be used as a convenient reference for persons desiring to know which laws were enacted or to ascertain the main features of each Act without the necessity of reading the Act in its entirety.

For specific, detailed information on any particular law, the Act itself should be examined. Acts may be readily located in the Georgia Laws by Act number, since the Acts are published in the Georgia Laws in numerical order by Act number. In addition, the Georgia Laws contain a table for converting Act numbers to Georgia Laws page numbers.

This summary is not to be deemed in any manner as an opinion from the Office of Legislative Counsel, and the question of constitutionality has not been considered with respect to any Act.

We hope that this document will benefit all who have occasion to use it. Comments and suggestions for improvement are welcomed and should be directed to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Betsy Howerton  
Legislative Counsel

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The Acts in this summary are arranged according to the title of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated which they amend. **In those cases in which an Act amends more than one Code title, the Act appears under only one of the affected titles.** For a comprehensive list of bills affecting any particular title, reference should be made to the O.C.G.A Index found immediately after the General Statute Summaries. A table of titles appears below. No Acts are listed for those titles which are indicated by an asterisk.

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**TITLE 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

*Act 701; SB 448*

This Act makes extensive editorial amendments to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to correct typographical, stylistic, capitalization, punctuation, and other errors and omissions and reenacts the statutory portion of the Code as so amended.

Effective May 6, 2024.

**TITLE 2  
AGRICULTURE**

*Act 499; HB 827*

This Act expands the authority of the Commissioner of Agriculture to enforce certain laws to include criminal laws provided for in Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The Act also provides for the offense of criminal trespass involving a wild animal and increases penalties for livestock theft.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-2-13 and 16-8-20 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-7-21.1. Effective April 30, 2024.

*Act 498; SB 494*

This Act prohibits a person from creating or beginning to operate a retail establishment that sells or distributes consumable hemp products to consumers within 500 feet of any educational institution providing elementary or secondary education to children. The Act further prohibits packaging or advertisement of a consumable hemp product that is attractive to children. The Act further makes it unlawful for any person to knowingly sell consumable hemp products to anyone under 21 years of age. The Act provides for the state legal limit of total delta-9-THC concentration.

The Act provides for the licensure of retail consumable hemp establishments and manufacturers and for the registration of laboratories. The Act prohibits the sale or distribution of any consumable hemp product unless the processor or manufacturer has contracted for a full panel certificate of analysis to be conducted on such product. The Act provides for a consumable hemp product to bear a THC warning sticker and a conspicuous label relating to the certificate of analysis. The Act further provides for the Department of Agriculture to inspect and test consumable hemp products available for purchase at retail establishments and to dispose of noncompliant products.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-2-13, 2-23-2 through 2-23-8, and 2-23-10 through 2-23-12 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 2-23-3.1, 2-23-4.1, 2-23-6.2 through 2-23-6.5, 2-23-9.1 through 2-23-9.3, and O.C.G.A. Article 10 of Chapter 12 of Title 16.

Effective October 1, 2024, except that O.C.G.A. Section 2-23-9.3 is effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 410; HB 1237*

This Act revises the definition of producer relative to agricultural commodity commissions so as to remove a minimum number of acres of citrus fruit bearing trees a person must own and operate in order to be included within such definition.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 2-8-11.

Effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 567; HB 1223*

This Act provides for the prohibition of the application or distribution of a soil amendment on a site following certain actions by the Department of Natural Resources.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-12-71 and 2-12-79.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 5  
APPEAL AND ERROR**

*Act 424; SB 450*

This Act provides for appellate jurisdiction of superior and state courts. The Act provides for de novo review of certain probate court final judgements. The Act requires consent of all parties for voluntary dismissals of petitions by reviewing court under certain conditions. The Act further provides that upon reversal of a default judgment or reversal of a refusal to open a default judgment, a magistrate court retains jurisdiction over the merits of a case de novo. The Act requires tenants to pay all sums found by a trial court as due for rent or future rent into the registry of the court for appeals to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 5-3-4, 5-3-5, 5-3-12, 15-10-41, 32-3-11, 32-3-14, 32-3-16, 32-3-17.1, 40-13-28, 44-7-56, and 53-6-30.

Effective April 22, 2024.

**TITLE 7  
BANKING AND FINANCE**

*Act 474; HB 876*

This Act provides for multiple revisions applicable to financial institutions by clarifying and removing superfluous and outdated language and updating terminology and cross-references. The Act provides for loan production offices to disburse loan proceeds to third parties and increases the value of an unsecured loan that a credit union may issue from \$50,000.00 to \$150,000.00. The Act requires that credit unions keep minutes of certain meetings and further provides for limitations and requirements of special meetings of the members of credit unions. The Act expands the class of persons who are not required to obtain a mortgage loan originator, mortgage broker, or mortgage

lender license. The Act provides circumstances under which an installment loan borrower will be entitled to a refund of the closing fee.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-4, 7-1-391, 7-1-392, 7-1-393, 7-1-394, 7-1-419, 7-1-590, 7-1-606, 7-1-623, 7-1-630, 7-1-633, 7-1-635.1, 7-1-651, 7-1-655, 7-1-656, 7-1-658, 7-1-661, 7-1-1000, 7-1-1001, 7-1-1002, 7-1-1003.2, 7-1-1003.3, 7-1-1004, 7-1-1005, 7-1-1007, 7-1-1008, 7-1-1009, 7-1-1010, 7-1-1011, 7-1-1013, 7-1-1014, 7-1-1015, 7-1-1016, 7-1-1017, 7-1-1018, 7-1-1114, 7-9-2, 7-9-4, 7-9-5, 7-9-8, 7-9-11.8, 7-6A-2, 10-1-439.1, and 53-12-2 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 7-3-17.

Effective July 1, 2024, except that Part II, relating to Code Section 7-6A-2, shall be effective June 1, 2024.

## **TITLE 8 BUILDINGS AND HOUSING**

### *Act 413; HB 1410*

This Act provides for stable housing accountability programs and funding. The Act provides for an application process, criteria, and minimum standards. The Act provides for disbursement of funds. The Act further provides for acceptance of appropriations, gifts, grants, and donations. The Act provides for the appointment of members to the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission. The Act provides for a state audit of expenditures.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 8-3-300, 8-3-301, 8-3-303, 8-3-306, and 8-3-308 through 8-3-311 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 8-3-312, 8-3-313, and 50-6-11.

Effective July 1, 2024.

## **TITLE 9 CIVIL PRACTICE**

### *Act 415; SB 83*

This Act clarifies that settlement offers relative to a personal injury, bodily injury, or death claim arising from a motor vehicle collision are offers to enter into bilateral contracts. The Act clarifies the time frame for which such settlement offers must be made. The Act further clarifies what are considered material and immaterial terms in such settlement offers. The Act prohibits recipient modification of terms within a settlement offer from being classified as term clarification. The Act includes a safe harbor provision whereby an offeror is barred from being able to claim that a recipient failed to settle when the recipient agreed to the material terms of the settlement offer and paid the policy limits or the amount of the demand, whichever is less. The Act further provides for applicability.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 9-11-67.1.

Effective July 1, 2024, and, with the exception of a product liability claim, including failure to warn arising under product liability, shall apply to any offers to settle a tort claim for personal

injury, bodily injury, or death arising from a motor vehicle collision made on or after such effective date.

**TITLE 10  
COMMERCE AND TRADE**

***Act 605; SB 73***

This Act revises provisions concerning advertisements for legal services, including provisions concerning telephone solicitations and authorizes the State Bar of Georgia to promulgate rules and regulations that require certain disclosures regarding advertisements for legal services, and provides for penalties for violations of such rules and regulations. The Act further provides that injunctive relief and damages may be sought for certain violations of such rules and regulations regarding unwanted telephone solicitations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-424.1 and 46-5-27.  
Effective May 6, 2024.

***Act 403; HB 1018***

This Act establishes the usage of a code by a financial institution which denotes a transaction as one with a firearms retailer as an illegal unlawful discriminatory practice. The Act prohibits financial institutions from declining lawful payment card transactions based upon the sole fact that the transaction was with a firearms retailer. The Act amends the procedure for obtaining a remedy against a financial institution alleged to have engaged in discriminatory practices relating to firearms retailers by providing notice and right to cure. The Act prohibits the establishment of a multijurisdictional data base by a government entity for firearm ownership and applications for weapons carry licenses.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-439.1 through 10-1-439.3 and 16-11-129.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 564; SB 472***

This Act enacts the "Combating Organized Retail Crime Act," which revises the definitions of "high-volume third-party seller," "seller," and "third-party seller."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 10-1-940.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 577; HB 934***

This Act allows for enforcement of unsigned rental agreements under certain circumstances, resulting in the vacating and removal of personal property from self-storage facilities. The Act further allows for the execution and delivery of rental agreements electronically.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 10-4-213 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 10-4-218.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 11  
COMMERCIAL CODE**

*Act 600; HB 1240*

This Act updates and modernizes various statutes in the commercial code relating to commercial transactions in order to maintain uniformity in Georgia's statutes governing commercial transactions as recommended by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The Act enacts the "Uniform Commercial Code – Controllable Electronic Records" and "Transitional Provisions For Uniform Commercial Code."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 11-1-201, 11-1-203, 11-1-204, 11-1-301, 11-1-303, 11-1-306, 11-2-102, 11-2-106, 11-2-201 through 11-2-203, 11-2-205, 11-2-209, 11-2A-102, 11-2A-103, 11-2A-107, 11-2A-201 through 11-2A-203, 11-2A-205, 11-2A-208, 11-3-104 through 11-3-106, 11-3-119, 11-3-312, 11-3-401, 11-3-604, 11-4-212, 11-4-301, 11-4-403, 11-4A-103, 11-4A-201 through 11-4A-203, 11-4A-207, 11-4A-208, 11-4A-210, 11-4A-211, 11-4A-305, 11-5-104, 11-5-116, 11-7-102, 11-7-106, 11-8-102, 11-8-103, 11-8-106, 11-8-110, 11-8-303, 11-9-102, 11-9-104, 11-9-105, 11-9-203, 11-9-204, 11-9-207 through 11-9-210, 11-9-301, 11-9-304, 11-9-305, 11-9-310, 11-9-312 through 11-9-314, 11-9-316, 11-9-317, 11-9-323, 11-9-324, 11-9-330, 11-9-331, 11-9-332, 11-9-334, 11-9-341, 11-9-404, 11-9-406, 11-9-408, 11-9-509, 11-9-513, 11-9-601, 11-9-605, 11-9-608, 11-9-611, 11-9-613 through 11-9-616, 11-9-619 through 11-9-621, 11-9-624, 11-9-628, 11-12-101, and 11-12-102.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 11-9-105A, 11-9-107A, 11-9-107B, 11-9-306A, 11-9-306B, 11-9-314A, 11-9-326A, 11-12-103 through 11-12-107, 11-12A-101, 11-12A-102, 11-12A-201, 11-12A-301 through 11-12A-306, 11-12A-401, 11-13-101, and 11-13-102.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 12  
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

*Act 595; HB 1146*

This Act requires the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources to issue ground-water permits to private water companies in certain circumstances when no public water service can be provided within an 18 month period.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-108.

Effective May 6, 2024.

**TITLE 14**  
**CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ASSOCIATIONS**

*Act 423; SB 433*

This Act enacts the "Donor Intent Protection Act" which prohibits charitable organizations and charitable trusts from violating the terms of donor imposed restrictions on their contributions. The Act also provides a cause of civil action and procedures for challenging a violation of such restrictions and for remedies.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 14-3-190, 14-3-191, and 14-3-192.

Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to any endowment agreements entered on or after that date.

**TITLE 15**  
**COURTS**

*Act 576; HB 873*

This Act authorizes juvenile courts to establish juvenile treatment court divisions so as to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for the disposition of juvenile delinquency and child in need of services cases. The Act provides for standards, practices, and requirements regarding same as established by the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia.

The Act Amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-1-18 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 15-11-71.

Effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 601; HB 1267*

Subject to the timely ratification of a constitutional amendment, this Act enacts the "Georgia Tax Court Act of 2025," which creates the Georgia Tax Court, repeals provisions related to the Georgia Tax Tribunals, and replaces references to the Georgia Tax Tribunals with references to the Georgia Tax Court. The Act provides for the jurisdiction of the court and the appointment, terms of office, qualifications, salary, and requirements of judges of the court. The Act also provides for the terms of court, venue, bench trials, transfer of cases, fees, and locations of the court, and provides for the appointment of a clerk, law assistants, and other personnel. The Act provides for rules and procedures of the court and authorizes the court to create a small claims division and promulgate certain rules and regulations. The Act provides for actions of the court and for appeals and review of decisions of the court and provides for certain equity jurisdiction. The Act also assigns the Georgia State-wide Business Court for administrative purposes only to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 5-3-4, 5-5-1, 5-6-33, 5-6-34, 5-6-41, 9-4-2, 9-4-5, 9-4-10, 15-5A-16, 15-21-209, 23-4-3, 23-4-33, 45-7-4, 48-2-18, 48-2-35, 48-2-35.1, 48-2-36, 48-2-50, 48-2-59, 48-5-342, 48-5-519, 48-5-605, 48-5-606, 48-6-7, 48-6-76, 50-13-13, and 50-13-42; enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 15-5B; and repeals O.C.G.A. Chapter 50-13A.

O.C.G.A. Chapter 15-5B is effective for administrative purposes only January 1, 2025, and only if an amendment to the Constitution to provide that the Georgia Tax Court shall have state-wide

jurisdiction as provided by law and that decisions of such court shall be appealed to the Court of Appeals, subject to review by the Supreme Court of Georgia, is ratified by the voters at the November, 2024, state-wide general election. If such amendment is not so ratified, then this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed on January 1, 2025.

O.C.G.A. Section 15-5A-16 is effective July 1, 2024.

Effective July 1, 2026, for all other purposes.

***Act 585; HB 158***

This Act changes the name of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit to the DeKalb Judicial Circuit and makes conforming changes throughout.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-1, 15-6-2, and 15-6-3.

Effective January 1, 2025.

