



Georgia House of Representatives

SESSION REPORT

House Budget & Research Office
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House Communications Office
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2015 Session Report

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

HB 397 State Soil and Water Conservation Commission; revise provisions; provisions

By: Rep. David Knight (130th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation establishes the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission as an attached agency to the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Commencing with the appointments for 2015, the governor shall appoint one at-large member from each of the five soil and water conservation district regions to serve on the commission. Such initial appointments shall be for terms of one, two, three, four and five years, respectively. Thereafter, successors shall be appointed for five-year terms of office.

The Commission may perform such acts, hold public hearings, and promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the execution of its functions. The commission shall have duties and powers to: offer assistance to the supervisors of the soil and water conservation districts in carrying out their powers and programs; keep the district supervisors informed of the activities and experiences of all the other districts and to facilitate the interchange of advice, experience, and cooperation; coordinate the programs of the districts by advice and consultation; and secure cooperation and assistance of the United States and any of its agencies.

The commission may also receive grants from any agency of the United States government or any agency of this state as well as make grants to districts, municipalities, counties or state agencies in Georgia to fund up to 20 percent of the cost of obtaining permits for and constructing improvements to any dam originally constructed or financially assisted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service or to carry out other purposes of this article.

The "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia" is defined as the published guidance of the commission governing the design and practices to be utilized in the protection of the state's natural resources from erosion and sedimentation which shall be based foremost upon sound engineering principles and repeatable bench and field testing of structural and vegetative best management practices and which shall have the annual approval of the Erosion and Sediment Control Overview Council established pursuant to Code Section 12-7-7.1."

Section Four of the bill creates the Erosion and Sediment Control Overview Council, which approves the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia prior to publication by the commission. The council also provides guidance on the best management practices for implementing any erosion and sediment control plan. The council shall be comprised of nine appointed members with one member being a member from the House of Representatives, one member of the State Senate who shall be appointed by the Lt. Governor and seven members appointed by the Governor and serve at the pleasure thereof including one member from the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources and the State Road and Tollway Authority, a professional engineer licensed to practice in this state from a private engineering consulting firm practicing environmental engineering, one representative of the highway contracting industry certified by the Department of Transportation, one representative of the electric utility industry and a chairperson. The council shall meet prior to January 1, 2016 to approve the most current version of the manual and may also meet as necessary to approve changes or updates to the manual prior to its implementation.

The council may develop recommendations governing the preparation of plans and the installation and maintenance of best management practices. If a dispute arises concerning the requirements of this Code section, the Erosion and Sediment Control Overview Council shall mediate the dispute. These changes are effective on December 31, 2015.

SB 148 Commerce and Trade; transfer powers and responsibilities of Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs to Attorney General's office

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) *Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee*

Final Bill Summary: SB 148 dissolves the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs and transfers the responsibilities to the Georgia Attorney General's Office. The bill empowers the attorney general as the "administrator" with authority for administering the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975,' the 'Buying Services Act of 1975', the Georgia Lemon Law and violations of the 'Georgia Land Sales Act'. The 15-member Consumer Advisory Board will continue to advise and recommend reforms to the attorney general and make an annual report to the governor.

In conjunction with administering the 'Fair Business Practice' and 'Buying Services' acts, the bill provides that the rules, orders, and regulations in force at present remain in force and effect until repealed, amended, or superseded by rules or regulations adopted by the attorney general.

The legislation repeals provisions relating to the appointment of a referee to conduct hearings and appeal to the Fulton County Superior Court, but it provides for judicial review in situations where a person has exhausted all administrative remedies.

SB 148 gives the attorney general oversight and enforcement authority related to the regulation of: beauty pageants; unfair and deceptive practices toward the elderly; business administration; and the enforcement of the 'Fair Business Practices Act' on poultry contract growers and producers, respectively.

The bill removes references to the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs in provisions relating to: regulation of unbundled natural gas services; provisions relating to rules governing natural gas marketers' terms of service; definitions regarding charitable solicitations; consumer information disclosure statements and bills for natural gas service; the Public Service Commission's authority over certificated marketers of natural gas; and energy and conservation assistance to residential customers.

SB 175 Animal Protection; require inspection of certain animals entering into the state

By: Sen. Ellis Black (8th) *Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee*

Final Bill Summary: The legislation revises Code Section 4-11-11 of the O.C.G.A. to make it unlawful for any person to ship or import any equines, poultry, livestock or birds into this state unless accompanied by an official interstate or international certificate of veterinary inspection. Additionally, it shall be unlawful to ship or import any other animal which the commissioner of Agriculture has determined may pose a significant risk of disease to domestic animals or humans, unless such animal is accompanied by a certificate. The commissioner shall maintain on the department website a listing of all animals determined to pose significant risk of disease. No certificate shall be required for poultry originating from flocks participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Appropriations Committee

HB 75 Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) *Through the Appropriations Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 75 is the Amended Fiscal Year 2015 state budget, which adjusts state funds by \$276.1 million to a total of \$21.1 billion for the year ending June 30, 2015; the increase includes \$191.7 million for the mid-year adjustment for K-12 Education. The bill and budget highlights may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website: <http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/>

HB 76 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) *Through the Appropriations Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 76 is the \$21.8 billion state budget plan for Fiscal Year 2016 beginning July 1, 2015. In the budget, 55 percent of state revenues are designated for education. Health and human services agencies are authorized to receive 22.2 percent of available funds and 8.7 percent of revenues are allocated for public safety agencies. The bill and budget highlights may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website: <http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/>

HB 279 Public officers and employees; annual salaries of Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals, superior court judges and district attorneys; repeal provisions

By: Rep. Jay Powell (171st)

Through the Appropriations Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 279 provides for a base salary increase for the justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court of Appeals, judges of the Superior Courts, district attorneys, and circuit public defenders, a state salary supplement for specified judges of the superior courts, specified district attorneys, and specified circuit public defenders, a per diem to be provided to specified justices of the Supreme Court and specified judges of the Court of Appeals, the addition of three judgeships in the Court of Appeals, an additional Superior Court judgeship in the Western Circuit, and the creation of the Judicial, District Attorney, and Circuit Public Defender Compensation Commission.

The justices of the Supreme Court base salaries are increased to \$175,600; the judges of the Court of Appeals salaries are increased to \$174,500; the judges of the Superior Courts salaries are increased to \$126,265; the district attorney's salaries are increased to \$120,072; and the circuit public defender's salaries are increased to \$99,526. If funds are appropriated, all state salary supplements and salary enhancements are effective January 1, 2016.

All Superior Court judges, district attorneys, and circuit public defenders in a circuit with a drug court division, mental health court division, or veterans' court division accountability court shall receive a state salary supplement of \$6,000. The bill also states that state salary supplements shall not be included when a local law provides for a salary to be based on a percentage of a Superior Court judge's salary, district attorney's salary, or a circuit public defender's salary.

If a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Court of Appeals resides 50 miles or more from the judicial building in Atlanta, that Justice or Judge shall receive the same daily expense allowance as members of the General Assembly for not more than 30 days per term of court.

Three additional Court of Appeals judgeships are created. The new judgeships shall be effective January 1, 2016.

A fourth Superior Court judgeship is created in the Western Circuit. The new judgeship shall be effective April 1, 2016.

The Judicial, District Attorney, and Circuit Public Defender Compensation Commission is created. The commission shall be composed of five members to be appointed by the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The commission shall meet not less than twice a year and issue its first report on or before December 15, 2015, a second report on or before December 15, 2016, and at least every two years thereafter.

Banks & Banking Committee

HB 184 Banking and finance; extensively revise Title 7; provisions

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) *Through the Banks & Banking Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 184 amends Title 7 in five main respects. First, the bill eliminates the duplicate and triplicate filing requirements for articles of incorporation, articles of amendment, and articles of conversion. Second, the bill prohibits a director of a credit union from engaging in certain transactions with the credit union, authorizes the Department of Banking and Finance to appoint a conservator to failing credit unions, and adds regulatory procedures for merging and converting credit unions. Third, the bill eases the licensing and transaction notification requirements for individuals selling checks and money orders. Fourth, the bill permits the Department of Banking and Finance to suspend a mortgage originator's license if the lender is no longer sponsored by a licensed mortgage broker. Fifth, the bill adds charter approval requirements and merchant fund procedures for merchant acquiring limited purpose banks.

HB 299 Contracts; provide for definitions; provisions

By: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (30th) *Through the Banks & Banking Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 299 amends Chapter 1 of Title 13 to allow lenders to charge a "convenience fee," subject to the debit and credit card acceptance agreement, to debtors paying off loans through credit cards, debit cards, and other electronic payment methods. The bill provides that lenders are only permitted to charge a convenience fee for industrial loans, retail installment and home solicitation sale contracts, motor vehicle financing contracts, and insurance premium finance agreements. Lenders charging a convenience fee must clearly disclose the fee and provide other payment options to debtors.