***Act 607; SB 259***

This Act moves the Superior Court of Banks County from the Piedmont Judicial Circuit to the Mountain Judicial Circuit. The Act provides for all proceedings and litigations pending in the Superior Court of Banks County to be transferred from the Piedmont Judicial Circuit to the Mountain Judicial Circuit. The Act further provides for appropriate intergovernmental agreements between such circuits, transfer of personnel, changes to the terms of court, and changes to the composition of such circuits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-1 and 15-6-3.

Effective July 1, 2024, or May 6, 2024, and no later than December 31, 2024, for the purpose of facilitating the preparation and execution of intergovernmental agreements. Effective January 1, 2025, for all other purposes.

***Act 615; SB 424***

This Act provides for the creation of the West Georgia Judicial Circuit. The Act provides for the appointment and subsequent election of district attorneys and judges of the superior court of such circuit. The Act prescribes for the transfer of certain judges, proceedings, and funding from the Coweta Judicial Circuit to the West Georgia Judicial Circuit. The Act provides for powers, compensation, salary, and supplements for superior court judges and district attorney of the Coweta Judicial Circuit.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-1 through 15-6-3.

Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of revising composition, terms of court, and number of judges of the Coweta Judicial Circuit and the West Georgia Judicial Circuit. Effective January 1, 2025, for all other purposes.

***Act 503; HB 906***

This Act adds a third superior court judge to the Tifton Judicial Circuit and provides for matters related thereto, including provisions for appointment and election, work and duties, compensation, juries, staff, and facilities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-6-2.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 401; HB 992***

This Act provides for a fourth judge of the superior courts of the Houston Judicial Circuit, to be appointed by the Governor for a term beginning July 1, 2024, and continuing through December 31, 2026, and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The Act further provides for the same term, election, function, power, duties, qualifications, and compensation for the additional judge as other superior court judges-The Act authorizes the four judges of the superior courts of the Houston Judicial Circuit to adopt, promulgate, amend, and enforce such rules of practice and procedure for the effective transaction of the business of the court.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-6-2.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 584; SB 508***

This Act provides for the establishment and maintenance of a data base of personally identifiable information of elected or appointed state or federal judges or justices and their spouses. This Act further provides for a procedure for restricting such information from publicly available content and public posting or display and for written notification when a judge or justice resigns, retires, or is removed and such restriction is no longer applicable. This Act further provides for training and information sharing related to security procedure and practices relative to the judicial branch of government.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-34, 15-7-26, 15-9-15, 15-10-7, 15-11-58, and 36-32-40 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 15-5-110 through 15-5-112.

Effective July 1, 2025.

***Act 603; SB 19***

This Act requires superior court clerks and probate judges to make quarterly disclosures to the county governing authorities of the total amount of all passport application or processing fees, sums, or other remuneration received by such clerks and probate judges.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-77 and 15-9-60.

Effective January 1, 2025.

***Act 515; SB 232***

This Act revises provisions relating to fees collected by probate courts and judges of the probate courts. The Act also provides revisions for funding of the State Children's Trust Fund through certain fees.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-9-60, 15-9-60.1, 15-21A-6, 25-10-4, and 29-6-7.

Effective January 1, 2025, and applicable to fees paid in a probate court on and after that date.

***Act 574; HB 166***

This Act creates eligibility requirements for any constable taking office on or after July 1, 2023, and allows for additional qualifications to be imposed by local law.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-10-101.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 382; SB 377***

This Act revises the definition of "qualified residential treatment program" to conform with federal law.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-2 and 49-5-3.

Effective April 19, 2024.

***Act 468; SB 401***

This Act requires each juvenile court to collect data on cases in which a child alleged or adjudicated to be a dependent is placed in foster care and that each such court collect data with such court's local case management system for submission to the Administrative Office of the Courts to be incorporated into the Georgia Juvenile Data Exchange. The Act further provides that proceedings regarding the termination of parental rights be filed and docketed without delay.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-64 and 15-11-280 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 15-11-64.1.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 421; SB 376***

This Act requires courts to determine whether a parent has made substantial progress toward completion of a case plan in certain dependency proceedings and include such determinations in its written finding of facts. The Act provides deadlines for the development and review of revised case plans and provides that termination of parental rights may not be in the best interests of a child when such child is being cared for by a relative that intends to be a permanent placement for the child. The Act also authorizes courts to conduct a hearing prior to the fifteenth month a child has been in foster care to review certain determinations that filing a petition to terminate parental rights would not be in the best interests of the child.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-216, 15-11-218, 15-11-232, and 15-11-233.

Effective April 22, 2024.

***Act 368; SB 332***

This Act removes the requirement for the Supreme Court to review and approve the standards of conduct and rules adopted by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-18-32.

Effective March 13, 2024.

**TITLE 16  
CRIMES AND OFFENSES**

***Act 545; SB 517***

This Act includes Code Section 16-3-20, relating to justification, and Code Section 17-4-20, relating to arrests and use of force by law enforcement officers, on list of actions immune from prosecution under Code Section 16-3-24.2 and immune from liability under Code Section 51-11-9.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-3-24.2 and 51-11-9.

Effective May 2, 2024, and shall apply to all offenses committed and causes of action accruing after such date.

***Act 504; SB 465***

This Act enacts "Austin's Law" which provides for a felony offense of aggravated involuntary manslaughter when a person causes the fentanyl overdose death of another person by intentionally manufacturing or selling any substance that contains fentanyl. The Act further provides for a felony offense for any person other than a regulated person to possess, purchase, deliver, sell, or possess with intent to sell or deliver a pill press or tableting machine, an encapsulating machine, or other controlled substance counterfeiting materials.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-3.1 and 16-13-30.7.

Effective April 30, 2024, and shall apply to all offenses committed on or after such date.

***Act 566; HB 1033***

This Act enacts the "Utility Worker Protection Act" which provides enhanced criminal penalties for simple assault, aggravated assault, simple battery, battery, and aggravated battery committed upon utility workers in the course of their work or duties.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-19, 16-5-20, 16-5-21, 16-5-23, 16-5-23.1, and 16-5-24.

Effective May 6, 2024, and applicable to offenses committed on or after July 1, 2024.

***Act 512; SB 421***

This Act amends the "Georgia Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act" to create the offense of drive-by shooting. The Act provides for felony level punishment for such offense. The Act provides for definitions of the terms "dwelling" and "firearm." The Act revises the definition for the term "criminal gang activity" to include the offense of drive-by shooting. The Act modifies the offense of aggravated assault to include discharging a firearm toward an occupied motor vehicle or building. The Act revises the offense of criminal damage to property in the first degree to include an additional element. The Act revises felony level punishment for the offense of transmitting a false public alarm by enhancing second and subsequent conviction penalties for such offense and revises exceptions for first conviction felony treatment when the location of response to an unlawful request for emergency assistance is a dwelling or place of worship. The Act provides for a definition of the term "dwelling." The Act clarifies the definition for the term "request for

emergency services assistance." The Act requires court ordered restitution to include damage to property and expenses to treat bodily injuries.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-21, 16-7-22, 16-10-28, and 16-15-3 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-15-4.1.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 561; SB 335***

This Act enacts the "Safeguarding Adopted Children from Sexual Violence Act" which revises the criminal offense of incest to include relationship by adoption.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-6-22.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 547; HB 500***

This Act establishes the criminal offense of arson of a law enforcement vehicle and provides for a fine, imprisonment, and bail.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 17-6-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-7-60.1.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 491; HB 993***

This Act prohibits the use of a certain defense in the prosecution of the offense of sexual exploitation of children. The Act establishes the criminal offense of grooming a minor.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-12-100 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-12-100.5.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 411; HB 1326***

This Act revises the Georgia Controlled Substances Act by including additional substances in Schedules I, III, and IV. The Act also revises the "Dangerous Drug Act" by including new substances on the list of dangerous drugs and adding an exception to the list of dangerous drugs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-25, 16-13-27, 16-13-28, 16-13-71.

Effective April 22, 2024.

***Act 546; HB 181***

This Act prohibits the sale or transfer of possession of kratom to an individual under 21 years of age, prohibits an individual after 21 years of age from purchasing or possessing kratom, and prohibits the ingestion of kratom through a heating element or vaporizing mechanism or the selling of such mechanism. The Act provides requirements and limitations relating to the sale of kratom products in this state, prohibits the sale of kratom unless behind a counter or in a secured display, revises packaging requirements, and requires manufacturers and others to maintain a registered agent in this state. The Act further provides for violations of such requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-13-120, 16-13-121, and 16-13-122.  
Effective January 1, 2025, and shall apply to offenses committed on or after such date.

## **TITLE 17**

### **CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

#### ***Act 550; HB 926***

This Act enacts the "Second Chance Workforce Act." The Act provides for the inclusion of healthcare workers as special classes relative to battery by a juvenile, revises provisions relating to procedures for arrests by citation for motor vehicle violations in lieu of arrests for certain offenses, and revises procedures for arrests by citation for violations of motor vehicle related laws or ordinances. The Act further provides for the contents of uniform traffic citations, revises the consequences upon an individual's driver's license for the failure to respond to a uniform traffic citation, provides for a driver's license reinstatement fee for individuals submitting pauper affidavits, and revises periods of suspension of drivers' licenses for the failure to respond to a uniform traffic citation. The Act further provides for additional contents in investigation written reports relative to family violence.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-505, 17-4-20.1, 17-4-23, 17-6-11, 17-7-90, 40-5-9, 40-5-23, 40-5-56, and 44-5-150.

Effective May 2, 2024.

#### ***Act 507; SB 63***

This Act revises numerous provisions relative to bonds and recognizance. The Act provides for additional bail restricted offenses which are ineligible for unsecured judicial release. The Act provides that no more than three cash bonds may be posted per year by an individual, corporation, organization, charity, nonprofit organization, or group in any jurisdiction. The Act provides for limitations on charitable bail funds. The Act provides that violations of such statutory limitations are subject to criminal prosecution and criminal penalty. The Act provides for return of compensation by a surety to a principal. The Act increases continuing education programs fees from \$125.00 to \$250.00 for bail recovery agents. The Act revises when notice is unnecessary regarding bond forfeiture. The Act revises procedures regarding execution hearings. The Act modifies procedures for judgments on forfeitures and remission of bond funds.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 17-6-1, 17-6-2, 17-6-12, 17-6-15, 17-6-31, 17-6-54, 17-6-56.1, 17-6-70, 17-6-71, and 17-6-72.

Effective July 1, 2024.

#### ***Act 621; SB 533***

This Act provides for the treatment of those accused of crimes who are not competent to stand trial by the Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities, which may include in-patient treatment in a secure facility designated by the department or treatment through a jail-based competency restoration program.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 17-7-130.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 490; HB 1201***

This Act provides for the vacating of certain sentences of victims of trafficking. The Act also provides for commercial sexual exploitation recovery centers and includes them in the definition of child-caring institutions for social services purposes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-2, 17-10-21, 35-3-37, and 49-5-3.  
Effective April 24, 2024.

**TITLE 19  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

***Act 428; SB 520***

This Act amends child support provisions to replace the term "income deduction order" with "income withholding order." The Act requires federal income withholding notices be provided to employers prior to any income withholding.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-5-12, 19-6-30, 19-6-32, 19-6-33, 19-6-33.1, 19-11-12, 19-11-5, 19-11-101, 19-11-150 through 19-11-156, 19-11-160 through 19-11-162, and 19-11-164.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 397; HB 896***

This Act allows a former spouse, upon finalization of a divorce, to petition the court to restore his or her legal surname to the given surname as shown on his or her birth certificate.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-5-16.  
Effective April 22, 2024.

***Act 479; HB 499***

This Act authorizes awards of support of dependent adult children by the parents of such children. The Act provides legal proceedings for the establishment of such support. The Act also establishes criteria for courts to consider when awarding such support and allows for the modification of an award of such support. The Act further provides that an award of such support shall not impact the ability of a dependent adult child to receive the maximum benefits provided under other government programs. The Act also authorizes a court to order one or both parents of a dependent adult child to maintain life insurance for the benefit of such child.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-6-9, 19-6-10, 19-6-15, and 19-6-34 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 19-6-15.1 and 19-6-15.2.

Effective July 1, 2024, and applies to all causes of action accruing on or after such date.

*Act 618; SB 454*

This Act revises the guidelines for determining the amount of child support awards. The Act updates the basic child support obligation table and provides a low-income adjustment table. The Act further revises provisions concerning adjustment to gross income used to calculate basic child support obligations and deviations from the basic child support obligation, including the exclusion of disability benefits received by the noncustodial parent from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the parenting time adjustment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-6-15.

Effective July 1, 2024, except for certain provisions which are effective on January 1, 2026.

**TITLE 20  
EDUCATION**

*Act 461; SB 464*

This Act provides for an executive committee of the Council on Literacy. The Act provides for the identification, adoption, and administration of a free universal screening reader available for use by public schools and local school systems through memoranda of agreement between the Department of Education and the Georgia Council on Literacy. The Act enacts the "School Supplies for Educators Act" which provides for the establishment of the School Supplies for Educators Program through which eligible educators may access allocated funds, at the discretion of such educators, for the online purchase of school supplies. The Act provides for certifications by local schools to the department of educator eligibility.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1-43 and 20-2-153.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-989.30, 20-2-989.31, 20-2-989.32, and 20-2-989.33.

Effective April 23, 2024.