SB 95 Real Estate Brokers and Salespersons; provide for acceptance of funds in a separate, federally insured account at financial institution by such persons

By: Sen. Michael Williams (27th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 96 amends Code Section 43-40-20, relating to trust or escrow accounts for real estate businesses, and Code Section 43-40-25, relating to unfair trade practices, by broadening the types of accounts and institutions in which brokers can deposit client trust funds. The law currently requires brokers to deposit down payments, earnest money, security deposits, and other client trust funds in a federally-insured bank checking account in Georgia. SB 96 provides brokers with the flexibility to deposit customer funds into any type of account in any financial institution in Georgia.

Code Revision Committee**HB 252 J. Calvin Hill, Jr., Act; enact**

By: Rep. Michael Caldwell (20th) Through the Code Revision Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 252, the "J. Calvin Hill, Jr., Act", repeals or updates obsolete, outdated and unconstitutional Code provisions and terminology.

Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee**HB 180 War Veterans' Home; residency requirements to qualify for admission; revise**

By: Rep. E. Culver "Rusty" Kidd (145th) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 180 amends the residency qualifications for a veteran to be admitted to the Georgia State War Veteran's Home to require that the veteran has resided within the state for two consecutive years or five years within the last 15 years. Current law requires that for admittance, the veteran must have resided within the state for the previous five years.

SB 69 State Defense Force; remove restrictions; rights of public officers and employees to be absent for service; reemployment rights

By: Sen. Judson Hill (32nd) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 69 extends the same employment protections for State Defense Force members that exist for active-duty National Guard members. The legislation prohibits a State Defense Force member from being terminated from a position of employment due to service-related duties.

SB 203 Georgia World War I Centennial Commission; create; membership, powers, and duties

By: Sen. Hunter Hill (6th) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 203 creates the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission to plan for the upcoming World War I Centennial. The commission is composed of six members, two appointed by the governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House, respectively. Funds expended by the commission may only be obtained through private donations.

Economic Development & Tourism Committee**HB 510 Georgia Sports Commission Fund; create; provisions - VETO**

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 510 amends Chapter 34 of Title 50 to provide for the creation of the Georgia Sports Commission Fund. More specifically, the bill allows a registered sports commission or a local government on behalf of a registered sports commission to apply for and receive grants from the Georgia Sports Commission Fund for expenses related to the registered commission's sporting activity. The bill permits the Georgia Sports Commission Fund to receive funding from any source allowable by law except for funding from settlements involving lawsuits against tobacco companies. The bill also outlines the fund's accounting procedures and procedures for the appointment of the fund's committee.

SB 5 Georgia Ports Authority; provide for powers; acceptance of loans/grants from United States upon certain terms and conditions

By: Sen. Bill Cowser (46th) Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 5 reasserts the power of the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) to comply with the terms of federal loans and grants, explicitly including the power to provide indemnification on behalf of the GPA or any other state agency or instrumentality that is an equal participant as a sponsor of a congressionally authorized civil works project. This language is viewed as a necessary measure for the receipt of more than \$400 million in federal funding for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.

SR 26 Joint House and Senate Coastal Greenway Study Committee; create

By: Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee

Final Bill Summary: SR 26 creates the Joint House and Senate Coastal Greenway Study Committee. A paved trail from Savannah to St. Marys, to be known as the Coastal Georgia Greenway, has been proposed. SR 26 creates a 13-member committee to study and report on the conditions, needs, issues, and problems of the trail. The committee will be composed of four senators, four house members, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, the Director of the Department of Economic Development, and the Executive Director of the Coastal Georgia Greenway.

Education Committee**HB 62 Special needs students; waive certain qualifications for a student whose parent is an active duty military service member stationed in Georgia within the previous year; provide**

By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 62 exempts students whose parent/s are active duty military from having to meet the requirement of being a resident of Georgia for one year to receive the special needs scholarship

HB 91 Education; eliminate Georgia High School Graduation Test; provisions

By: Rep. Brooks Coleman (97th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 91 would eliminate the Georgia High School Graduation Test as a requirement to obtain a high school diploma. This bill would retroactively allow past students, who fulfilled all of the other requirements for graduation, to petition their local school board in order to obtain a degree from their high school.

HB 131 The End to Cyberbullying Act; enact

By: Rep. Pam Dickerson (113th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 131 changes public school policies on bullying to include bullying through the use of electronic communication. Bullying would now also be prohibited through the use of technological equipment that is the property of the local school system.

HB 164 Professional Standards Commission; professional learning requirements for certification renewal; extend the suspension

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 164 would extend the suspension of professional learning requirements for certification renewal by the Professional Standards Commission from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017. This bill would apply to already certified personnel and paraprofessionals.

HB 198 Jason Flatt Act-Georgia; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 198 creates the Jason Flatt Act-Georgia. This act requires all certificated public

school personnel receive annual training in suicide awareness and prevention. Local school systems must adopt a policy on student suicide prevention and identify appropriate materials to fulfill training requirements.

HB 209 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act; prior school year attendance requirement to prior semester; revise

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 209 amends the Special Needs Scholarship to require annual notice of the options available under the scholarship to parents of children with a Individualized Education Program annually.

HB 313 Public employees; limited paid leave for purpose of promoting education; authorize

By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 313 gives full-time, non-temporary employees of the State of Georgia or any branch, department, board, bureau, or commission of the state the right to apply for up to eight hours of paid leave per calendar year in order to promote education in Georgia.

HB 372 Utopian Academy for the Arts Act; enact

By: Rep. Christian Coomer (14th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 372, the 'Utopian Academy for the Arts Act,' would prohibit municipalities, counties, or any other subdivision of the state from requiring charter schools, which have passed the Department of Education facility inspection and hold a valid certificate of occupancy, to obtain any additional license to operate.

HB 401 Early care and learning; revise terminology relating to restrictions on persons with criminal records with regard to child, family or group-care facilities; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 401 updates and revises Code relating to the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. This legislation makes administrative changes to improve the efficiency, operations, and communication between the department and child care providers.

HB 502 Elementary and secondary education; update and clarify provisions and repeal obsolete provisions

By: Rep. Mike Dudgeon (25th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 502 repeals, amends, and revises Title 20:

1. Repeals subsection (d) of Code Section 20-2-51. Subsection (d) prohibits any county board of education member in a county with a population between 500,000 and 600,000, according to most recent census data, from holding another elective government office.

1A. Changes the title of status quo school systems currently in law and replaces it with electing not to request increased flexibility pursuant to this article.

1B. Changes the title of IE2 school systems to strategic waivers school systems.

2. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-82 by removing the ability of the State Board to offer waivers of teacher evaluations for local school systems, as defined in O.C.G.A. 20-2-210.

2A. Changes the title of IE2 school systems to strategic waivers school systems.

3. and 4. Clarifies that the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.

5. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-140.1 by adding that students can register for online learning through the clearing-house established pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.3.

6. Revises language reflecting content standards, deletes language such as competencies and core curriculum.

6A. Allows for local boards of education to require all students to complete and pass a course covering the founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America before graduation. The code section also specifics what the curriculum concerning the philosophy and principles should include.

7. Clarifies the state mandates content standards and makes first grade readiness report by the State School Superintendent optional instead of mandatory.

8. Clarifies that the state mandates content standards and repeals language regarding the middle grades program.

9. 10. 11. and 12. Revises language reflecting content standards, deletes language such as competencies and core curriculum.