*Act 457; SB 233*

This Act enacts the "Georgia Promise Scholarship Act," which provides for the establishment of promise scholarship accounts and the creation of the Georgia Education Savings Authority and the assignment of such authority to the Georgia Student Finance Commission for administrative purposes. The Act further provides for promise scholarship accounts to be funded by the state in the amount of \$6,500.00 per school year for each participating student to be used for qualified education expenses. The Act further provides for qualifications for students to participate in the promise scholarship account program, requirements for participating schools and service providers, and for a parent review committee to review expenditures upon request. The Act also authorizes the Georgia Student Finance Commission to participate in the promise scholarship account program, provides for an annual report by the commission, annual norm-referenced and state-wide testing of participating students, and audits by the Department of Audits and Accounts. The Act further provides for an annual report by the Office of Student Achievement, requires the State Board of Education to maintain procedures for student transfers between local school systems, provides that only the receiving local school system shall have the authority to grant or refuse permission for such

transfers, and provides for caps on tuition that can be charged to a student by an enrolling local unit of administration. The Act changes the Quality Basic Education Formula program weights for funding purposes, allows capital outlay funds to be used for educational facilities for certain voluntary pre-k programs offered by the school system, and provides that student projection counts may include pre-k programs that are part of or anticipated to be part of Georgia's Pre-K Program. The Act revises a provision for grants to low-performing schools applicable by a nonprofit corporation incorporated by the Georgia Foundation for Public Education for such purpose, increases the limits available to individuals, heads of household, married couples filing joint returns, and individuals who are members of certain businesses, and provides for married couples filing separate returns. The Act increases the maximum allowed amount of tax credits, removes a restriction that such credit not be allowed if the taxpayer's qualified education donation is designated for the direct benefit of any particular school or program which the taxpayer's child or children attend, and extends an automatic repealer.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-14.1, 20-2-161, 20-3-231, 20-2-260, 20-2-293, and 48-7-29.21 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2B-1 through 20-2B-8 and 20-2B-20 through 20-2B-30.

Effective April 23, 2024. Code Sections 20-2B-20 through 20-2B-31 and 20-3-231 shall be applicable to school years beginning on July 1, 2025, and continuing thereafter. Code Sections 20-2-14.1 and 48-7-29.21 are applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

#### ***Act 463; SB 351***

This Act enacts the "Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act of 2024." The Act updates the provisions of the "character curriculum" to include elements of responsible digital citizenship by the start of the 2025-2026 school year. The Act provides requirements for the Department of Education's development of model programs for educating students regarding online safety. The Act also creates or modernizes many definitions relating to internet safety policies in public schools. The Act extensively revises the requirements of mandatory acceptable-use policies regarding technology. The Act mandates that local governing bodies adopt policies limiting access to social media platforms on computer equipment made available to students by the local governing body. The Act updates revises the term "bullying" to include provisions for cyberbullying. The Act prohibits social media platforms from allowing individuals under the age of 16 from being account holders on such platforms without a parent's or guardian's permission. The Act creates requirements for minor account holders. The Act also allows for the Attorney General's exclusive authority to enforce the provisions of the Act relating to social media platforms. The Act requires that commercially reasonable age verification be done before an individual accesses a website consisting of at least 33.33 percent of material harmful to children. The Act creates a private cause of action for failure to perform such age verification.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-145, 20-2-149, 20-2-324, and 20-2-751.4 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-324.7, O.C.G.A. Chapter 6 of Title 33, and O.C.G.A. Section 39-5-5.

Effective July 1, 2025.

***Act 559; SB 440***

This Act enacts the "Accelerated Career Diploma Program," which revises provisions related to high school students who also complete certain degree, diploma, or certificate programs at Technical College System of Georgia institutions. The Act also authorizes the Georgia Student Finance Commission to award grants to students participating in the program ACE (accelerate career education) grants. The Act further revises the "Duel Enrollment Act" to update the maximum eligible number of duel enrollment courses high school students can take and change certain provisions relating to reports made by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-149.2, 20-2-161.3, and 20-2-161.4.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 414; SB 50***

This Act authorizes local boards of education which operate a school with grades nine through 12 to provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety and establish related curriculum. The Act further requires the State Board of Education to adopt content standards for such courses. The Act provides for elective credit for such courses.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-159.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-319.7.  
Effective April 22, 2024.

***Act 560; SB 497***

This Act redesignates the High-demand Career Initiatives Program as the High Demand Apprenticeship Program, reduces contract awards per apprentice, increases the cap on allowable apprentices, and authorizes certain expenditures by the Office of Workforce Development. The Act provides for the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to establish the Public Service Apprenticeship Program, provides for the purpose of such program, and authorizes the board to enter into contracts with public service sponsors for the successful completion of the education, training, and other requirements of apprentices. The Act further provides for application requirements, authorizes contract completion awards, requires the Office of Workforce Development to post on its website a public report containing certain information, and authorizes the acceptance of grants and other funds. The Act further revises the definition of "public benefit" to include apprenticeships and provides for conforming changes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-161.4, 20-4-151 through 20-4-154, and 50-36-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-4-160 through 20-4-165 as Article 8 of O.C.G.A. 20-4.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 460; HB 1122***

This Act makes provisions for the funding of state charter school superintendents and principals. The Act provides that no local education agency shall earn funds under Code Section 20-2-18, except for funds for nurses, accountants, visiting teachers, school psychologists, and secretaries, if the local board of education or other public school governing body has not implemented in a failing school within the system the interventions, as prescribed by the State Board of Education. The Act

allows a local unit of administration to enroll a student whose parent or guardian works part-time for such local unit of administration regardless of school attendance zone or school system residency. The Act allows nonexecutive level employees of a local school system to serve as a member of the governing board of a state charter school. The Act sets requirements for the Department of Education to provide disaggregated components of the single individual school and school system ratings. The Act further updates and replaces the term "local school system" with "local education agency" in affected Code sections.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-186, 20-2-293, 20-2-2066, 20-2-2084, and 20-14-33.

Sections 1 through 4 of the Act are effective July 1, 2025. Section 5, relating to Code Section 20-14-33 is effective April 23, 2024.

***Act 459; HB 318***

This Act provides that if the Department of Education determines that a local school system's system-wide eligible need has been met as a result of the system having received a capital outlay grant pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-262, the system is not eligible for another such grant for a period of ten years. The Act requires the Department of Education to establish rules to implement said Code section and lists minimum requirements. The Act provides for the State Board of Education and local boards of education to request letters of assurance from charter schools regarding waivers of certain provisions. The Act provides for conditions for retention of charter school funding by local boards of education. The Act revises conditions for retention of charter school funding by the Department of Education. The Act provides for local boards to provide funding to local charter schools based on actual student enrollment. The Act establishes an Office of District Flexibility. The Act provides for the State Charter Schools Commission to employ staff personnel.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-262, 20-2-506, 20-2-2063.1, 20-2-2063.2, 20-2-2065, 20-2-2068.1, 20-2-2069, 20-2-2082, and 20-2-2089.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 487; HB 995***

This Act provides for the administration of a nationally recognized multiple-aptitude battery assessment that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military to students in grades 11 and 12 who choose to participate. The Act further allows the parents of such students to elect for their child to not participate in the administration of such assessment.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-281.2.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 470; HB 51***

This Act prohibits any high school that receives funding under the "Quality Basic Education Act" from participating in, sponsoring, or providing coaching or support staff for interscholastic activities that are conducted by or under the authority of a high school athletic association that is a member of a national organization that does not include or recognize other voluntary nonprofit associations

of Georgia high schools. The Act authorizes the use of vehicles other than school buses for the transport of students to and from school and school related activities. The Act further authorizes and requires local school boards to provide for accident insurance for students traveling on school buses and other vehicles to and from school and school related activities.

The Act amends Code Sections 20-2-316.3, 20-2-1076, and 20-2-1090.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 466; SB 169***

This Act limits the extension of hearing dates for student discipline tribunals to no later than 15 school days after the beginning of suspension, unless a parent or guardian makes a written request and the school system agrees. The Act requires school systems to provide appropriate grade-level instructional materials to any student subject to in-school suspension, short-term suspension, or long-term suspension pending completion of the student discipline tribunal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-754.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 551; HB 1183***

This Act requires local school systems to provide certain information to parents and guardians of students in grades six through 12 on Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes whenever such system provides information on immunizations, infections, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-771.1.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 465; HB 874***

This Act requires that by July 1, 2025, each school in the state shall have at least one functional automated external defibrillator on site at all times and is easily accessible during all school hours and during any school related functions. The Act requires each school to establish a written emergency action plan that adheres to nationally recognized standards and specific steps to take during a cardiac emergency to ensure that emergency medical services personnel are led directly to the exact location of the person in cardiac arrest. The Act requires each school to establish a designated internal response team to be responsible for implementing the school's emergency action plan and for oversight of emergency responses to a person in cardiac arrest. The Act requires each school to conduct a minimum of two emergency action plan practice drills per school year, with at least one per semester, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. The Act further requires each school to apprise all school personnel of the location of automated external defibrillators and the members of the school's internal response team.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-775.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 458; HB 409***

This Act enacts "Addy's Law," which requires public school systems to consider certain school bus routes and requires certain motor vehicle insurers to submit contact information to the state. The Act also enhances penalties for meeting or overtaking a school bus and requires notification of insurance carriers upon issuance of a second or subsequent civil monetary penalty for such violations. The Act also authorizes state charter schools to use employees of education service providers and provides for governing boards' responsibilities regarding such employees.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-2084, 40-2-137, and 40-6-163 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-1128.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 399; HB 985***

This Act abolishes the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation and provides for the transfer of outstanding obligations and liabilities and assets of such corporation to the Georgia Student Finance Authority. The Act amends Titles 2, 7, 12, 20, 26, 33, 43, and 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to agriculture, banking and finance, conservation and natural resources, education, food, drugs, and cosmetics, insurance, professions and businesses, and revenue and taxation, respectively, to remove cross-references and make conforming changes. The Act further repeals Part VII of an Act repealing provisions creating inactive boards, panels, authorities, centers, commissions, councils, task forces, and other such bodies, approved May 7, 2019 (Ga. L. 2019, p. 919).

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-313, 2-7-102, 7-1-693, 7-1-708.1, 7-1-1017, 12-6-49.2, 20-1-24, 20-3-231, 20-3-232, 20-3-235, 20-3-236, 20-3-238, 20-3-240, 20-3-316, 20-3-317, 20-3-318, 20-3-340, 20-3-342, 20-3-344, 20-3-345, 20-3-370, 20-3-372, 20-3-373, 20-3-470, 20-3-476, 26-4-60, 33-11-55, 33-23-21.1, 43-1-29, 43-3-27, 43-34-8, 43-39A-14, 43-40-15, and 48-7-161 and repeals Part 2 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20, O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-237, 20-3-312, 20-3-319, 20-3-341, 20-3-371, 20-3-374, 33-11-19, and (a.1) of 43-20A-16.

Effective June 30, 2024.

***Veto No. 1; HB 228***

This Act expands the definition of the term "approved school" so as to include private colleges and universities with high performing nursing programs as those institutions which are eligible for Tuition Equalization Grants (TEGs).

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-411.

***Veto No. 8; HB 1231***

This Act deems private colleges and universities accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools as approved schools for purposes of tuition equalization grants. The Act revises the terms for termination of HOPE scholarship benefits for certain students in relation to pursuit of professional and graduate degrees. The Act provides for HOPE scholarship benefits for former foster youth.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-411 and 20-3-519.2 and repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-519.3.

***Act 514; HB 130***

This Act provides for the Georgia Student Finance Authority to administer student loan repayment for peace officers.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-465.

Effective May 1, 2024.

***Act 553; HB 970***

This Act provides that victims of human trafficking are eligible for the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship. The Act requires participating school systems to identify eligible students who are victims of human trafficking, provides that the number of REACH scholars is subject to available appropriations, and changes the funding requirements for each participating school system and the Georgia Student Finance Authority.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-497, 20-3-499, and 20-3-499.2.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 552; SB 399***

This Act provides for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, units of the University System of Georgia, and local boards of education to enter into and amend existing agreements with the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia and units of the Technical College System of Georgia for awarding postsecondary course credits that are transferable between the university system and the technical college system. The Act authorizes the Technical College System of Georgia to certify all courses that are approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to be transferable to units of the university system. The Act further encourages the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and local boards of education to work continuously with the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to develop and implement policies, programs, and practices that promote and advance the objective of expanding opportunities for postsecondary degree attainment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-4-11, 20-4-14, and 20-4-20.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Veto No. 11; SB 203***

This Act provides that, subject to appropriations, certain industry services training programs related to the operation of commercial motor vehicles shall be tuition free for veterans.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-4-43.1.

*Act 481; SB 398*

This Act revises the membership of the Georgia Joint Defense Commission and provides that the commission chairperson or his or her designee shall be the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development. The Act clarifies that only those members of the commission who were appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, President of the Senate, or Speaker of the House of Representatives, in accordance with who appointed them. The Act provides that the commission shall advise the Governor and the General Assembly on issues relating to the military, the defense industry, defense research and technology, military families, and veterans affairs within the state and nationally. The Act revises definitions relative to the Defense Community Economic Development Grant Program and includes Space Force with other military branches. The Act authorizes the Department of Economic Development to assist the commission in certain activities and provides that the Department of Economic Development shall assume certain responsibilities with regard to the commission in lieu of the Technical College System of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-4-120 through 20-4-122, 20-4-130 through 20-4-134, and 50-7-120.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 21  
ELECTIONS**

*Act 580; SB 212*

This Act provides for revisions of certain operations and procedures related to elections, probate court judges, and board of election supervisors. The Act ends the duties of probate judges relating to elections. The Act further provides for county boards of elections and registration in counties where the probate court judge currently serves as the election superintendent. The Act further provides for the selection, qualifications, terms of service, resignation, succession, removal, and vacancy fillings of members of such boards. The Act also establishes the procedures of meetings and the powers and duties of such boards. The Act further establishes the compensation of board employees, members, and election supervisors, provides for the expenditure of public funds for certain purposes, preserves the existing boards of elections and boards of election and registration and preserves the General Assembly's authority to enact local legislation for all such boards. Finally, the Act provides for the boards' performance of certain functions and duties for certain municipalities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-9-30, 15-9-64, 21-2-2, 21-2-33.2, 21-2-70, 21-2-74, 21-2-76, 21-2-105, 21-2-414, 21-4-3, and 21-4-13; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-74.1; and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-40.1.

Effective May 6, 2024, for purposes of the creation of boards of elections as required by Section 5 of this Act and effective January 1, 2025, for all other purposes.

***Act 697; SB 189***

This Act removes the Secretary of State from the State Election Board and provides additional conflict of interest provisions for state-wide and local election officers, officials, and employees relating to businesses providing goods and services related to voting tabulation, auditing, processing, and scanning equipment. The Act provides for ballot access to certain political parties or political bodies relating to nomination of presidential electors and revises provisions related to challenging electors where any political party or political body which has obtained ballot access in no fewer than 20 states or territories for the office of presidential elector shall be allowed to qualify candidates for presidential elector. The Act revises provisions for determining residency for voting purposes where a person who registers to vote in another state, county, municipality, or legislative district of any type or sort is deemed to have changed his or her residency. The Act further provides timelines for the tabulation of absentee ballots and ballots cast by advance voting, and provides that the Secretary of State shall create a pilot program to audit paper ballots using optical character recognition technology or other related technology which shall verify the human-readable text portion of the ballot.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 21-2-30, 21-2-35, 21-2-172, 21-2-217, 21-2-230, 21-2-300, 21-2-379.23, 21-2-386, 21-2-493, and 21-2-540 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 21-2-19 and 21-2-498.1.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 3.1, 5, 8, 10, and 11 effective July 1, 2024; Sections 4, 6, and 9 effective January 1, 2025; Section 7 effective July 1, 2026; Sections 12 and 14 effective May 6, 2024.

***Act 599; HB 1207***

This Act requires that election workers be United States citizens. The Act provides for reopening of qualification periods in certain elections when no notice of candidacy is filed. The Act requires checking of ballot proofs by election superintendents and subsequent review of such proofs by candidates or their agents. The Act expands access of poll watchers to observe some elections proceedings. The Act makes it a felony to threaten violence against election officials and poll watchers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 21-2-132, 21-2-153, 21-2-367, 21-2-408, and 21-2-566 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 21-2-78 and 21-2-283.1.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 589; HB 974***

This Act requires that ballots be printed on security paper and have watermarks. The Act requires that absentee ballots be scanned so that there is a digital image of each such ballot. The Act provides for state-wide posting of digital images of scanned paper ballots. The Act provides for postelection audits. The Act provides for a pilot program for the auditing of paper ballot images using optical character recognition technology or other related technology to verify the human-readable text portion of the ballot.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 21-2-372, 21-2-379.23, 21-2-386, 21-2-493, and 21-2-498 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-498.1.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Veto No. 12; SB 368***

This Act prohibits foreign nationals from contributing to candidates, campaign committees, independent committees, or political action committees and prohibits candidates and such committees from accepting contributions from foreign nationals. The Act also requires agents of a foreign principal to file registration statements with the State Ethics Commission and to disclose that he or she is acting as an agent of a foreign principal when appearing before any elected official, agency, or committee of the General Assembly to advocate, lobby, or testify for or in the interests of such foreign principal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 21-5-3, 21-5-31, and 21-5-70 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 21-5-77 and 21-5-78.

**TITLE 24  
EVIDENCE**

***Act 482; HB 218***

This Act authorizes hearsay evidence related to sexual assaults on mentally incapacitated persons age 17 or older in certain circumstances and defines "mentally incapacitated" for the Code section.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 24-8-827.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 25  
FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

***Act 614; SB 417***

This Act authorizes the state fire marshal and his or her employees to investigate and enforce certain laws upon direction by the Safety Fire Commissioner or request of the sheriff of the county, the chief of police of the jurisdiction, the district attorney of the judicial circuit, or the local fire official. The Act prohibits the use of fireworks to cause injury or property damage, revises the criminal offense of criminal damage to property in the second degree by including fireworks among the instrumentalities of damage, and provides for the new criminal offense of ignition of fireworks near an emergency medical technician, firefighter, or law enforcement officer for purposes of hindering the official duties thereof or causing injury thereto. The Act revises licensing requirements and penalties relative to the display of fireworks and pyrotechnics and the sale of fireworks and requires a license for the use of certain special effects in production of a motion picture or television production. The Act revises provisions relative to the prohibition on the release of certain fire-propelled devices. The Act further revises and provides for definitions relative to the regulation of fireworks. The Act revises inspection and certification requirements relative to boilers and pressure vessels. The Act allows for the dissemination of certain information relative to hazardous chemicals in written or electronic format. The Act revises requirements for the timing

and documentation of reports of accidents relative to elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, manlifts, and moving walks.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 8-2-106, 16-7-23, 25-2-9, 25-10-1, 25-10-2, 25-10-3.2, 25-10-4, 25-10-5, 25-10-8, 25-10-9, 25-10-10, 25-15-16, 25-15-18, 25-15-23, 45-22-2, 45-22-4, 45-22-7, 45-22-8, and 45-22-9 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-10-35.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 563; SB 334***

This Act enacts the "Helping Firefighters Beat Cancer Act," which revises qualifications for insurance coverage for firefighters diagnosed with cancer.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 25-3-23.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 26  
FOOD, DRUGS, AND COSMETICS**

***Act 473; HB 1072***

This Act increases the number of pharmacy technicians authorized to be supervised by a pharmacist in certain circumstances. The Act also revises provisions related to the drug repository program and procedures for drug distributors to donate rather than destroy drugs in certain circumstances. The Act also provides for a legislative intention as to the use of certain settlement funds received by the state and a requirement for hospitals and pharmacies to provide certain persons with referral information of available drugs. The Act also exempts certain drug dispersals from sales and use taxes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-82, 31-8-300, 31-8-301, 31-8-302, and 48-8-3 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 31-8-305, 31-8-306, and 31-8-307.

Effective April 23, 2024, with the sales tax exemption provided for in Section 2-6 of the Act being applicable to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

**TITLE 27  
GAME AND FISH**

***Act 493; HB 244***

This Act provides for several clean-up provisions regarding game and fish rules and regulations by extending the effective date for criminal violations of rules and regulations prescribed by the Board of Natural Resources. The Act authorizes the hunting of bobcat and fox using recorded calls and sounds. The Act provides that licensed seafood dealers shall report nonactivity regarding sales and harvesting of seafood within any given month, and prohibits the possession of commercial quantities of shellfish by nonlicensed harvesters. The Act defines the term "cage." The Act further

provides that the Board of Natural Resources in its discretion may revoke harvesting permits for noncompliance with prescribed rules and regulations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-2-2, 27-1-39, 27-2-8, 27-3-12, 27-4-136, 27-4-188, 27-4-190, 27-4-201, 27-4-204, and 52-7-26.

Effective April 25, 2024, for purposes of promulgating rules and regulations and effective July 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

## **TITLE 28 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### ***Act 609; SB 341***

This Act revises names of committees for the General Assembly and repeals and amends provisions relating to inactive boards, panels, authorities, centers, commissions, committees, councils, and task forces, which includes the Georgia Education Authority (Schools), Georgia Rail Passenger Authority Overview Committee, Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Committee, Georgia World War I Centennial Commission, State Personnel Oversight Commission, Small Business Assistance Advisory Council, Commission on Regional Planning, and Commission on the Preservation of the State Capitol. The Act removes the ability of members of the General Assembly to prefile legislation prior to a legislative session. The Act authorizes the legislative services committee of the General Assembly to appoint individuals or offices to provide legal services to the legislative branch and extends the privilege of confidential communications and granting of court continuances or stays during the legislative session to such individuals or offices. The Act requires the Attorney General to provide legal representation and the Department of Administrative Services to provide contract review and drafting services to the General Assembly upon request and protects communications and records relating to such services from inspection or disclosure. The Act increases the amount that may be paid for legal services by the legislative fiscal officer without prior approval from the legislative services committee. The Act provides for alternating terms for the chairperson and secretary for the legislative services committee.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-10-53.1, 9-10-150, 10-9-20, 17-8-26, 20-3-152, 28-3-24.1, 28-4-1, 28-4-3, 28-4-3.1, 28-4-5, 28-4-6, 31-53-6, 36-91-112, 45-13-72, 45-15-13, 50-17-21, 50-17-22, and 50-27-34; repeals Part 3 of Article 11 of Chapter 2 of Title 20, Chapter 10 of Title 28, Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 45, Chapter 24 of Title 45, Part 3 of Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 50, Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 50, and O.C.G.A. Sections 28-1-17, 29-3-32(8), 29-5-32(8), 36-91-111, and 50-16-5.1; and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 28-4-5.1.

Effective May 6, 2024, except amendments to O.C.G.A. Sections 28-4-1 and 28-4-3 effective January 1, 2025.

### ***Act 419; SB 366***

This Act enacts the "Tax Expenditures Transparency Act of 2024," which revises provisions related to the adoption of general appropriations bills. The Act provides that when any such bill is reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee as "do pass by substitute" or "do pass as amended," neither the committee of the whole nor the Senate shall consider the bill until at least 24

hours after the substitute or the amendments and the bill have been printed and placed on the desk of each member. The Act provides that upon receipt of the Governor's budget report, the House Budget and Research Office and Senate Budget and Evaluation Office shall make such report available to each member of such office's respective chamber. The Act further provides that the Department of Audits and Accounts shall post on its public website the list of analyses to be conducted each year and shall provide a mechanism for intended beneficiaries or representatives to provide information that may be beneficial to such analyses, and such analyses shall be reviewed by the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee on or before January 31 of each year.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 28-5-4, 28-5-41.1, and 28-12-1.  
Effective January 1, 2025.

## **TITLE 30 HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

### ***Veto No. 6; HB 1123***

This Act establishes the Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Coordinator Program within the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia and provides for duties and responsibilities of regional coordinators of such program. The Act requires the establishment of an Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team in each judicial circuit after such coordinator program is funded. The Act also creates an elder justice coalition for the state for the purpose of preventing disabled adult and elder person abuse, neglect, and exploitation and provides for meetings, membership, duties, and responsibilities of such coalition.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 30-5-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 30-5-12 and 30-5-13.

## **TITLE 31 HEALTH**

### ***Act 404; HB 1028***

This Act authorizes the state health officer to issue a standing order prescribing opioid antagonists and post-exposure prophylaxis drugs for the prevention of the human immunodeficiency virus. The Act defines sexually transmitted diseases. The Act removes the requirement that an official from the Department of Public Health or a designee inspect detention facilities once every three months. The Act repeals provisions relating to the Georgia Diabetes Control Grant Program, repeals a pilot program for preexposure prophylaxis drug assistance relating to the control of human immunodeficiency virus, and repeals provisions requiring permits for mass gatherings.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-1-10, 31-17-1, 31-21-3, 42-1-7, and 42-4-32 and repeals O.C.G.A. Section 31-2A-14, O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-27, and O.C.G.A. Section 31-17A-4.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 471; HB 1046***

This Act authorizes advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to complete death certificates and provides for requirements and civil immunity related thereto. The Act revises provisions relating to the number of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants that a physician can authorize and supervise at any one time. The Act creates the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health and provides for its composition, membership, duties, and responsibilities. The Act also repeals two inactive groups, the Governor's Commercial Transportation Advisory Committee and the Commission on the Preservation of the State Capitol.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-2A-12, 31-10-15, 43-34-23, 43-34-25, and 43-34-103 and repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 40-16-8 and 50-16-5.1.

Effective July 1, 2024, except that amendments to O.C.G.A. Sections 43-34-25 (g), (g.1), and (g.2) and 43-34-103 (b) effective May 1, 2024.

***Act 620; SB 495***

This Act provides for a five-year term of validity regarding a registration card for the Low THC Oil Patient Registry, provided that an authorized individual or caregiver remains eligible for receipt of such card. The Act further provides that upon the request of an authorized individual or caregiver, the Department of Public Health shall deliver such registration either via certified mail or by secure electronic means, including email.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-2A-18.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 462; SB 395***

This Act addresses opioid antagonists. The Act authorizes possession of opioid antagonists at schools. The Act requires public schools to keep a supply of opioid antagonists. The Act authorizes school personnel to administer opioid antagonists and notify the student's family. The Act provides schools immunity from civil liability. The Act provides immunity to harm reduction organizations acting in good faith and within their scope of services that supply opioid antagonists to individuals at risk of experiencing an opioid related overdose. The Act provides for training and policies regarding opioid antagonist administration. The Act requires certain courthouses to maintain a supply of opioid antagonists. The Act shields certain governmental entities and individuals from liability.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-71, 26-4-89, and 26-4-116.2 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-776.5 and 31-2A-20.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 383; SB 293***

This Act provides for the manner of selection and qualifications of district health directors. The Act also provides for circumstances and requirements for the appointment of interim district health directors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-3-11, 31-3-12, 31-3-12.1, and 31-3-15.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 384; HB 1339***

This Act exempts from the certificate of need requirements: acquisition, replacement, or repair of certain imaging equipment; certain increases in bed capacity of a hospital; certain capital expenditures; certain new or expanded psychiatric or substance abuse inpatient programs or state funded beds that serve Medicaid and uninsured patients; certain new or expanded basic perinatal services by a hospital in a rural county; certain new or expanded birthing centers; new general acute care hospitals in a rural county under certain conditions; a new short-stay general hospital under certain conditions; and the transfer of existing beds between general acute care hospital campuses under certain conditions. The Act removes the requirement that a new institutional health service obtain a certificate of need for any expenditure by or on behalf of a healthcare facility in excess of \$10 million.

The Act provides for a more streamlined application process. The Act further provides for the decision of the appeal panel hearing officer to constitute the final decision of the department and provides for a streamlined appeal process. The Act requires notice and approval for certain exemptions from certificate of need requirements, authorizes the Department of Community Health to require notice and approval for certain exemptions from certificate of need requirements, and authorizes a monetary penalty for noncompliance.

The Act provides for the Department of Community Health and Office of Legislative Counsel to review the statutory framework and provisions relating to the certificate of need program. The Act increases the tax credit limit for contributions to rural hospital organizations, provides for certain amounts to be attributed, and requires certain tax contributions to be timely in order to receive any pre-approved tax credit.

The Act creates the Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission to advise the Governor, General Assembly and Department of Community Health on issues related to access and quality of healthcare for Georgia's low-income and uninsured populations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-6-2, 31-6-21, 31-6-40, 31-6-43, 31-6-44, 31-6-44.1, 31-6-47, 31-6-47.1, 31-6-70, and 48-7-29.20 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 31-6-51 and 49-4-156.