13. 14. 15. and 16. Repeals all language pertaining to the middle grades program.
17. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.
18. Amends Code §20-2-205 to require all virtual school teachers, including out of state, to get certified by the Professional Standards Commission if they provide instruction to public schools in GA.
19. Amends Code §20-2-241 allowing the State School Superintendent to authorize the CFO to enter into contracts of \$50,000 or less on behalf of DOE.
20. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.
21. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-82 by removing the ability of the State Board to offer waivers of teacher evaluations for local school systems, as defined in O.C.G.A. 20-2-210.
22. Adds a new Code section, §20-2-244.1 which sets out definitions for students, substantial hardship, variance, and waiver. This Code section also outlines the authority of the State Board of Education to grant waivers and variances.
23. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.
24. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum. Revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-281 as it relates to assessments. Writing performance shall be assessed, at a minimum, for students in grades 5, 8, and 11, but additional grades levels may be designated by the State Board of Education. The state board will develop or adopt an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities pursuant to Code Section 20-2-140. Deletes outdated language in section (k)(2). Allows kindergarten teachers the opportunity to participate in a staff development program regarding tests. Adds end-of-course assessments for science and social studies for grades 3-8. Revised language from 'tests' to 'instruments'. Amends section (c) to clarify that State Board of Education has the authority to condition the awarding of high school diploma on end-of-course assessments. Allows the State Board of Education to consider an approved COMPASS score when considering a waiver for the high school graduation test. Deletes language referencing the High School Graduation Test.
25. Deletes language that was specific to the middle school program as both the middle school program and middle grades program are being funded in the same category now. Allows 'satisfactory business experience' to be considered as a minimum qualification for the school administrative manager position.
26. Reflecting the Executive Order by the Governor in 2013 to move the Governor's Honors Program to the Office of Student Achievement.
27. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.
28. Revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-315 by making the publication and distribution of the GaDOE annual report regarding expenditures and participation for each gender optional.
29. O.C.G.A. is amended to reflect current funding. Private and home-schooled students may enroll at no cost if appropriations are provided. If appropriations are not provided they may enroll at a cost not to exceed \$250 per semester. Local systems are responsible for paying for their enrolled students, and if that student enrolls in more than the maximum number of courses, then the student is subject to the cost of tuition not to exceed \$250 per semester.
30. and 31. Eliminate duplicate language from two online clearing-house bills passing in the same year.
32. Reserved.
33. and 34. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.
35. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-690, which would require the declaration of intent to utilize the home study program to also include the local school system in which the home study program is located.
36. and 37. If local employers do not contribute their share to the health insurance fund, the State Board of Education will only withhold enough funds to pay the obligation, rather than withholding all the funds. Those funds will be transmitted to the Department of Community Health.
38. Currently, the local board has until April 15th to serve a teacher with a nonrenewal notice and teachers have until May 1st to inform the local board of their intentions not to renew. This section extends those deadlines from April 15th to May 15th and from May 1st to June 1st.
- 38A. This Code section encourages school systems to pronounce the first full week in September, which includes Constitution Day, as Celebrate Freedom Week.
39. This section amends the O.C.G.A. to give the State Board of Education the authority to affirm, reverse, remand, or refer to mediation a local board tribunal decision that has been appealed to the state board.
40. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2065 so that charter schools cannot waive the teacher performance evaluation provisions of O.C.G.A. 20-2-210.
41. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2067.1 to change the date that charter schools are required to submit their annual report detailing progress.
42. Revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-2084 by increasing the time frame a local board has to approve or deny a charter school petition to 90 days. A local board currently has 60 days to approve or deny a petition.
43. Repeals an obsolete population bill.

HR 303 State Board of Education; develop and implement comprehensive civics education curricula; urge
By: Rep. Debbie Buckner (137th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 303 urges the State Board of Education to develop and implement comprehensive civics education curricula in order to improve students' civic knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

HR 765 House Study Committee on School Counseling and the Role of School Counselors; create

By: Rep. Joyce Chandler (105th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 765 creates the House Study Committee on School Counseling and the Role of School Counselors.

SB 2 Education; student who completes certain requirements relating to postsecondary coursework awarded a high school diploma

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 2 allows local boards of education to award a high school diploma to an enrolled student who meets four requirements: 1) completes rigorous coursework at a postsecondary institution; 2) is 16 years or older and has completed at least two English classes, two math courses, two science courses, two social studies courses, and one health and physical education class; 3) has received a score of admission acceptable on the readiness assessment required by the postsecondary institution; and 4) completes an (a) associate degree program, (b) a technical college diploma program and all postsecondary academic education, technical education and training prerequisites for any required certifications or licenses to work in the field, or (c) at least two technical college certificates of credit programs in one specific career pathway, all postsecondary academic education, and technical education and training prerequisites or licenses required to work in the field.

SB 89 "Digital Classroom Act"; require instructional materials and content to be in digital or electronic format after a certain date

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 89, the 'Digital Classroom Act', allows local boards to use digital and electronic software instead of physical textbooks. The bill also encourages local boards, by July 1, 2020, to purchase all instructional materials in digital or electronic format and to provide an electronic device for students starting in 3rd grade.

The bill also creates the 'Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act' to require the Department of Education to create a centralized data system that would be available to students and their parents, authorized staff, and authorized teachers and administrators. The bill allows parents the right to review their child's education record including the student data recorded.

SB 132 "Quality Basic Education Act"; program for high school students to attend postsecondary institutions; provisions; 'Move on When Ready Act'

By: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 132 amends §20-2-161.3 to be referred to as the 'Move on When Ready Act'. The bill allows all high school students, whether in public or private school, to apply to a postsecondary school in order to take one or more classes; if accepted, the student can get credit for the class at both the student's high school and the postsecondary institution.

SB 133 Opportunity School District; establishment; provide for definitions; supervision of public elementary and secondary schools that are failing

By: Sen. Butch Miller (49th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 133 is the enabling legislation for SR 287 and establishes the "Opportunity School District" (OSD) within the Office of Student Achievement. The superintendent of the OSD is appointed by and answers solely to the governor, but the Senate confirms the new superintendent. The OSD may select up to 20 failing schools per year to administer, with no more than 100 schools under its supervision at any time. Failing schools are those which have earned an "F" rating for three consecutive years. The schools may be taken over for: direct management by the OSD; shared management with the local board; reconstitution as an OSD Charter School; or closed if it is not enrolled at full capacity. The OSD superintendent is given the ability to retain or let go of any leader, teacher, or staff member at an opportunity school. Any teacher who is not retained will still be an employee of the local board. Opportunity schools which become OSD charter schools will be monitored by the State Charter Schools Commission. OSD's superintendent can select, approve, or remove the

school principal and the governing board members for OSD charter schools. This Act begins with the 2017-2018 school year, if the constitutional amendment is ratified.

SB 156 State Charter Schools Commission; authorize to establish a nonprofit foundation

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 156 allows the State Charter School Commission to set up a non-profit foundation. Donations to the foundation may be used by the commission, but may not be used for "direct employee costs", which are defined as salary, benefits, and travel expenses.

SB 164 Education; provide for positive behavioral interventions and supports and response to intervention initiatives

By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 164 authorizes the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations for "Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports" (PBIS) and "Response to Intervention" (RTI) programs. PBIS establishes a school-wide, targeted, data-driven framework to help reduce disciplinary incidents and increase safety at schools. RTI establishes a framework of identifying and addressing academic and behavioral needs of students through a tiered system. Local boards will be encouraged to implement these two programs in their schools, and particularly in their high-need schools.

SR 287 Opportunity School District; allow the General Assembly to authorize the establishment; provide for state intervention for failing schools -CA

By: Sen. Butch Miller (49th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: This constitutional amendment allows the legislature to establish the "Opportunity School District", a separate school district within the state to reconstitute failing schools. The ballot question asks: "Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?"

Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

HB 57 Electricity; financing of solar technology by retail customers for generation of electric energy to be used on and by property owned or occupied by such customers or to be fed back to the electric service provider; provide

By: Rep. Mike Dudgeon (25th) Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

Final Bill Summary: The 'Georgia Territorial Electric Services Act', enacted in 1973, assigned most geographic areas in Georgia to one electric supplier, within which the assigned electric supplier has the exclusive right to extend and continue furnishing service to new premises, with limited exceptions. The 'Georgia Cogeneration and Distributed Generation Act of 2001' authorizes a customer generator to sell excess electricity to an electric service provider without being subject to most regulations of the Public Service Commission. This bill allows solar technology, at or below a defined capacity limit, to be financed by a retail electric customer through a solar financing agent, utilizing a solar energy procurement agreement so long as proper notice is given to the electric service provider serving the premises, and the solar technology and installation complies with all applicable local government ordinances and permitting requirements.

The bill limits the size to be what is actually reasonably needed on the customer's property so that one does not "oversize" on purpose. The bill is intended to generate power primarily for local use. Authorization is only relevant for systems on the grid while larger installations may have more requirements, but must only be for safety, power quality, and system reliability. Power companies can be solar finance agents so long as there is not encroachment on "normal" Territorial Act restrictions.

Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

HB 160 Game and fish; trapping of raccoons in certain counties; repeal a provision

By: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (30th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 160 amends Code Section 27-3-62, relating to wildlife trapping, trappers, and fur dealers by removing the paragraph which made it unlawful to trap raccoons north of and including Carroll, Fulton, Dekalb, Gwinnett, Barrow, Jackson, Madison, and Elbert counties at any time during the year.