O.C.G.A. Sections 31-6-21, 31-6-51 and 49-4-156 are effective April 19, 2024.

O.C.G.A. Sections 31-6-2, 31-6-40, 31-6-43, 31-6-44, 31-6-44.1, 31-6-47, 31-6-47.1, and 31-6-70 are effective July 1, 2024.

O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29.20 is effective January 1, 2025, and applicable to taxable years beginning on or after such date.

***Act 502; HB 1335***

This Act revises staffing requirements for personal care homes, assisted living communities, and memory care centers by requiring that not less than two on-site administrators or care staff persons are on the premises of such facilities at all times on their assigned posts. The Act further defines "medical alert system" and provides that if such facility has implemented such system that connects with residents, then such administrator or care staff person can move about the premises and is not required to remain at his or her assigned post.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-7-1, 31-7-12, 31-7-12.2, and 31-7-12.4.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 427; SB 505***

This Act requires hospitals to post and maintain links to certain financial documents. The Act also requires hospitals to follow rules set by the Department of Public Health for providing and updating such documents. The Act provides for hospital deficiency in complying with such rules, including penalty. The Act revises procedures relating to appointments to fill vacancies on boards of hospital authorities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-7-22 and 31-7-72.  
Effective April 22, 2024.

***Act 619; SB 456***

This Act provides for disabled persons to be included in the category of persons who may receive eligible care from family members or guardians who are included in the caregiver registry. The bill adds a definition of "disabled person" and revises the definition of "employer."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-7-380 and 31-7-381.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 573; HB 663***

This Act enacts the "No Patient Left Alone Act" which establishes certain rights of minors and adults admitted to hospitals and long-term care facilities and authorizes family members and designated essential caregivers access to assist minors and adults under medical care, and such rights may not be terminated, suspended, or waived. The Act provides that such parent, guardian, person standing in loco parentis, or other designated essential caregiver shall be required to comply with all hospital or long-term care facility policies, rules of conduct, and reasonable safety protocols, including wearing personal protective equipment provided by the hospital or long-term care facility. The Act further provides that hospitals and long-term care facilities can restrict access to such minor or adult when such access is noncompliant with reasonable safety protocols and rules of conduct, or when such access threatens or negatively impacts the care of the minor or adult.

The Act enacts Article 16 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-7.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 400; HB 991***

This Act extends the automatic repeal of the Hospital Medicaid Financing Program from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2030.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-8-179.6.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 385; HB 872*

This Act provides for an expansion of the service cancelable loan program for physicians and other health care providers in underserved areas to include dental students. The Act further provides that such students shall be citizens or nationals of the United States and shall be actively enrolled as fourth-year students in an accredited dental education program in the United States. The Act further provides the board granting the loans may consider the state residency status, home area, and intended practice specialty of the applying dental student and that such loans shall be for a period of four years.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-34-2, 31-34-4, and 31-34-5.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 32  
HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, AND FERRIES**

*Act 367; SB 353*

This Act requires that notice of caucus meetings during which members of the State Transportation Board are elected shall be sent by email to the members of the Georgia General Assembly who are included in such caucuses. The Act revises provisions related to certain negotiations of public-private partnerships (P3s) involving the Department of Transportation to allow for such negotiations to include revisions to requests for proposals. The Act provides for procurement procedures relative to alternative contracting used by the Department of Transportation and amends limitations on and provides for a waiver for the use of alternative contracting methods. The Act amends weight and dimension requirements for modular unit transporters and provides for a permit fee for single trips of any modular or sectional housing unit. The Act expands those duties of a coroner or county medical examiner that may be delegated to qualified local medical examiners, forensic consultants, or medical examiner's investigators, generally, and to qualified medical personnel, specifically when death results from an accident upon a highway or limited-access road and such accident results in a significant disruption to the flow of traffic on such highway or limited-access road. The Act exempts from public disclosure requirements under the Georgia Open Records Act records or data of the State Road and Tollway Authority or the Department of Transportation which would reveal the financial accounts, travel history, vehicle information, or personally identifiable information of any individual who is a motorist upon any toll project or roadway.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-2-20, 32-2-80, 32-2-82, 32-6-28, 45-16-23, and 50-18-72.  
Effective March 4, 2024.

*Act 579; HB 617*

This Act provides for a state-wide freight and logistics implementation plan and creates the Georgia Freight 2050 Program, both to be administered by the Department of Transportation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-2-22, 32-2-41, and 32-2-43 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 32-2-41.4, 32-5-40, and 32-5-41.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 588; HB 516***

This Act increases the minimum amount for a public road construction or maintenance contract that prohibits negotiation, provides for exceptions regarding public comment and hearings on projects involving public-private partnerships in certain instances, and authorizes the placement of wayfinding kiosks in the right of way for a public road in certain special districts. The Act provides for the issuance of permits for such kiosks, authorizes petitions for removal of kiosks that create a public nuisance, provides for an exception to requirements of multiple message signs, and provides for the discontinuance of permits. The Act prohibits the operation of certain vehicles on highways that qualify as commercial motor vehicle restricted highways, requires the installation of official traffic-control devices, provides for punishment, and revises maximum speed limit provisions. The Act further provides for the allocation of funding for freight and logistics projects to include administrative costs. The Act also extends the effective date of provisions in SB 146, related to regulation and taxation of electric vehicle charging stations, which was approved by the Governor on May 2, 2023.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 32-2-61, 32-2-80, 32-6-51, 40-6-53.1, 40-6-181, 48-8-78, and Ga. L. 2023, p. 376/SB 146, approved May 2, 2023.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 33  
INSURANCE**

***Act 398; HB 984***

This Act provides for the use of office of Safety Fire Commissioner motor vehicles by certain law enforcement officers employed by the office of Safety Fire Commissioner while working off-duty jobs, subject to multiple conditions. The Act provides for the use of Department of Insurance motor vehicles by certain law enforcement officers employed by the Department of Insurance while working off-duty jobs, subject to multiple conditions. The Act also repeals a life insurance reserves provision from the "Standard Valuation Law" that allowed certain insurers to hold reserves based on the mortality tables and interest rates defined by the valuation manual for net premium reserves, using certain methodologies and subject to certain conditions. The Act allows a plan sponsor of a health benefit plan to consent on behalf of a covered person to the electronic transmittal or electronic posting of such plan and allows a covered person to opt out of such electronic transmittal or electronic posting. The Act provides for the continuation of coverage of a developmentally disabled or physically disabled dependent child under certain insurance policies.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-2-8, 33-24-14.1, and 33-24-28; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 33-10-13(t); and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 25-2-8.1.

Effective April 22, 2024, except that the amendments to O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-14.1 are effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 472; HB 384***

This Act requires certain insurers to provide notification to each male insured upon such male attaining the age of 40, and annually thereafter, of coverage for annual prostate-specific antigen tests for covered males who are 45 years of age or older or 40 years of age or older if ordered by a physician.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-29-3.2.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 387; HB 63***

This Act requires insurers providing policies for groups of 20 or more to timely furnish claims experience at the request of a group policyholder. The Act further allows such insurers that use other methods to apply to the Commissioner for approval for an alternative form of group claims experience reporting.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-30-13.1.

Effective July 1, 2024, and shall apply to all policies or contracts issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after such date.

***Act 476; HB 279***

This Act requires insurers to provide a rate discount or reduction for single-family residential and commercial properties constructed or retrofitted to resist severe wind damage.

The Act designates O.C.G.A. Section 33-32-1 through 33-32-6 as a new article and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 33-32-10 and 33-32-11.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 592; HB 1049***

This Act provides for the treatment of policies issued by one insurer and later made the sole responsibility of another insurer. The Act authorizes the Superior Court of Fulton County to take judicial action regarding insurance business transfers. The Act provides for notice of related proceedings. The Act provides for approval of insurance business transfer plans by the Commissioner of Insurance. The Act provides for petitions to the Superior Court of Fulton County for approval of insurance business transfer plans and implementation orders.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-36-3, 33-52-1, 33-52-2, and 33-52-4; designates O.C.G.A. Sections 33-52-1 through 33-52-6 as Article 1 of Chapter 52; and enacts Article 2 of such chapter, consisting of O.C.G.A. Sections 33-52-10 through 33-52-17.

Effective May 6, 2024.

***Veto No. 10; SB 198***

This Act provides that pharmacy benefits managers providing such management services for the state health benefit plan or plans established for other state employees and for school teachers and employees shall reimburse independent pharmacies for dispensing certain drugs. The Act requires

pharmacy benefits managers to provide an annual certification to the Department of Community Health certifying compliance and makes records available to the Department of Community Health for financial examinations, audits, and investigations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-64-9.1.

*Act 407; HB 1114*

This Act enacts the "Data Analysis for Tort Reform Act" to provide for the confidential collection of data by the Commissioner of Insurance from insurers, insurance rating organizations, and state agencies concerning the impact of tort lawsuits and the assessment of tort related risks. The Act requires the Commissioner to analyze the collected data and submit reports to the Governor and the General Assembly on the impact of tort related risks on insurance premiums, the effects of any enacted tort reform legislation, and recommendations for legislative action.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 66 of Title 33.

Effective April 22, 2024.

**TITLE 34  
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

*Act 554; HB 982*

This Act requires the State Workforce Development Board to annually prepare and publish a "High-demand Career List" identifying those careers most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs. The Act provides that state and local agencies are required to use such list to inform their use of federal and state funding for education and workforce development purposes. The Act also makes a number of conforming changes to provisions of Title 20.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-4-150, 20-4-152, 20-4-153, and 20-14-26 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 34-14-3.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 35  
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES**

*Act 409; HB 1165*

This Act replaces the chairperson of the Governor's Office for Children and Families with the commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 35-6A-3.

Effective April 22, 2024.

**TITLE 36  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

***Act 575; HB 456***

This Act increases the minimum term for municipal court judges from one to two years, unless the municipality's charter provides a longer term. The Act also provides notice and procedural requirements for the removal of a municipal court judge for breach of contract.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-32-2 and 36-32-2.1.

Effective July 1, 2024, and applies to written agreements entered into or after such date.

***Act 494; HB 206***

This Act enacts the "Commercial Property Assessed Conservation, Energy, and Resiliency Cooperation Law," which authorizes and regulates counties, municipalities, and development authorities in implementing programs for financing certain qualifying improvements related to energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resiliency improvements on private properties.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-42-8; redesignates O.C.G.A. Sections 36-62-1 through 36-62-14 as new Article 1 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 36-62; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 36-62-2.1, 36-62-6.2, 36-62-8.1, 36-62-8.2, 36-62-15, 36-62-16, 36-62-17, 36-62-18, and 36-62-19.

Effective April 25, 2024.

***Act 417; SB 171***

This Act provides for limitations of a development authority director's hold-over period following the expiration for such director's term of office, and that such hold-over period shall not exceed six months. The Act authorizes the board of remaining directors to elect a successor should such hold-over period exceed six months, and requires directors and members of the development authority to complete training on development and redevelopment programs. The Act further provides that directors and members who do not complete the required training for two consecutive years shall have their voting rights suspended until the training is completed.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-62-4 and 36-62A-21.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 594; HB 1073***

This Act extends the hours alcoholic beverages may be consumed on Sundays upon property within a special entertainment district. The Act removes requirements relating to zoning decisions related to the location or relocation of halfway houses or drug rehabilitation centers. The Act prohibits a local government from requiring a gas station to install video surveillance equipment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-3-7 and 36-66-4 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-60-32.

Effective May 6, 2024.

***Act 698; HB 1407***

This Act substantially revises provisions for establishing, negotiating, reviewing, revising, and filing service delivery strategies for counties and municipalities. The Act establishes new deadlines by which each county and municipality shall execute an agreement for the implementation of a local government service delivery strategy. The Act establishes new time frames for when each county shall initiate the process for developing a local government service delivery strategy and allows for municipalities to initiate such process under limited circumstances. The Act revises provisions for when each county shall file agreements with local governments for the implementation of service delivery strategies with the Department of Community Affairs. The Act requires counties to identify all local governments to which notice of required planning meetings will be sent and provides for all local governments that received such notice to provide a written proposal of a local government service delivery strategy, which must meet certain requirements, to all other local governments that received such notice. The Act provides that all such proposals shall be considered public records and subject to disclosure under Georgia's open records laws. The Act expands the permissible sources of a county's share of funding in instances of when the county and one or more municipalities jointly fund a county-wide service and the county's share must be borne by the unincorporated residents, individuals, and property owners that receive the service. The Act repeals certain provisions allowing for the extension of deadlines for the adoption of service delivery strategies. The Act substantially revises provisions for mediation between counties and municipalities that are unable to agree on all services included in a service delivery strategy and provides for nonbinding arbitration and petitions to superior court for judicial resolution under certain circumstances. The Act requires the Department of Community Affairs to develop state-wide mapping standards in consultation with the Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council to be used for any service delivery strategy for which the parties elect to describe geographic areas for local government services within each county by using maps. The Act requires the Department of Community Affairs to promulgate such mapping standards by rule or regulation on or before March 1, 2026. The Act requires and limits the promulgation of certain rules and regulations by the Department of Community Affairs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-70-20, 36-70-21, 36-70-22, 36-70-24, 36-70-25, 36-70-25.1, 36-70-26, 36-70-27, and 36-70-28 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 36-70-22.1, 36-70-23.1, 36-70-25.2, 36-70-25.3, and 36-70-29.

Effective January 1, 2026.

***Act 596; HB 1149***

This Act requires that the annual audit reports of each county and consolidated city-county government shall include financial statements which provide a detailed account of the supplemental official income of certain county officers. The Act requires such county officers to cooperate with the county or consolidated government in preparation of such financial statements and provide all documentation deemed necessary to prepare for such financial statements. The Act requires auditors performing the annual audits to disclose in their audit opinions any apparent material violation of state or local law discovered during an audit of the supplemental official income of such county officers. The Act further provides a definition of the term "supplemental official income."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-81-7.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 37**  
**MENTAL HEALTH**

*Act 420; SB 375*

This Act includes the commissioner of veterans service as a member of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and provides that the annual reports be submitted to the President of the Senate rather than the Lieutenant Governor.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 37-2-4.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 475; HB 1083*

This Act extends grace periods related to the Department of Community Health, including the creation and promulgation of rules and regulations and the issuance of a one-time provisional license. The Act further extends the grace period for licenses related to certain adult residential mental health programs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 37-3-205, 37-3-206, 37-3-208.1, and 37-3-215.  
Effective April 23, 2024.

**TITLE 38**  
**MILITARY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

*Act 389; HB 299*

This Act provides for the inclusion of the United States Space Force in several military related provisions regarding courts, crimes and offenses, domestic relations, education, military, emergency management, and veterans affairs, and motor vehicles and traffic.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-9-2.1, 16-9-63, 16-11-124, 16-11-129, 19-7-5, 19-8-26, 19-9-6, 20-4-130, 38-2-2, 38-2-217, 40-2-65, and 40-2-85.1.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 608; SB 337*

This Act authorizes the Governor to appoint one or more persons with the lifetime honorary title of Georgia Colonels based on distinguished service to the state and the General Assembly to designate by joint resolution one or more persons with the lifetime honorary title of Georgia Lieutenant Colonels based on noteworthy contributions to such person's community.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 38-2-111.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 416; SB 144*

This Act revises the duties of the adjutant general of the state by removing the requirement that the adjutant general include a roster of all commissioned officers in the organized militia in the annual report to the Governor. The Act further removes the requirement that the laws and regulations relating to the organized militia of the state shall be indexed, printed, bound, and distributed to all forces of the organized militia of the state.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 38-2-151.

Effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 488; SB 389*

This Act provides for the adjutant general to be the official sponsor of the state sponsored life insurance program for the Georgia National Guard. The Act provides that such program is offered exclusively to all members of the Georgia National Guard. The Act codifies the duties for the adjutant general relative to such program and requires that the National Guard Association of Georgia select the insurer for such program.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 38-2-285.

Effective April 24, 2024.

**TITLE 39  
MINORS**

*Act 425; SB 483*

This Act enacts the "Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children Act" to replace the "Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Act" upon enactment of the new compact into law by 35 states. The Act provides for uniform legal and administrative procedures governing the interstate placement of children for foster care or adoption.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-201, 15-11-212, 19-8-2, 19-8-3, 19-8-4, 19-8-5, 19-8-7, 19-8-11, 19-8-13, and 49-4B-2; repeals O.C.G.A. Chapter 39-4; and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 39-4A.

Effective upon enactment of the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children into law by the thirty-fifth state.

**TITLE 40  
MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

*Act 509; HB 1058*

This Act revises the definition of "present regulations" and updates the reference date to federal regulations regarding the safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-1-8.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 616; SB 426***

This Act establishes conditions on the ability to join motor carriers and insurance carriers in certain actions. The Act also provides procedures for the joinder of motor carriers and insurance carriers in such actions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-1-112 and 40-2-140.  
Effective July 1, 2024, and applies to causes of action accruing on or after July 1, 2024.

***Act 406; HB 1100***

This Act authorizes the Department of Revenue to use electronic notifications and communications of a lapse of minimum motor vehicle insurance and notices regarding the certificate of title to a consenting motor vehicle owner. The Act provides for the issuance of vehicle registration and license plates to government owned vehicles. The Act further provides for the maintenance of certificate of title records in electronic format. The Act authorizes the Department of Driver Services to use electronic notifications and communications for driver's license renewals to a consenting license holder.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-20, 40-2-37, 40-2-50, 40-2-151, 40-3-23, and 40-5-32 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-1-9.  
Effective April 22, 2024.

***Act 570; HB 935***

This Act enacts the "Back the Blue Act" which establishes the Back the Blue Fund to provide bonuses to certified peace officers employed by sheriffs. The Act provides that such fund be supported through voluntary \$5.00 contributions collected by the submission of the motor vehicle registration application form provided for in Code Section 40-2-26. The Act further requires the state revenue commissioner to act as custodian and administrator of the fund and to distribute moneys annually to the Georgia Sheriffs' Association for equal distribution to the sheriff of each county in this state. The Act provides for an automatic repeal on July 1, 2029.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-26.1.  
Effective May 6, 2024.

***Act 480; SB 369***

This Act provides for the issuance of license plates commemorating the United States of America's semiquincentennial and for the selection of its design.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-31 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-31.1.  
Effective April 23, 2024.

***Act 513; SB 10***

This Act provides for the new crime of facilitating an exhibition of illegal drag racing. The Act adds reckless stunt driving to the list of offenses for which one must not have committed within the prior 12 months in order to apply for certain classes of driver's license. The Act also increases the penalties for reckless stunt driving.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-11-43.1, 40-5-24, and 40-6-390.1.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 402; HB 997***

This Act requires the disqualification of a person from operating a commercial motor vehicle upon receipt by the Department of Driver Services of notification from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration of a positive drug test, an adulterated or substituted drug test, or a report of a refusal to submit to such test. The Act also provides for reinstatement of such operation privilege.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-5-151.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 510; HB 1193***

This Act updates provisions regarding the use of flashing or revolving amber lights on public roadways by requiring the operation of such lights on certain vehicles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-6-16, 40-6-16.1, 40-8-33, 40-8-35, and 40-8-92 and repeals O.C.G.A. Section 40-8-32.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 500; SB 436***

This Act provides a definition for the term "operator" for purposes of operating farm tractors and implements of husbandry on state and local roadways under certain circumstances. The Act revises the definition of the term "implement of husbandry" and makes conforming changes to existing law relative to the use of such term.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-308.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 611; SB 352***

This Act provides standards for the alteration and operation of motor vehicles with modified suspension systems and prohibits the operation of a motor vehicle with broken suspension system springs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-8-6 and 40-8-6.1.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 41  
NUISANCES**

*Act 374; SB 443*

This Act provides for complaints filed on behalf of the public against promoters and organizers of unpermitted events for costs incurred by local governments due to instances of public nuisance. This Act is only applicable when such events result in a public nuisance that impedes travel by police, fire service, emergency medical services personnel, other public safety personnel, or employees or government officials acting in their official capacities. The Act further provides that such complaints shall only be filed only by a district attorney, solicitor-general, city attorney, or county attorney on behalf of the public.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 41-2-2.  
Effective April 8, 2024.

**TITLE 42  
PENAL INSTITUTIONS**

*Act 426; SB 493*

This Act prohibits the use of unmanned aircraft systems by persons required to register as a sexual offender for purposes of photographing a minor without parental consent. The Act prohibits a person required to register as a sexual offender from using an unmanned aircraft system to follow or observe another without consent or in a manner that violates another person's privacy. The Act provides for additional eligibility to petition for release from registration requirements relating to sexual offenders. The Act authorizes the prohibition on the use of unamended aircraft systems as a condition of probation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 42-1-18, 42-1-19, and 42-8-35.  
Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to offenses committed on and after such date.

*Act 506; SB 37*

This Act provides that a sheriff who serves as the sheriff in multiple courts shall receive a salary supplement for such service for up to two courts. The Act also authorizes the creation of a law enforcement unit to serve at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. The Act further grants jailers who are certified peace officers arrest powers within the guard line of the jail at which such jailer serves.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-16-20.1, 35-5-7, and 42-4-1.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

*Act 505; HB 1105*

This Act enacts the "Georgia Criminal Alien Track and Report Act of 2024," which provides for immigration status verification prior to issuance of citation in lieu of arrest for certain offenses,

describes acceptable documentation for immigration status verification, requires local agencies to seek memorandums of understanding with federal agencies regarding the provision of assistance to such federal agencies, and provides for penalties relating to local immigration sanctuary policies. The Act further provides for reporting of certain information on inmates in custody of the Department of Corrections, requires custodial authorities to honor immigration detainer notices, provides for procedures for intake of persons into county jail or municipal detention facility, requires contact with federal agencies in certain instances, and provides for quarterly reports regarding foreign-born inmates in county jail or municipal detention facility. The Act further provides for prosecutorial and investigative authority in certain instances, revises annual reporting requirements for agencies and political subdivisions, requires the Department of Audits and Accounts to review and audit such reports, and requires DNA collection of certain convicted persons in custody subject to an immigration detainer notice.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 17-4-23, 17-5-100, 35-1-17, 36-80-23, 42-4-14, 45-15-10, 50-36-4, and 35-3-160 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 42-1-11.4, 42-1-11.5, and 42-4-16.

Effective May 1, 2024; however, Code Section 42-4-16 is effective December 31, 2024.

***Act 508; SB 159***

This Act revises the punishment related to prohibited items in possession of inmates, enhances the penalty for violations committed by employees and contractors of the Department of Corrections, and increases the penalty for using an unmanned aircraft to smuggle prohibited items into a prison.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 42-5-18.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 43  
PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES**

***Act 485; HB 880***

This Act provides that the spouse of a service member or transitioning service member may, while such service member is stationed in this state, engage in the practice of his or her occupation or profession without being licensed by the applicable professional licensing board or other board subject to certain conditions. The Act provides for investigations of such spouses when exempted from licensure pursuant to this Act.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-1-34 and 43-1-35.

Effective January 1, 2025.

***Act 556; SB 354***

This Act exempts individuals hired by beauty shops, beauty salons, and barber shops to perform shampooing, blow-dry styling, and the application of cosmetics and no other practices requiring a license from state licensure.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-10-1 and 43-10-17.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 555; SB 195***

This Act enacts the "Social Work Licensure Compact Act," so as to enter into such compact and to authorize the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists to administer such compact in this state. The Act removes the residency requirement for the issuance of licenses by endorsement for a profession other than that of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or a law enforcement officer. The Act also revises the definition for the term "soil classifier" so as to amend the requisite experience requirements to qualify as such an individual. The Act revises the definition for the term "certificate" as it relates to professional engineers and land surveyors. The Act revises provisions relating to the issuance of land surveyor intern certificates and an intern's eligibility. The Act provides for the educational, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a professional land surveyor.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-3-5, 43-1-35, 43-10A-5, 43-15-2, and 43-15-12 and enacts Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-10A and O.C.G.A. Section 43-15-13.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 501; HB 455***

This Act provides that professional programs addressing career fatigue and wellness in healthcare professionals are not obligated to report, in most cases, any information regarding such participating professionals to licensing boards. The Act provides immunity from civil liability for such healthcare professional participants, consultants, and other entities and exempts certain documents and information of such professional programs from discovery.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-1-36.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 557; SB 373***

This Act revises the definition of a supervisor, revises the education requirements for licensure as a professional counselor, and expedites license by endorsement for marriage and family therapists licensed in another state and in good standing.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-10A-3, 43-10A-11, and 43-10A-13.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 412; HB 1344***

This Act authorizes the representation of certain state office holder members of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council to be represented by delegates or agents for purposes of council and subcommittee meetings, quorums, and voting, and shall not be considered an absence of the member represented. The Act further provides for the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists to waive experience requirements for licensure under certain circumstances. The Act repeals provisions relating to the formulation and publication of a state plan for disability services. The Act further repeals a provision relating to the submission of an annual report by the commission of behavioral health and developmental disabilities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 37-2-4, 37-2-7, 43-10A-10, and 49-5-224.  
Effective April 22, 2024.

***Veto No. 2; HB 441***

This Act authorizes the practice of teledentistry and provides for conditions and limitations upon the practice of teledentistry. The Act prohibits certain acts relating to health insurance plans in relation to the practice of teledentistry.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-11-54.

***Act 612; SB 412***

This Act modifies certain provisions relating to administrative and civil sanctions against charitable organizations, paid solicitors, and solicitor agents for violations of any rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. The Act further provides for the suspension and revocation of registrations and revises the monetary amounts of civil penalties imposed for such violations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-17-13.  
Effective May 6, 2024.

***Act 478; SB 205***

This Act permits a funeral director to reinstate his or her license when he or she has allowed it to lapse.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-18-43.1.  
Effective April 23, 2024.

***Act 489; SB 370***

This Act adds body art studios, convenience stores, manufacturing facilities, and medical offices to the existing list of businesses and other establishments that must post human trafficking hotline information. The Act provides definitions for the terms "body art studio," "convenience store," and "manufacturing facility." The Act requires human trafficking awareness training to be completed annually by members of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy. The Act provides for inspections of massage therapy practices and requires massage therapy licensees to display a photograph along with their massage therapy practice licenses.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-47, 43-24A-5, 43-24A-7, and 43-24A-14.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 486; SB 449***

This Act provides that the Department of Community Health, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Service, shall establish a program through which military medical personnel may provisionally operate within their scope of practice and training for a period of 12 months without meeting the certified nursing aide competency examination requirements. The Act authorizes

certain military medical personnel to qualify for provisional certification as a certified nursing aide or to provisionally qualify as a paramedic, cardiac technician, an emergency medical technician, or as a licensed practical nurse. The Act provides for licensure of advanced practice registered nurses, licensure requirements, and renewal of licenses, and further provides for a misdemeanor offense relating to advanced nursing practice without a license.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-7-12.8, 31-11-52, 31-11-53, 43-26-3, 43-26-9, 43-26-10, 43-26-13, and 43-26-36 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-26-7.1.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 394; HB 557***

This Act authorizes physicians to delegate the authority to advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to prescribe certain Schedule II controlled substances such as hydrocodone and oxycodone as provided in such medical worker's protocol agreement. The Act provides for required advanced experience and training for registered nurses and physician assistants before such delegations by physicians can be made. The Act further provides that licensed advanced practice registered nurses and licensed physician assistants can provide affidavits for persons with disabilities to receive disabled parking permits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-74.1, 43-34-25, and 43-34-103.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 393; HB 502***

This Act enacts the "Georgia Cosmetic Laser Services Act" which includes certain services under the definition of "cosmetic laser services." The Act further removes the requirement that assistant laser practitioners practice under the on-site supervision of a senior laser practitioner.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-34-242 and 43-34-244.

Effective April 22, 2024.