HB 475 Game and fish; hunting of feral hogs; revise provisions

By: Rep. Tom McCall (33rd) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 475 amends Title 27, relating to game and fish, to allow for the hunting, trapping, and transporting of feral hogs and for other purposes. The bill establishes that a feral hog transport permit may be issued to authorize the transport of live feral hogs directly to slaughter. The bill also establishes that a wildlife control permit may be issued to authorize the hunting or trapping of feral hogs from within or while on a motor vehicle by a Georgia resident without a hunting or trapping license, if such hunting occurs on premises owned or leased by his or her immediate family and is used primarily for raising or harvesting crops other than timber or for containing livestock or poultry, and, except during deer season, at night with a light. The firearm restriction on hunting feral hogs is removed and the shotgun shell capacity restriction for hunting deer and bear is removed.

SB 62 Probate Courts; remove certain limitations on the jurisdiction of the probate courts over the game and fish violations

By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 62 amends Code Section 15-9-30.3, relating to jurisdiction over Game and Fish Code misdemeanor violations, by removing the restriction to the right and power of the probate court to conduct trials, receive pleas, and impose sentences upon defendants charged with violations which are of a high and aggravated nature and a first violation of hunting deer at night with the aid of a light.

SB 112 Wildlife; general hunting provisions; prohibit the removal, transportation; game animal or game bird carcasses

By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 112 amends Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27, relating to general hunting provisions, by repealing 27-3-45; information required before removal of carcasses from place of killing regarding deer hunting; failure to affix deer tag prior to storage or processing; and by adding a new Code section. The new Code section, 27-3-29, directs the board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations establishing harvest recording and reporting requirements for game animals and game birds. Except in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations of the board, it shall be unlawful for any person killing a game animal or game bird to remove the carcass from the place of killing or to transport the carcass of a game animal or game bird killed by another person. It shall also be unlawful for any cold storage or processing facility to possess the carcass of any game animal or game bird. Finally, it will be unlawful to obtain, possess, or otherwise use multiple sets of licenses or harvest records for the purpose of circumventing the bag limit of any game animal or game bird. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not more than \$200 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

Governmental Affairs Committee

HB 95 Local government investment pool; trust fund managed by state treasurer; provide

By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 95 relates to the Local Government Investment Pool and amends the code section that allows for local government investment pool funds to be consolidated with state funds under the control of the state treasurer for investment purposes. It provides that the state treasurer may also place these consolidated funds in a separate trust fund to be administered by the state treasurer pursuant to policies established by the State Depository Board.

HB 192 Local government; counties, municipal corporations, school districts, and consolidated governments be reimbursed for expenses only through submission of expense reimbursement requests; provisions

By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 192 adds a new Code section that relates to the general provisions regarding counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities. It states that an elected official of a county, municipal corporation, local school system, or consolidated government shall be prohibited from the use of a government purchasing or credit card unless such purchases are solely for items or services relating to such official's public duties and in accordance with guidelines that are adopted by the county, municipal corporation, local school system, or consolidated government.

Purchases made by a government purchasing or credit card shall be available for public inspection and each county, municipal corporation, local school system, or consolidated government must promulgate specific policies regarding the use of government purchasing or credit cards no later than January 1, 2016; with such policies to include: a designation of officials who may use purchasing or credit cards; a requirement that authorized users must sign a cardholder agreement; transaction limits; a description of purchases that shall be and shall not be authorized; designation of a card administrator; a process for auditing and reviewing purchases made; and procedures and penalties for addressing violations made with such cards.

HB 385 Health records; determining annual cost adjustment for providing medical records from Office of Planning and Budget to Department of Community Health; move responsibility

By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 385 amends the Official Code of Georgia, relating to the costs of copying and mailing medical records and a patient's rights to those records. The bill moves the responsibility for determining the annual cost of adjustment for providing medical records from the Office of Planning and Budget to the Department of Community Health.

HB 386 Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation; Chapter 12 of Title 32; repeal

By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 386 repeals Chapter 12 of Title 32, which relates to the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation.

HB 432 Annexation of territory; local Acts providing for deannexation of property from a municipality and annexation of same property to another municipality which are effective on the same day do not create a prohibited unincorporated island; provide

By: Rep. Brad Raffensperger (50th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 432 allows that local Acts providing for the deannexation of property from a municipality and the annexation of the same property to another municipality, which are effective on the same date, do not create a prohibited unincorporated island.

HB 515 Tucker, City of; DeKalb County; incorporate

By: Rep. Billy Mitchell (88th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 515 authorizes a referendum to create the city of Tucker.

HB 520 LaVista Hills, City of; DeKalb County; incorporate

By: Rep. Tom Taylor (79th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 520 authorizes a referendum to create the city of LaVista Hills.

HB 551 Public officers and employees; authorize political subdivisions to provide for voluntary contributions by employees through payroll deductions to certain not for profit organizations; provisions

By: Rep. Buzz Brockway (102nd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 551 expands to local governments a program under current law that allows state employees to voluntarily agree to payroll deductions to purchase certain consumer goods and services. This program will be administered by the Department of Administrative Services.

SB 59 "Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act"

By: Sen. Hunter Hill (6th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 59 creates the 'Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act'. It creates a guidelines committee by the same name and provides for its membership, terms of service, allowances and duties.

SB 104 State Depository Board; delete references to building and loan associations

By: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 104 removes the Commissioner of Insurance from the State Depository Board.

Health & Human Services Committee**HB 183 Home Care Patient Protection Act; enact**

By: Rep. David Knight (130th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 183 revises the definition of private home care provider to include employees who provide nursing services, personal care tasks, or companion or sitter tasks. Additionally, the definition of private home care provider includes contractual arrangements with independent contractors who are licensed health care professionals.

HB 288 Behavioral Health Coordinating Council; two additional members to serve on council; provide

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 288 adds two members, appointed by the Governor, to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.

HB 394 Georgia Board of Nursing; revise provisions relating to powers and duties; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 394 authorizes the Georgia Board of Nursing to investigate disciplinary orders issued by the former Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses. Additionally, this bill allows those individuals who have graduated from a nursing education program located outside of the United States to be eligible for licensure as a registered professional nurse.

HB 416 Consumer Information and Awareness Act; enact

By: Rep. Carl Rogers (29th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 416, the 'Consumer Information and Awareness Act,' requires health care practitioners to wear an identifier that includes his or her name and the type of license the practitioner holds. Further, each practitioner must affirmatively communicate the practitioner's specific licensure to all current and prospective patients. Additionally, if the practitioner does not practice in a hospital, he or she must display a notice in the reception area that identifies the type of practitioners employed at that practice. A practitioner who violates these provisions is subject to disciplinary action by his or her professional licensing board.

HB 436 Georgia HIV/Syphilis Pregnancy Screening Act of 2015; enact

By: Rep. Valerie Clark (101st) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 436 requires a physician or health care provider who provides prenatal care to a pregnant woman to also offer to test her for HIV and syphilis during her third trimester of pregnancy. Further, if at the time of delivery there is no written evidence that an HIV or syphilis test has been performed, the physician shall order such a test.

HB 504 Health; vaccination against meningococcal disease of college students; revise provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 504 requires newly admitted students who wish to live in a university's on-campus housing to receive a vaccination against meningococcal disease at most five years prior to admittance into such university. Additionally, HB 504 allows pharmacists to administer vaccines provided they have entered into a vaccine protocol agreement with a physician. Further, the pharmacist must complete 20 hours of education and training in the basics of immunology and a hands on assessment of intramuscular and subcutaneous injection technique. The pharmacist must also provide the patient with a card containing information about the vaccine administered and the pharmacist must notify the patient's physician within 72 hours of administering the vaccine. Additionally, under the provisions of this bill, the pharmacist is required to maintain individual liability insurance coverage and provide proof of such coverage to the physician. Finally, a pharmacist or nurse who knowingly administers a vaccine without a vaccine protocol agreement may be assessed a fine of up to \$2,500.

HB 505 Physical therapists; licensure and regulations of therapists and therapy assistants; revise various provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 505 revises the definition of physical therapy and requires physical therapists to use the letters "PTA" following his or her name to designate licensure under this chapter. Additionally, under HB 505, the State Board of Physical Therapy has the power to refuse to grant or restore a physical therapist's license or to discipline a physical therapist if he or she: identifies himself or herself as a doctor without also informing the public of his or her credentials as a physical therapist; performs physical therapy without first examining and evaluating the patient; or acts in a manner inconsistent with the standard of the practice of physical therapy.

HB 511 Pharmacists and pharmacies; technicians to fill remote automated medication systems in skilled nursing facilities and hospices; authorize

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 511 allows a pharmacy technician to fill a remote automated medication system. If the remote automated medication system uses radio frequency identification (RFI) in the filling process, the pharmacy must retain an electronic record of the filling activities. If the system does not use RFI, the pharmacist must supervise the pharmacy technician during the filling process.