***Act 583; SB 503***

This Act provides for various revisions applicable to general contractor licensing provisions. The Act renames general contractors as commercial general contractors and makes conforming changes throughout, thereby clarifying the distinction between residential and commercial general contractors. The Act revises provisions regarding the membership, qualifications, terms, and meetings of the State Licensing Board for Residential and Commercial General Contractors. The Act increases the frequency at which the residential and commercial contractor division must meet from at least six times annually to once every two months. The Act provides that the State Licensing Board for Residential and Commercial General Contractors shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson, each to serve for one year beginning on the first day of July each year. The Act requires applicants for licensure to demonstrate proof of qualified financial responsibility and insurance coverage after taking the required examination. The Act amends certain provisions relating to reciprocity and amends provisions regarding eligibility for licensure without examination. The Act increases the time frame for which a new qualifying agent may be employed by a business organization from 120 to 180 days. The Act requires each business organization that has terminated

its qualifying agent to provide certain information to building inspectors. The Act enhances criminal monetary penalties for a building inspector or other such authority that issues a building permit to a person known by such building inspector or authority not to be properly licensed. The Act changes provisions relating to the effective date of licensing.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-41-1 through 43-41-6, 43-41-8 through 43-41-12, and 43-41-14 through 43-41-18.

Effective July 1, 2024.

### *Act 469; SB 410*

This Act provides that the State Board of Veterinary Medicine may issue a one-time six-month temporary license to out-of-state licensed veterinarians and veterinarian technicians who are in good standing and who practice in government or nonprofit shelter medicine, nonprofit sterilization clinics, or nonprofit mobile sterilization programs registered in this state. The Act requires that the board adopt rules and regulations implementing the temporary licensure process no later than December 31, 2024, and requires that the Board periodically review such rules and regulations. The Act defines the terms "shelter medicine" and "sterilization services". The Act bars out-of-state veterinarians and veterinarian technicians who are employed by out-of-state nonprofit or for-profit entities and who are providing mobile sterilization services under such entities, from obtaining temporary licensure.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-50-44 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-50-42.1.

Effective July 1, 2024.

## **TITLE 44 PROPERTY**

### *Act 549; HB 1292*

This Act requires real estate documents presented by self-filers to be recorded electronically and requires the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority to promulgate rules and regulations to ensure that individuals presenting electronic documents for recording provide identifying information. The Act requires notaries public to complete training classes and keep a journal of each notarial act performed for a self-filer of real estate documents. The Act provides for notices to be included in certain unsolicited inquiries regarding the purchase of real property and provides for civil remedies and criminal penalties for failure to provide such notices. The Act provides for the recovery of costs and attorney's fees in quiet title actions where the court finds that the defendant fraudulently created the instrument that is the subject of the action and establishes a civil cause of action and remedies for the recording of a fraudulent or forged deed or other instrument.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-393.19, 23-3-41, 44-2-2, 44-2-39, and 45-17-8 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 51-9-12.

Effective May 2, 2024, except that O.C.G.A. Sections 44-2-2, 44-2-39, and 45-17-8 become effective on January 1, 2025.

***Act 388; HB 220***

This Act creates a ten-day time line for most actions for injunctive relief concerning violations of condominium and property owners' association instruments where such instruments do not provide for such time lines. The Act further enshrines in statute the power of condominium and property owners' associations to enforce their respective instruments through certain methods. Further, the Act creates a method and sets standards for calling certain meetings of property owners associations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-3-76, 44-3-106, 44-3-223, 44-3-230, and 44-3-231.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 392; HB 404***

This Act enacts the "Safe at Home Act" to provide for the implied warranty of habitability in residential lease agreements. The Act limits the amount of security deposits that may be collected by landlords. The Act further requires that landlords post a demand on the door of a leased property for possession or notice to vacate or to pay all past due rent, late fees, utilities, and other charges owed before such landlords may initiate certain legal proceedings regarding a leased property.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-7-13, 44-7-14.1, and 44-7-50 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 44-7-30.1.

Effective July 1, 2024, and applies to residential lease agreements that are entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2024.

***Act 484; HB 1203***

This Act authorizes landlords to use certain off-duty officers to execute writs of possession if a sheriff, sheriff deputy, constable, or marshal is not able to execute such a writ within 14 days of the landlord's initial request, and the Act requires landlords to provide notice to a sheriff, sheriff deputy, constable, or marshal of such an execution. The Act also requires sheriffs, sheriff deputies, constables, or marshals to maintain and provide lists of such authorized off-duty officers and to maintain administrative authority over any person executing such a writ.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 44-7-55.  
Effective April 24, 2024.

***Act 597; HB 1172***

This Act sets forth legislative findings relative to title and use of navigable streams.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 44-8-5.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 483; HB 1017***

This Act enacts the "Georgia Squatter Reform Act," which creates the offense of unlawful squatting. The Act provides that such offense is subject to misdemeanor punishment and is committed when an individual enters the land or premises of another and resides on such land or premises without the knowledge or consent of the owner, rightful occupant, or owner's authorized

representative. The Act provides for the definition of the term "resides." The Act expands magistrate court jurisdiction to include the trial and sentencing of unlawful squatting violations and proceedings against intruders and unlawful squatting. The Act modifies proceedings against intruders by allowing a sheriff deputy, constable, marshal, or other POST-certified individual to eject an unlawful intruder and changes the time frame for ejection. The Act further modifies the procedure on the submission of a counteraffidavit by a party in possession and requires a nonjury trial rather than a jury trial as a result of such submission. The Act also provides that when a verdict is rendered in favor of the plaintiff in such proceedings, the court may award monetary relief and provides that such plaintiff and the court shall be authorized to present the final order to law enforcement for investigation or prosecution.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-10-2, 44-11-30, 44-11-31, 44-11-32, and 44-11-33 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-7-21.1.

Effective April 24, 2024.

### *Act 571; HB 43*

This Act revises the membership of the Council on American Indian Concerns to require representation from each of the American Indian tribes of Georgia. The Act also revises the listed addresses of the American Indian tribes of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-12-280 and 44-12-300.

Effective July 1, 2024.

### *Act 496; SB 420*

This Act prohibits certain individuals who are agents of a government designated as a foreign adversary by the United States Secretary of Commerce from owning or purchasing certain real property in the state. The Act also allows interests in real estate to be titled in transfer-on-death deeds. The Act provides for the forms and circumstances of transfers of transfer-on-death deeds.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 1-2-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 2-1-7 and 44-17-1 through 44-17-7.

Effective July 1, 2024.

## **TITLE 45 PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

### *Act 477; SB 348*

This Act decreases the time period prior to a person's death within which such person had not been seen by a physician from 180 days to 60 days in order to be considered an unattended death by a physician. The Act adds the provision that a resident death in long-term care facility shall not be considered an unattended death by a physician if the physician had seen or treated the resident within 90 days prior to such resident's death.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-16-24.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 395; HB 563***

This Act provides for the administrator of the Commission on Equal Opportunity to refer a complaint alleging an unlawful practice in violation of the Fair Employment Practices Act of 1978 to an administrative law judge of the Office of State Administrative Hearings, or, if a complaint identifies such office as the respondent, before a special master.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 45-19-22, 45-19-23, 45-19-27, 45-19-32, 45-19-36 through 45-19-40, and 45-19-44 through 45-19-45.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 558; SB 384***

This Act establishes the policy of this state to be a model employer of individuals with disabilities by encouraging state agencies to consider the best practices relating to the recruitment, hiring, advancement, and retention of a broad range of qualified individuals with disabilities at all levels and for all occupations. The Act provides for the development and administration of the State of Georgia as a Model Employer (GAME) Program for the recruitment, hiring, advancement, and retention of qualified individuals with disabilities at all levels and for all occupations within state agencies. The Act provides that the GAME Program shall be developed and implemented by the State ADA Coordinator and requires the program to include certain elements. The Act requires state agencies to annually report certain information to the State ADA Coordinator and requires the State ADA Coordinator to annually submit a written report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairpersons of the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee and the House Committee on Industry and Labor on the progress of state agencies toward meeting the employment policy goals of the state established by this Act.

The Act enacts Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 45-19.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 464; HB 1010***

This Act increases the number of hours permitted for paid parental leave for eligible public employees and specifies that individuals employed full time by local education agencies are eligible employees. The Act also requires the employing entities of such eligible employees to provide notice of parental leave benefits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-20-17.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 511; HB 451***

This Act enacts the "Ashley Wilson Act" which provides that certain insurance benefits be awarded to certain first responders diagnosed with occupational post-traumatic stress disorder. The Act provides for limitations and restrictions of such benefits, methods of funding, and an exemption for benefits received from such first responder insurance coverage.

The Act amends 48-7-27 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 45-25-1 through 45-25-7.

Effective January 1, 2024. Section 3 of this Act shall become effective January 1, 2025.

**TITLE 46  
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

*Act 380; HB 1312*

This Act revises procedures for the election of members to the Georgia Public Service Commission to maintain staggered elections for successors to the current members of the commission.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 46-2-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 46-2-1.1.  
Effective April 18, 2024.

*Act 390; HB 300*

This Act requires any person that operates a solar power facility on leased property to agree to remove solar power equipment and restore the property upon the termination of the lease. The Act also requires financial assurances related to such removal and restoration and provides for remedies for violations of the removal, restoration, and financial assurance requirements.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 46-3-67, 46-3-68, 46-3-69, and 46-3-69.1.  
Effective July 1, 2024, and applicable to solar power facility agreements executed or renewed on or after that date.

*Act 565; SB 422*

This Act increases the percentage limitation from 15 to 25 percent as to the amount of the investments an electronic membership corporation (EMC) may make and maintain in a gas affiliate. The Act requires an EMC to disclose certain transactions and other information to its members within six months following any transaction that causes such EMC to have more than 15 percent of its net utility plant invested in, lent to, or secured for the benefit of its EMC gas affiliate.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 46-4-164.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 47  
RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS**

*Act 391; HB 385*

This Act adds appropriate references to the United States Space Force and the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, or Marine Corps Reserve in Chapters 1, 7, and 24 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions for retirements and pensions, the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Funds, and the Georgia Military Pension Fund, respectively.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-1-60, 47-7-88, and 47-24-81.  
Effective July 1, 2024, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems

Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2024, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

***Act 606; SB 105***

This Act revises provisions relative to the minimum and maximum allowable benefit multiplier for current and future retirees in the Public School Employees Retirement System. The Act provides that the minimum amount of monthly retirement payments to a member of the Public School Employees Retirement System shall be \$17.00 multiplied by the number of the member's years of creditable service.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-4-101.

Effective July 1, 2024, but only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2024, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

***Act 569; SB 322***

This Act increases the sum to be paid by members of the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia for purchasing prior service credit from \$37.50 to \$65.00. The Act increases membership dues for members of such fund from \$45.00 to \$65.00. The Act modifies the payments to such fund by increasing fees collected in civil actions. The Act increases the benefit payable upon the death of certain members of such fund from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-16-40, 47-16-43, 47-16-61, and 47-16-102.

Effective July 1, 2024, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded pursuant to the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise the Act will not become effective and will be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2024.

***Act 562; SB 328***

This Act revises provisions related to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The Act revises provisions related to edibility and full-time employment qualifications for members, increased and delinquent dues, the timing of payments from the fund, the purchase of creditable service, benefit calculations, and the refunding of contributions in certain circumstances. The Act further revises the powers, duties, an appointment of the board of trustees and establishes an executive director for such board to administer the fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Chapter 47-17.

Effective July 1, 2024, contingent upon concurrent funding.

***Act 587; HB 481***

This Act amends the "Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law" by establishing certain requirements of persons managing assets of retirement systems, including the obligation to discharge their duties solely in the interests of plan participants and their beneficiaries. The Act also provides requirements of such persons when executing voting proxies and permits the delegation

of investment management responsibilities by such persons to qualified professional investment personnel.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-20-88.

Effective July 1, 2024, and requires retirement systems to comply with the provisions of the Act by November 1, 2024.

***Act 396; HB 825***

This Act requires certain counties that comprise single county judicial circuits where the county site is located in an unincorporated area of the county and the county governing authority has constructed one or more permanent satellite courthouses within the county to supplement the retirement benefits paid to the circuit's district attorneys. The Act provides for a formula to be used to determine such benefits. The Act authorizes state court judges of Fulton County to participate in such county's defined contribution plan.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-23-50 and 47-23-106.

Effective July 1, 2024, subject to concurrent funding as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law."

**TITLE 48  
REVENUE AND TAXATION**

***Act 408; HB 1162***

This Act provides for the revision of the terms "Internal Revenue Code" and "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" and thereby incorporates certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-1-2.

Effective April 22, 2024 and applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

***Act 379; HB 581***

This Act provides for a statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption subject to the timely ratification of a constitutional amendment and provides procedures for opting out of such homestead exemption at the local level. The Act allows surviving spouses to continue receiving such homestead exemption so long as each continues to reside in his or her respective homestead. The Act provides requirements for ad valorem property tax bills, revises the required contents of annual notices of assessment, and revises requirements for notices of current assessment. The Act provides for minimum mandatory reappraisal of parcels at least every three years. The Act provides that county boards of tax assessors shall have the right to appeal concerning sales ratio studies under certain conditions and revises the limitation on increasing new valuations established through appeals or agreements. The Act revises provisions for the maximum allowable sales and use tax rate and authorizes a new local option sales tax for the purpose of property tax relief in those political subdivisions that have in effect a base year value or adjusted base year value homestead exemption. The Act provides for authorization of tax and applicability, for local authorization and referenda, for imposition and termination of tax, for administration and collection of tax, for returns, and for

distribution of tax proceeds. The Act provides for an effective date, applicability, and a contingent, automatic repeal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-2, 48-5-264, 48-5-274, 48-5-299, 48-5-306, 48-5-311, and 48-8-6 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-34, 48-5-44.2, and Article 2B of O.C.G.A. Chapter 48-8.

Effective January 1, 2025, and applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025; provided, however, that, if a constitutional amendment which becomes effective on such date and which authorizes the General Assembly to provide by general law for a homestead exemption that applies statewide, but that permits political subdivisions to individually opt out of such homestead exemption, has not been ratified, then this Act shall stand automatically repealed on such date.

***Act 581; HB 808***

Subject to the timely ratification of a constitutional amendment, this Act increases the state-wide ad valorem tax exemption from \$7,5000.00 to \$20,000.00 for all tangible personal property of a taxpayer, except motor vehicles, trailers, and mobile homes. The Act provides for compliance with constitutional requirements and provides for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-42.1.

Effective May 6, 2024; provided, however, that, if the referendum provided for in this Act has not been ratified at the November 5, 2024, election, then this Act shall stand automatically repealed on January 1, 2025.

***Veto No. 5; HB 1019***

This Act provides for an increase in the statewide homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for state, county, and school purposes, except taxes levied by municipalities for school purposes and except to pay interest on and to retire bonded indebtedness, from \$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00, subject to approval by voters. The ballot language for the referendum authorizing such increased homestead exemption uses the amount of \$10,000.00 and not \$4,000.00.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-44.

***Act 598; HB 1181***

This Act imposes limits on and reduces the number of subsequent years in which certain unused income tax credits may be allowed against income tax liability in such subsequent years. The Act also limits the number of years in which certain income tax credits may be allowed. Additionally, the Act provides for the automatic repeal of certain income tax credits, excise tax exemptions, tax exemptions for certain insurance companies, ad valorem title tax fee exemptions for disabled first responders, and sales and use tax exemptions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 3-6-70, 33-8-13, 48-5C-1, 48-7-29.4, 48-7-29.7, 48-7-29.9, 48-7-29.12 through 48-7-29.14, 48-7-29.16, 48-7-29.17, 48-7-29.21, 48-7-29.24, 48-7-29.25, 48-7-40 through 48-7-40.5, 48-7-40.7 through 48-7-40.9, 48-7-40.12, 48-7-40.15 through 48-7-40.16, 48-7-40.20, 48-7-40.22, 48-7-40.25 through 48-7-40.30, 48-7-40.32, 48-7-40.34, 48-8-3, and 48-11-2.

Effective January 1, 2025. Part I of this Act shall be applicable to the unused tax credits generated during the taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

***Act 378; HB 1015***

This Act decreases the Georgia individual income tax rate from 5.49 percent to 5.39 percent. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-20. Effective July 1, 2024, and shall apply to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

***Act 376; HB 1023***

This Act provides for a match of the rate of the income tax imposed on corporations to that imposed on individual taxpayers. The Act further provides for an extension of one month of the time within which a corporation shall not be subject to penalty due to late filing. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-21, 48-7-23, and 48-7-57. Effective July 1, 2024, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

***Act 610; SB 344***

This Act excludes from a corporation's taxable income any grant or subgrant provided pursuant to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program or the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, received for the purpose of making investments in broadband infrastructure but only to the extent that such grant or subgrant is included in the corporation's federal taxable income. The Act further provides that such exclusion shall only be applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and prior to January 1, 2029. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-21. Effective July 1, 2024, and is applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

***Act 377; HB 1021***

This Act increases the income tax exemption for each dependent from \$3,000 to \$4,000. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-26. Effective July 1, 2024, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

***Act 386; HB 82***

This Act amends the definition for the term rural county and provides for a definition of the terms dentist, physician, and rural health care professional. The Act limits eligibility for the rural physician tax credit to those individuals qualifying as a rural physician on or before May 15, 2024. The Act creates a new tax credit for rural health care professionals, applicable to both rural physicians and dentists. The Act provides for monthly proration and provides for conditions and limitations relative to such tax credit. The Act provides that the aggregate amount of such tax credit

shall not exceed \$2 million for any calendar year. The Act also provides for an automatic repeal on December 31, 2029.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29.26.  
Effective May 15, 2024 and applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

***Act 375; SB 496***

This Act revises provisions concerning income tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures by expanding the criteria of what constitutes a historic structure and by extending the sunset date applicable to the issuance of such tax credits. The Act also extends the sunset date applicable to revitalization zone tax credits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-29.8 and 48-7-40.32.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 497; SB 340***

This Act exempts diesel exhaust fluid for agricultural uses only from state sales and use taxes. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.3.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 578; HB 946***

This Act requires intergovernmental agreements between counties and qualified municipalities for collection of the special district mass transportation sales and use tax. The Act provides for the rate of the tax. The Act provides for the distribution of tax proceeds.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-8-260, 48-8-262, 48-8-263, 48-8-264, 48-8-267, and 48-8-269.5.

Effective May 6, 2024. Not applicable to or affecting any intergovernmental agreement entered into prior to such effective date.

***Act 572; HB 461***

This Act requires that the proceeds of local government regulatory fees be used to pay for regulatory activity and not general operations of the local government. The Act provides that shooting galleries, firearm ranges, firearms dealers, and registered investment advisors may not be subject to such regulatory fees. The Act revises provisions related to the calculation of local regulatory fees for certain construction projects.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-9.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 49**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**

***Act 604; SB 35***

This Act provides for coverage of continuous glucose monitors for recipients of Medicaid in this state meeting certain requirements.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 49-4-159.4.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 373; SB 342***

This Act provides for an exemption to the prohibition on the Department of Human Services from disclosing information obtained from another state relating to child abuse and neglect when such information is used for locating, recovering, or providing services to a child suspected as being missing or a victim of sexual exploitation. The Act adds the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to those permitted to access records of reports of child abuse and missing or exploited children.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 49-5-40 and 49-5-41.  
Effective April 8, 2024.

***Act 467; SB 387***

This Act provides that people under the age of 18 who are homeless or in the legal custody of the Division of Family and Children Services shall not be required to have a parent or guardian sign and verify applications for identification cards. The Act further waives the fees collected on such identifications. The Act authorizes the Department of Human Services to establish programs that provide such children or youth entering foster care a photograph of themselves and a program to provide youths over the age of 13 with identification cards.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-5-100, 40-5-103, and 49-5-8.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 405; HB 1078***

This Act authorizes the Department of Community Health to establish and implement the Georgia Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) as part of the state's medical assistance program.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-6-82 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 49-6-100 through 49-6-103.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 548; HB 571***

This Act provides for the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan Advisory Council, beginning January, 1, 2027, to submit to the Governor an amended state plan every four

years for review and approval. The Act also provides for such advisory council, beginning January 1, 2025, to submit to the Governor and to the General Assembly, an interim progress report every four years. Such report shall provide, in detail, the latest data and statistics showing the impact of dementia on the State of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-6-92.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 381; SB 480***

This Act provides for student loan repayment for mental health and substance use professionals who provide services to underserved youth or practice in certain unserved areas of the state. The Act provides for applications, eligibility requirements, repayment agreements, and rules and regulations related to such student loan repayment.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 49-10-7.

Effective July 1, 2024.

**TITLE 50  
STATE GOVERNMENT**

***Act 366; HB 915***

This Act amends the 2023-2024 "General Appropriations Act" to change certain appropriations for State Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Effective February 29, 2024.

***Act 709; HB 916***

This Act, the "General Appropriations Act," provides for the operation of state government for State Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Effective May 7, 2024.

***Act 356; HB 30***

This Act provides for the "definition of antisemitism" and requires certain local and state agencies to consider such definition in the enforcement of laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. The Act further requires such agencies to consider such definition in determining whether to seek certain enhanced criminal penalties. The Act provides for construction and nonseverability.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-1-12.

Effective January 31, 2024.

***Act 593; HB 1053***

This Act prohibits Georgia governmental agencies from accepting certain federal or foreign digital currency as payment. The Act further prohibits Georgia governmental agencies from participating in the testing of such currency.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-1-12.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 591; HB 1026***

This Act enacts "Richard H. Smith Georgia CHIPS Advancement in Research and Economic Development Act," which provides for grant and loan programs to attract semiconductor and related advanced technologies companies to locate in the state and to provide research and development incentives. The Act further creates the Governor's CHIPS Economic Development Fund and the Research and Development and Advanced Packaging Incentive Fund, and establishes the Georgia CHIPS and Advanced Technology Consortium as an advisory body for administering such programs. The Act also designates the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby in Lyons, Georgia, as the official soap box derby of the State of Georgia.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 50-3-92 and 50-34-21.

Effective May 6, 2024.

***Act 495; HB 1341***

This Act designates white shrimp as the official state crustacean.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-3-92.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 492; HB 1041***

This Act increases the Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority's bonding capacity from \$50 million to \$400 million. The Act authorizes such authority to condemn public property to the extent allowed by law.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-7-55.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Veto No. 7; HB 1192***

This Act provides for the temporary suspension of the issuance of new certificates of exemption from the sales and use taxes on the sale and lease of high-technology data center equipment to be incorporated or used in a high-technology data center, provided that such center meets a minimum investment threshold and provides for new quality jobs. The Act provides that any suspension shall be determined by the commissioner based on findings of the Special Commission on Data Center Energy Planning. The Act further provides for the creation of the Special Commission on Data Center Energy Planning.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 50-7-120 through 50-7-124.

***Act 418; SB 362***

This Act provides certain employer requirements, related to employee representation by a labor organization, for eligibility for certain economic development incentives from the State. The Act prohibits such employers from voluntarily granting recognition rights for the employer's employees solely and exclusively on the basis of signed labor organization authorization cards if the selection of a bargaining representative may instead be conducted through a secret ballot election; voluntarily disclosing an employee's personal contact information to a labor organization, or a third party acting on behalf of a labor organization, without the employees written consent; and requiring a subcontractor to engage in such prohibited activities. The Act further provides for penalties, applicability for contracts executed on or after January 1, 2025, and investigative authority.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-8-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-7-19.

Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 357; SB 26***

This Act enacts the "Georgia Electric Vehicle Future Act" and authorizes the Department of Economic Development to establish, implement, and support a state-wide electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing program for the promotion of electric vehicle and component manufacturing in Georgia to advance the state's interest in developing, marketing, promoting, or recruiting the growth of the EV industry through continued investment or job creation. The Act provides that the program shall not consider, evaluate, or make recommendations relative to the sale, distribution, or servicing of EVs. The Act creates the Georgia Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Commission as a body corporate and politic and an instrumentality of the state with designated public purposes and powers. The Act provides for the purposes, powers, and membership of such commission. The Act also permits meetings and public hearings of local workforce development boards, development authorities, community improvement districts, hospital authorities, and boards of trustees or governing bodies of certain retirement systems to be held by teleconference. The Act requires that such teleconference meetings shall be open to the public in certain instances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-7-19.

Effective February 13, 2024.

***Act 613; SB 414***

This Act enacts the "Personal Privacy Protection Act" which prohibits a public agency from requiring any individual or nonprofit organization to provide or release personal information. The Act further prohibits a public agency from releasing, publicizing, or disclosing personal information in its possession, or requesting or requiring a current or prospective contractor or grantee with the public agency to provide a list of nonprofit organizations to which the current or prospective contractor or grantee has provided financial or nonfinancial support. The Act provides for exceptions, including but not limited to certain statutorily required reports and disclosures. The Act further provides for enforcement through civil actions and penalty for violation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-18-72 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-18-160.  
Effective July 1, 2024.

***Act 582; SB 324***

This Act creates within the office of the Secretary of State a victim centered address confidentiality program to provide certain services and information to qualifying individuals who affirm that the disclosure of their actual addresses will increase the risk that they will be threatened or physically harmed by another person or that they have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. Such services include, but are not necessarily limited to, allowing program participants to use the office of the Secretary of State as an agent for purposes of receiving mail and service of process. The Act provides for addresses of program participants to be kept confidential by government entities and utilities owned by government entities. The Act provides for applications to participate in the victim centered address confidentiality program. The Act requires the office of the Secretary of State to certify program participants, to issue confidentiality cards to program participants, to classify eligible addresses as confidential, and to provide certain information to program participants. The Act provides for renewal and cancellation of certifications and for withdrawal from the program by participants. The Act provides that confidential addresses shall not be a public record and shall be exempt from disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act or any similar law, subject to exceptions provide for in the Act. The Act requires the office of the Secretary of State to develop and offer a training program for victim advocates to obtain program certification. The Act also revises the definition of "civil family violence order" for purposes of the criminal offense of violating a family violence order to include dating violence protective orders, substantially revises the definition of "family violence," and adds other new definitions, including "dating violence." The Act also provides for counter petition limitations for the respondent in protective order proceedings.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-94 and 16-5-95 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 50-18-150 through 50-18-155.

Effective May 6, 2024. Code Sections 50-18-150 through 50-18-155 effective July 1, 2026, contingent upon appropriations by the General Assembly.

***Act 586; HB 353***

This Act revises various provisions of the "Georgia Lottery for Education Act," by revising provisions relating to the shortfall reserves maintained by the Lottery for Education Account and making various changes related to bona fide coin operated amusement machines relative to administration and actions, including authorization for nonreloadable gift cards to be allowed as a legal form of redemption on such machines.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-27-9, 50-27-13, 50-27-70, 50-27-71, 50-27-73, 50-27-84, 50-27-86, 50-27-87.1, and 50-27-102 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 50-27-71.1 and 50-27-81.1.

Effective March 6, 2024.

**TITLE 51  
TORTS**

***Act 590; HB 994***

This Act limits liability for businesses with proper insurance that rent, lease, or charter boats. The Act provides for minimum insurance coverage for such businesses in order to qualify for such limited liability. The Act requires public display of and agreement to a specific warning statement relating to such limitation on liability.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 52-7-9 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 51-1-22.1.  
Effective May 6, 2024.

***Act 568; HB 1409***

This Act provides that in an action involving a mental health care liability claim, no mental health care provider shall be held liable unless it is proven that the mental health care provider's actions showed gross negligence and no mental health care provider shall be held liable for punitive damages unless the claimant proves that the actions of such provider showed willful and wanton misconduct, reckless infliction of harm, or intentional infliction of harm. The Act provides for jury instructions.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 51-1-29.7.

Effective July 1, 2024. Applies to causes of action arising on and after July 1, 2024 (applicability codified).

***Act 422; SB 430***

This Act provides for a rebuttable presumption of assumption of risk in an action involving a COVID-19 liability claim against an individual or entity or healthcare facility or healthcare provider, repealing any warning requirement.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 51-16-3 and 51-16-4.  
Effective April 22, 2024.

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