HR 302 Congress of the United States; enact significant reforms to nation's federally financed graduate medical education programs and to provide states with additional resources to meet the health workforce needs of the future; urge

By: Rep. Butch Parrish (158th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 302 urges the Congress of the United States to enact reforms to the nation's federally-financed graduate medical education programs and to provide states with additional resources to meet the health workforce needs of the future.

HR 612 House Study Committee on Fibroids Education and Awareness; create

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

Final Bill Summary: HR 612 creates the House Study Committee on Fibroids Education and Awareness. The committee will be composed of seven members and the chairperson of the committee will have the ability to call as many meetings as he or she deems necessary; however, members will only be compensated for up to five meetings. If the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations, the chairperson shall file a report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The committee shall be abolished on December 1, 2015.

HR 640 Joint Study Committee on Health, Education, and School-Based Health Centers; create

By: Rep. Bruce Broadrick (4th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 640 creates the House Study Committee on Health, Education, and School-Based Health Centers. The committee will be composed of five members who will make recommendations on the creation of a state-wide plan to promote the development and funding of comprehensive school-based health centers in the underserved communities in Georgia.

HR 641 Joint Study Committee on Children's Mental Health; create

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 641 creates the House Study Committee on Children's Mental Health. The committee will be composed of five members and the chairperson of the committee will have the ability to call as many meetings as he or she deems necessary; however, members will only be compensated for up to five meetings. If the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations, the chairperson shall file a report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The committee shall be abolished on December 1, 2015.

HR 767 House Study Committee on Provision of Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) services, including the NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver Services; create

By: Rep. Dustin Hightower (68th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 767 creates the House Study Committee on Provision of Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) services, including the NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver Services. The committee will be composed of three members of the House of Representatives and two additional non-legislative members. If the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations, the chairperson shall file a report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The committee shall be abolished on December 1, 2015.

HR 826 Congress of the United States, National Institutes of Health and its National Cancer Institute; increase funding for childhood cancer research and to continue their support for pediatric clinical trials in Georgia; urge

By: Rep. Jan Tankersley (160th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 826 urges the United States Congress, the National Institutes of Health, and its National Cancer Institute to increase funding for childhood cancer research and to continue their support for pediatric clinical trials in Georgia.

HR 829 House Welfare Fraud Study Committee; create

By: Rep. David Clark (98th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 829 creates the House Welfare Fraud Study Committee. This committee will be composed of five members of the House of Representatives. If the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations, the chairperson must file a report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The committee will be abolished on December 1, 2015.

SB 51 Pharmacists and Pharmacies; provide for substitutions of interchangeable biological products

By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 51 allows a pharmacist to substitute a biological product with an interchangeable biological product which is in stock. The pharmacist must indicate the substitution for an interchangeable biological product on the original prescription and on its label, and must notify the prescriber of such a substitution within 48 hours of dispensing the product.

SB 53 Mental Health; authorizing licensed professional counselor to perform certain acts; revise sunset prov.; repeal in its entirety June 30, 2018

By: Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 53 revises the sunset provision for licensed professional counselors set forth in Act No. 546 (2014 Session) by extending it from March 15, 2015, to June 30, 2018.

SB 109 Health; clarify the use and effectiveness of Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment forms

By: Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 109 requires the Department of Public Health to develop and make available a Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. A POLST form provides directions regarding a patient's end of life care. This form may be voluntarily executed by a physician, a patient or a patient's authorized person in the event that the patient does not have decision-making capacity.

Additionally, SB 109 provides immunity to health care providers, health care facilities, and any other person who treats a patient using the directions provided in the POLST form, even if death or injury to the patient ensues. In the event that the POLST form conflicts with the end of life care directions provided in some other legally authorized instrument, such as an advanced directive, the most recent instrument will take precedence.

SB 126 Pharmacists and Pharmacies; expansion of certain medical professionals to prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine to authorized entity; emergency purposes

By: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 126 allows a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, and a physician assistant to prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine, and for a pharmacist to dispense the auto-injectable epinephrine. Additionally, under the provisions in this bill, an authorized entity, defined as any organization at which anaphylaxis may be present, is authorized to acquire and stock auto-injectable epinephrine. Further, any employee of such an organization is authorized to administer such medication.

SB 131 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; provide for certification; policies and procedures

By: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 131 revises Code Section 37-1-29 relating to crisis stabilization units by revising the powers of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The department originally had the authority to license such units. Under the provisions of this bill, the department will be authorized to certify, instead of license, such units. Additionally, if the department makes any changes to policies or procedures relating to crisis stabilization units, the changes must be posted on the department's website within 45 days.

SB 194 Pharmacists and Pharmacies; certain provisions shall not apply; facility engaged solely in the distribution of dialysate, drugs; patients with end stage renal disease

By: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 194 exempts facilities engaged solely in the distribution of dialysate drugs or devices used to perform kidney dialysis from the general provisions relating to pharmacists and pharmacies in O.C.G.A. 26-4-1; however, such facilities must meet certain criteria in order to be exempt from this Code section. These criteria require that the dialysate drugs or devices used to perform kidney dialysis be: approved by the Food and Drug Administration; lawfully registered with the state; held and delivered in their original state; delivered only by the manufacturer upon receipt of a physician's order; and delivered directly to a patient or health care provider.

Additionally, SB 194 allows a pharmacist, without authorization from the practitioner, to refill prescriptions for topical ophthalmic products at 70 percent of the predicted days of use. Additionally, a practitioner can authorize refills earlier than 70 percent of the predicted days of use.

Higher Education Committee

HB 3 Education; programs; person solicit transaction with student-athlete; provide sanctions

By: Rep. Barry Fleming (121st) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 3 prohibits the solicitation of a student-athlete by persons with knowledge that acceptance of the transaction could cause the student-athlete to be sanctioned. This bill creates a cause of action against any persons attempting to solicit student-athletes under these conditions.

HB 320 Scholarships; provide public disclosure of certain records held by Georgia Student Finance Commission, Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation and Georgia Student Finance Authority is not required; provisions

By: Rep. Chuck Williams (119th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 320 restricts the data the Georgia Student Finance Authority, Georgia Student Finance Commission, and Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation can release for public disclosure.

- HB 353 Nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions; revise definitions; revise provisions**
By: Rep. Carl Rogers (29th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 353 updates and eliminates code relating to the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission.
- HR 71 House Study Committee on the HOPE Scholarship Program Award Amount for Critical Fields of Study; create**
By: Rep. J. Craig Gordon (163rd) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 71 creates the House Study Committee on the HOPE Scholarship Program Award Amount for Critical Fields of Study. The study committee members will study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems where workforce shortfalls occur in critical career fields.
- HR 304 Georgia's technical schools, colleges and universities; expand gerontology and dementia education and training; encourage**
By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 304 encourages Georgia's technical schools, colleges, and universities to expand gerontology and dementia education and training to address the growing needs of an aging population.
- HR 642 Joint Study Committee on Postsecondary Education and Employment Options for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; create**
By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 642 creates the House Study Committee on Postsecondary Education and Employment Options for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The study committee will have five members, with the Speaker of the House appointing the Chair, and stand abolished on December 1, 2015.

Human Relations & Aging Committee

- HB 86 Social services; provide for transfer of the Division of Aging Services to the Georgia Adult and Aging Services Agency; provisions - VETO**
By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st) Through the Human Relations & Aging Committee
Final Bill Summary: This bill creates the Georgia Adult and Aging Services Agency as the successor to the Division of Aging Services of the Department of Human Services. The bill provides for the transfer of the rights and responsibilities, employees, assets, director, and board to the new agency. Sections 4-12 revise references throughout the code to the new entity. The new agency will be administratively attached to the Department of Community Health but will submit its own budget proposal to the General Assembly and Governor.
- HB 512 Mental health; governing and regulation; change certain terminology and provisions**
By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Human Relations & Aging Committee
Final Bill Summary: This agency bill was brought forward by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to address the internal governance of the agency by reorganizing the current regional-based administrative structure with a combination of localized and centralized changes to improve the ability of the state office and local providers to ensure quality care is available to the entire state. The substantive changes in the bill move various regional administrative functions to the central office and reform the regional bodies towards providing an advisory rather than an administrative function.
- HR 474 House Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care; create**
By: Rep. Stacey Abrams (89th) Through the Human Relations & Aging Committee
Final Bill Summary: This resolution creates the House Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care and provides for its charge, membership, compensation, and duration.

HR 618 House Study Committee on Adult Day Services; create

By: Rep. Valerie Clark (101st) Through the Human Relations & Aging Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 618 creates the House Study Committee on Adult Day Services, provides for membership, composition, duties, and reporting requirements. The committee is charged with investigating access to adult day health centers for elderly or fragile citizens, primarily for those on Medicaid.

Industry and Labor Committee**HB 117 Employment security; modify definition of the term most recent employer; change certain provisions**

By: Rep. Mark Hamilton (24th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 117 relates to employment security and is the annual "housekeeping" bill for the Georgia Department of Labor. It clarifies who is meant as "the most recent employer" as it pertains to unemployment insurance law. It increases the statute of limitations, from four years to seven years, which is the amount of time the commissioner of the Department of Labor has to collect over payments on claims or claims that were otherwise erroneously collected. Finally, it provides an exception within the unemployment code that would allow victims of family violence to voluntarily leave their jobs and still collect benefits. Unlike other claims, these claims would be charged to the unemployment insurance fund rather than the employer of the victim.

HB 348 Labor; create State Workforce Development Board; provisions

By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 348 moves the State Workforce Board from the Department of Labor to the Department of Economic Development.

HB 366 Employment of minors; issuance of employment certificates; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Brian Strickland (111th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 366 allows the parents of home-schooled children to sign off on applications for employment certificates for minor children. Under current law, these parents must use an administrator from the public high school for which their child is districted to sign. It further provides that documents relating to the employment of minors as actors or performers shall be exempt from open records requests.

HB 368 Construction; glass installations; repeal and reserve Part 5 of said article

By: Rep. Brian Strickland (111th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 368 repeals the Code requirement for the Department of Insurance to regulate commercial glass installation because the process is regulated by federal regulation.

HB 412 Workers' compensation; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Mark Hamilton (24th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 412 addresses concerns that were raised by an appellate case, Pitts v. City of Atlanta. The bill uses the same language as the exclusive remedy provision of the Occupational Disease statute within the 'Worker's Compensation Act' to clarify that the exclusive remedy is, indeed exclusive, unless the employer expressly agrees to an exception in writing; although, general contractual provisions will not have the employer inadvertently provide such exception.

HB 443 Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act; enact

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 443 permits employers to create policies that provide preferential hiring, promoting, or retention to veterans of the armed forces of the United States.

SB 88 Labor and Industrial Relations; provide for the payment of wages by credit to a payroll card; provisions

By: Sen. Burt Jones (25th)

Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 88 allows employers to make wage, salary or other recurring compensation payments by using credit to a payroll credit account. It is elective, not mandatory, to the employee. If offered, the employer must offer a written explanation of any fees associated with the account. The employee has the right to opt out of the account at any time.

Insurance Committee

HB 84 Insurance; denial of an aircraft claim unless the insured's action or failure to act had a direct causal connection to loss upon which claim is based; prohibit

By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 84 provides that any aircraft insurance policy containing specific exclusions or conditions categories shall include conspicuous notice advising the insured that the policy contains such exclusions or conditions. The policy will provide specific instructions for the insured to undertake in order to protect and preserve his or her rights and coverage under the policy.

HB 162 Insurance; provide for insurance compliance self-evaluative privilege; provisions

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 162 allows insurance companies to self-evaluate for the purposes for compliance with Georgia statute. By self-policing, the state and the insurance companies are saved the cost of unnecessary regulatory oversight. The results of the audit from the self-evaluation are protected from public disclosure absent a court order.

HB 185 Insurance; Standard Valuation Law; extensively revise

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 185 is model legislation brought by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. It changes the method for how life insurance companies calculate their reserves. It replaces the current formula based model and moves to an actuary based model.

The second part of this bill provides for reorganization of mutual insurers and formation of mutual insurance holding companies. The Commissioner of Insurance has oversight of the reorganization and merger process and maintains regulatory authority of the holding companies.

HB 190 Insurance; provide requirements for transportation network companies and their drivers; provisions

By: Rep. Rich Golick (40th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 190 establishes the standards and requirements for automobile insurance for transportation network companies (TNC)(Uber, Lyft) and their drivers. Currently, the policy carried by these drivers for their automobiles does not cover commercial activity. This legislation requires TNCs to maintain a primary motor vehicle insurance policy that:

1. Recognizes the driver as a TNC driver and explicitly covers the driver's provision of TNC services;
2. Provides a minimum of \$100,000 for bodily injuries to, or death of, all persons in any one accident; with a maximum of \$50,000 for bodily injuries to or death of one person; and \$50,000 for loss of or damage to property of others, excluding cargo, in any one accident, during the time a driver is logged on to the TNC's digital network and available to accept a ride request until the driver is logged off. This coverage is required in the absence of any other liability coverage with such minimum limits; and
3. Provides a minimum of \$1 million for death, personal injury, and property damage per occurrence and provides uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage of at least \$1 million per incident during the time a driver accepts a ride request on the TNC's digital network until the driver completes the transaction or the ride is complete, whichever is later.

HB 409 Insurance; reimbursement for treatment of burns for skin substitutes utilizing cadaver derived skin tissue or nonhuman xenographic derived skin tissue; provide

By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 409 provides that all health insurance policies sold in Georgia must cover treatment utilizing cadaver or non-human, xenographic-derived skin tissue for the treatment of burns.

HB 429 Insurance; no health benefit plan shall restrict coverage for prescribed treatment based upon insured's diagnosis with a terminal condition; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 429 provides that no health benefit plan shall restrict coverage for prescribed treatment based upon the insured's diagnosis with a terminal condition. It further states that that treatment would not constitute assisted suicide.

It enacts Ava's Law that requires any individual or small group health insurance policy sold in this state to provide coverage for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

HB 439 Georgia New Markets Jobs Act; enact - VETO

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 439 creates the 'Georgia New Market Jobs Act,' which allows insurance companies to make investments in qualified small businesses in low-income communities.

Section 2 of the bill creates the Invest Georgia tax credit. It allows for the regulation and sale of \$55 million of tax credits to qualified companies. The purchaser of a tax credit owns a vested right to credit against the taxpayer's state premium tax liability. The revenue derived from the sale of these tax credits will be used as venture capital in qualified start-up companies in Georgia.

HB 470 The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights; change certain provisions

By: Rep. David Knight (130th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 470 amends "The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights". It provides that the commissioner of the Department of Insurance will have regulatory oversight of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) doing business in Georgia.

It defines "maximum allowable cost" as the per unit amount that a pharmacy benefits manager reimburses a pharmacist for a prescription drug, excluding dispensing fees and copayments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing charges, if any.

HB 552 Insurance; provide changes to the captive insurance company provisions; add definitions

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 552 modifies Georgia's insurance law as it relates to captive insurance companies. It allows for "pure" captives as defined in O.C.G.A. 33-41-2 and provides for reduced rates on premium taxes for pure captive companies.

Part II of this bill establishes federal home loan bank rights regarding collateral pledged by an insurer-member subject to a delinquency proceeding. Additionally, it provides for certain limitations for a receiver to void a transfer of certain property in connection with any federal home loan bank security agreement.

HR 806 House Study Committee on Life Insurance Consumer Disclosures; create

By: Rep. Carl Rogers (29th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 806 creates the House Study Committee on Life Insurance Consumer Disclosures.

SB 108 Insurance; provide the requirements for maintaining a risk management framework

By: Sen. P. K. Martin (9th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 108 is a Department of Insurance bill based on model legislation from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. It provides requirements for maintaining a risk management

framework for large insurance carriers, as well as guidance and instruction for filing and reporting an Own Risk and Solvency Assessment with the commissioner of the Department of Insurance.

SB 111 Continuing Care Providers and Facilities; define certain terms; provide for a provider to offer continuing care at home

By: Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 111 provides for a continuing care provider to offer continuing care services in the home.

Interstate Cooperation Committee

HR 106 United States Congress; convey title and jurisdiction of Federal Public Lands to the States; encourage

By: Rep. Buzz Brockway (102nd) Through the Interstate Cooperation Committee

Final Bill Summary: This resolution encourages the United States Congress to convey title and jurisdiction of Federal Public Lands to the states. In 1780 the United States Congress resolved that "the unappropriated lands that may be ceded or relinquished to the United States, by any particular state, pursuant to the recommendation of Congress of the 6th day of September last, shall be granted and disposed of for the common benefit of all the United States that shall be members of the federal union, and be settled and formed into distinct republican states, which shall become members of the federal union." From 1780 forward the federal government only held bare legal title to the western public lands in the nature of a trustee in trust with the solemn obligation to timely extinguish title to such lands to create new states and to use the proceeds to pay the public debt. In 1976, after nearly 200 years the United States Congress purported to unilaterally change and through the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) Congress declared that it is the policy of the United States that the public lands be retained in Federal ownership. The resolution encourages the United States Congress in the most strenuous terms to engage in good faith communication, cooperation, coordination, and consultation with each willing state regarding the conveyance of federal public lands directly to the State.

HR 395 Joint Georgia-Alabama Study Committee; create

By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the Interstate Cooperation Committee

Final Bill Summary: This resolution creates the Joint Georgia-Alabama Study Committee to formalize a working partnership to promote solutions to regional issues. The committee sunsets on December 1, 2016. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the House of Representatives whose districts abut any part of the boundary between the State of Georgia and the State of Alabama as members of the committee and shall designate one of such members as co-chairperson. The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate whose districts abut any part of the boundary between the State of Georgia and the State of Alabama as members of the committee and shall designate one of such members as co-chairperson. The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. To the extent practical, the committee shall coordinate its efforts with its counterpart committee from the legislature of the State of Alabama.

Intragovernmental Coordination Committee

HB 517 Echols County; board of education; provide nonpartisan elections

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for nonpartisan elections of the members of the Board of Education of Echols County.

HR 743 House Study Committee on Annexation, Deannexation, and Incorporation; create

By: Rep. Jan Tankersley (160th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Resolution to create a study committee on deannexation, annexation, and incorporation of municipalities. The Speaker of the House will appoint five members. The purpose is to provide a clear review of current annexation, deannexation, and incorporation laws and procedures and consider ways of addressing

negative impacts and ensuring that the process is clear, open, equitable, and in the best interest of the citizens of Georgia. The procedures for duly introducing and enacting local legislation involving annexation, deannexation, and incorporation are of especially great significance, often affecting a large number of individuals in a meaningful and comprehensive way. The committee stands abolished on December 1, 2015.

SB 93 Seminole County; office of probate judge; nonpartisan elections

By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for nonpartisan elections of the office of the probate judge of Seminole County.

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee**HB 36 Macon Water Commissioners - Pension Plan; pension rights; repeal a provision**

By: Rep. Nikki Randall (142nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the "Macon Water Commissioners - Pension Plan," so as to repeal provisions permitting the assignment of pension rights.

HB 38 Grady County Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees as part of court costs; authorize

By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the Magistrate Court of Grady County to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

HB 67 Milledgeville-Baldwin County; provide for unified government; provisions

By: Rep. E. Culver "Rusty" Kidd (145th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to be entitled an Act to provide for the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County.

HB 88 Stapleton, City of; change terms of office of mayor and councilmembers

By: Rep. Brian Prince (127th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Stapleton, so as to change the terms of office to provide for at-large elections of the mayor and councilmembers.

HB 101 Schley County; Board of Education; change description of districts Schley County; Board of Education; change description of districts

By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for and change the description of education districts for the Board of Education of Schley County.

HB 102 Schley County Probate Court; judge shall also serve as judge of Magistrate Court on and after January 1, 2017

By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide that the judge of the Probate Court of Schley County shall also serve as the judge of the Magistrate Court of Schley County.

HB 125 Rutledge, City of; residents 65 years of age or older; provide homestead exemption

By: Rep. D. C. Belton (112th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Rutledge ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city

who are 65 years of age or older.

HB 148 Byron, City of; levy an excise tax

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Byron to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 181 Marshallville, City of; provide a new charter

By: Rep. Patty Bentley (139th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to reincorporate and provide a new charter for the City of Marshallville so as to revise the manner of filling a vacancy in the office of the Mayor or councilmembers.

HB 187 Flowery Branch, City of; provide corporate boundaries

By: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (30th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reapportion the City of Flowery Branch and change provisions relative to the filling of vacancies.

HB 188 Lanier County; board of commissioners; revise districts

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reapportion the Lanier County Board of Commissioners.

HB 189 Lanier County; Board of Education; revise districts

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reapportion the Lanier County Board of Education.

HB 203 Bishop, Town of; provide a new charter

By: Rep. Chuck Williams (119th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the Town of Bishop.

HB 251 Americus, City of; provide for a city manager - VETO

By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Americus, so as to provide for a city manager, city clerk, and finance director.

HB 254 Waycross, City of; rename the police court as the municipal court

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Waycross, so as to rename the police court as the municipal court and provide new provisions for the operations.

HB 257 Decatur County; restate provisions of said Act

By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act relating to the board of commissioners of Decatur County to provide for the election of a chairperson and vice chairperson.

HB 258 Decatur County; office of treasurer; abolish

By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to abolish the office of treasurer of Decatur County.

HB 294 Stockbridge, City of; levy an excise tax

By: Rep. Dale Rutledge (109th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the City of Stockbridge to levy a hotel/motel tax, at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

HB 300 DeKalb County State Court; establish traffic division of said court; provisions

By: Rep. Mary Oliver (82nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of DeKalb County, so as to establish the traffic division.

HB 301 DeKalb County Magistrate Court; provide a solicitor; provisions

By: Rep. Mary Oliver (82nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating and establishing the Recorder's Court of DeKalb County, to provide for the transfer of certain pending cases and court records.

HB 302 DeKalb County; Chief Magistrate and other judges; increase and establish salaries

By: Rep. Mary Oliver (82nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for the compensation of certain county officers and officials of DeKalb County.

HB 305 Sandersville School Building Authority Act; enact

By: Rep. Mack Jackson (128th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Sandersville School Building Authority and to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 307 Sandersville, City of; election of members of city council; change provisions

By: Rep. Mack Jackson (128th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reapportion the City of Sandersville, so as to change the provisions regarding election of members of the city council.

HB 329 Kennesaw, City of; corporate limits; change provisions

By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create a new charter for the City of Kennesaw, so as to change the corporate limits of the city.

HB 345 Hogansville, City of; filling of vacancies in office of mayor or councilmember; provide certain procedures

By: Rep. Robert Trammell (132nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act incorporating the City of Hogansville, so as to provide for certain procedures for the filling of vacancies in the office of mayor or councilmember.

HB 371 Lake Park, City of; election and terms of office of mayor and councilmen; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Lake Park, so as to provide for the election and terms of office of the mayor and councilmen.

HB 379 Porterdale, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

By: Rep. Pam Dickerson (113th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the City of Porterdale to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 380 Troup County Community Improvement Districts Act; enact

By: Rep. Randy Nix (69th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in Troup County.

HB 388 Wilcox County; Probate Court; judge serves as chief magistrate of Magistrate Court on or after June 1, 2015; provisions

By: Rep. Buddy Harden (148th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide that the judge of the Probate Court of Wilcox County shall also serve as the chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court.

HB 398 Monticello, City of; dissolve municipal court

By: Rep. Susan Holmes (129th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to incorporate and grant a new charter to the City of Monticello.

HB 400 Clermont, Town of; completely revise charter

By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act incorporating the Town of Clermont in Hall County, so as to completely revise such charter.

HB 403 Washington County; board of elections and registration; create and provide powers and duties

By: Rep. Mack Jackson (128th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create a board of elections and registration for Washington County and to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 404 Glascock County; office of county treasurer; abolish

By: Rep. Mack Jackson (128th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to abolish the office of county treasurer of Glascock County.

HB 410 Cobb County; State Court; change compensation of judges

By: Rep. Stacey Evans (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of Cobb County providing a compensation supplement to the judges of the state court.

HB 413 Cherokee County; board of commissioners; candidates shall have resided within respective district from which they seek election for period of at least 12 months immediately preceding election; provide

By: Rep. Scot Turner (21st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Cherokee County, so as to provide that candidates shall have resided within the respective district from which they seek election for a period of at least 12 months.

HB 424 LaFayette, City of; levy an excise tax

By: Rep. Steve Tarvin (2nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Lafayette to levy a hotel/motel tax, at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

HB 425 Americus, City of; provide for a city manager; provisions

By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Americus, so as to provide for a city manager.

HB 431 Lowndes County; levy an excise tax

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of Lowndes County to levy a hotel/motel tax, at a rate not to exceed 7 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the county for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

HB 447 Macon Water Authority Act; change compensation of members; provisions

By: Rep. James Epps (144th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act known as the "Macon Water Authority Act," so as to change compensation of members of the authority.

HB 448 Barrow County; Board of Education; time to appoint a member to a vacancy on board; revise provision

By: Rep. Terry England (116th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing authority for members of the Board of Education of Barrow County, so as to revise the manner of filling a vacancy.

HB 449 Barrow County; ad valorem tax; eliminate requirement to submit a new application for the exemption in the year following a reevaluation

By: Rep. Terry England (116th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from certain Barrow County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes.

HB 453 Kingsland, City of; election of mayor and council by majority vote; provide

By: Rep. Jason Spencer (180th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to incorporate the City of Kingsland in Camden County, so as to provide for election of the mayor and council by majority vote.

HB 454 Kingsland, City of; holding of elections in even-numbered years; provide

By: Rep. Jason Spencer (180th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to incorporate the City of Kingsland in Camden County, so as to provide for the holding of elections in even-numbered years.

HB 465 Putnam County; levy an excise tax

By: Rep. E. Culver "Rusty" Kidd (145th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of Putnam County to levy a hotel/motel tax, at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the county for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

HB 468 Mount Zion, City of; provide a new charter

By: Rep. Kevin Cooke (18th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Mount Zion.

HB 478 Candler County; Board of Commissioners; provide staggered terms

By: Rep. Butch Parrish (158th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Candler County, so as to provide for staggered terms.

HB 479 The City of Forsyth Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the City of Forsyth Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority, to have the responsibility and authority to promote tourism.

HB 489 Cherokee County; State Court; appointment of solicitor-general investigators; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to create the State Court of Cherokee County, so as to provide for the appointment of solicitor-general investigators.

HB 490 Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit; appointment of district attorney investigators; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the appointment of district attorney investigators in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

HB 493 Brunswick, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

By: Rep. J. B. Jones (167th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the City of Brunswick to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 495 Peachtree City, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

By: Rep. Matt Ramsey (72nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the City of Peachtree City to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 516 Effingham County School District; board of education; change compensation for members

By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to reconstitute the Board of Education for the Effingham County School District, so as to change the compensation for the members.

HB 518 Satilla Regional Water and Sewer Authority; selection of members; revise manner

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Satilla Regional Water and Sewer Authority, so as to revise the manner of selection of the members of authority.

HB 523 Waycross, City of; change corporate limits

By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Waycross, so as to change the corporate limits.

HB 526 Talbotton, City of; Talbot County; reincorporate

By: Rep. Debbie Buckner (137th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reincorporate the City of Talbotton in Talbot County, so as to provide a new charter.

HB 528 Chickamauga, City of; city manager and chief of police; revise duties and responsibilities

By: Rep. Steve Tarvin (2nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Chickamauga, so as to revise the duties and responsibilities of the city manager and the chief of police.

HB 532 Cobb County; powers of improvement districts; add a certain provision

By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating one or more community improvement districts in Cobb County and each municipality therein.

HB 533 Randolph County; Board of Commissioners; change compensation of chairperson and other members

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Randolph County, so as to change the compensation of the chairperson and other members.

HB 545 Sumner, Town of; four-year terms for mayor and councilmembers; provide

By: Rep. Ed Rynders (152nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for four-year terms for the mayor and councilmembers of the town of Sumner.

HB 546 McIntosh County; board shall consist of five members; provide

By: Rep. J. B. Jones (167th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to create the board of elections and registration for McIntosh County, so as to provide that the board shall consist of five members.

HB 550 Burke County Economic Development Authority; repeal conflicting laws

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating the Burke County Economic Development Authority.

HB 553 Forsyth, City of; provide a new charter

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Forsyth.

HB 554 Henry County; Board of Commissioners; authority, roles, and responsibilities of chairperson,

board of commissioners and county manager; define

By: Rep. Dale Rutledge (109th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the Board of Commissioners of Henry County, so as to further define authority, roles, and responsibilities of members.

HB 559 McDuffie County; board of elections and registration; increase membership of board

By: Rep. Barry Fleming (121st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create a Board of Elections and Registration for McDuffie County.

HB 570 Milton, City of; change description of election districts

By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reapportion the City of Milton.

HB 571 Sandy Springs, City of; levy an excise tax

By: Rep. Wendell Willard (51st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Sandy Springs to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 573 Twiggs County; Board of Commissioners; compensation and expenses of members; change provisions

By: Rep. James Epps (144th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Board of commissioners for Twiggs County, so as to provide for compensation of the members.

HB 574 Twiggs County; manner of fixing compensation of employees of sheriff's office; change

By: Rep. James Epps (144th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act for the Sheriff of Twiggs County, so as to change the manner of fixing the compensation of employees of the sheriff's office.

HB 575 Payne, City of; abolish

By: Rep. James Beverly (143rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating a new charter for Payne City.

HB 576 Broxton, City of; four-year terms for mayor and members of city council; provide

By: Rep. Dominic LaRiccia (169th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act for the City of Broxton, so as to provide for four-year terms for the mayor and members of the city council.

HB 577 Rockdale County; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum - VETO

By: Rep. Pam Dickerson (113th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to be entitled an Act to authorize Rockdale County to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 580 Columbus, City of; Recorder's Court; increase amount of technology fee - VETO

By: Rep. Calvin Smyre (135th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to be entitled an Act authorizing the Recorder's Court of Columbus, Georgia, to impose and collect a technology fee for each fine imposed, so as to increase the amount of such fee.

- HB 582 Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority; members of authority; change terms**
By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Coweta County Water Sewerage Authority, so as to change the terms of members of the authority.
- HB 583 Cobb County; tax commissioner; change compensation of certain employees**
By: Rep. John Carson (46th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act consolidating the offices of tax collector and tax receiver into the office of tax commissioner of Cobb County, so as to change the compensation of certain employees of such office.
- HB 584 Cobb County; Board of Commissioners; compensation of chairperson and other commissioners; change provisions**
By: Rep. John Carson (46th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Cobb County, so as to change the compensation of the chairperson and other commissioners of the board.
- HB 589 Cobb County; Probate Court; change compensation of judge**
By: Rep. Stacey Evans (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act changing the compensation of the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system, so as to change the compensation of the judge of the Probate Court.
- HB 594 Baldwin County; levy an excise tax**
By: Rep. E. Culver "Rusty" Kidd (145th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of Baldwin County to levy a hotel/motel tax, at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the county for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.
- HB 595 Fulton County; county-wide library system; specify name for system; provisions**
By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for the establishment of a county-wide library system in Fulton County.
- HB 596 DeKalb County; homestead exemption; modify time limitation on exemption**
By: Rep. Mike Jacobs (80th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for a homestead exemption from certain DeKalb County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead, so as to modify the time limitation on such exemption.
- HB 597 DeKalb County; board of commissioners; change jurisdiction of Board of Ethics**
By: Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act revising the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics of DeKalb County.
- HB 598 DeKalb County; board of commissioners; provide for the manner of purchasing**

By: Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act revising, superseding, and consolidating the laws relating to the governing authority of DeKalb County and creating a chairman and board of commissioners, so as to provide for the manner of purchasing by DeKalb County.

HB 599 DeKalb County; board of commissioners; provide for independent internal audits

By: Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to provide for independent internal audits for DeKalb County.

HB 600 Cobb County; State Court; revise compensation of solicitor-general

By: Rep. Earl Ehrhart (36th) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of Cobb County, so as to revise the compensation of the Solicitor-General.

HB 601 Carroll County; sales tax for educational purposes; method of distribution of net proceeds; provide

By: Rep. Dustin Hightower (68th) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for a method of distribution of the net proceeds of the sales tax for education purposes levied in Carroll County.

HB 617 Cobb County; State Court; raise compensation of chief deputy clerk and clerk of court; provisions

By: Rep. John Carson (46th) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of Cobb County, so as to raise the compensation of the chief deputy clerk and the clerk of state court.

HB 618 Seminole County; Board of Education; provide compensation of chairperson and members

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the compensation of the chairperson and members of the Seminole County Board of Education.

HB 619 Cochran/Bleckley Airport Authority; create

By: Rep. James Epps (144th) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Cochran/Bleckley Airport Authority.

HB 623 Macon Water Authority Act; ability to operate a storm water utility; provide

By: Rep. James Epps (144th) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act known as the 'Macon Water Authority Act', so as to revise the powers of the authority.

HB 626 Lakeland, City of; provide a new charter

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Lakeland.

HB 627 Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority; repeal Act

By: Rep. Scot Turner (21st) *Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating the Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority and shall become effective on January 1, 2016.

HB 631 Cherokee County; Board of Ethics; define a term

By: Rep. Wesley Cantrell (22nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill creating the Board of Ethics of Cherokee County, so as to define a term and to provide for limitation of liability.

HB 632 South Cobb Development Authority Act; change definition of certain terms

By: Rep. David Wilkerson (38th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the 'South Cobb Development Authority Act,' so as to change the definition of certain terms.

HB 634 Lawrenceville, City of; amend corporate boundaries

By: Rep. Valerie Clark (101st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the corporate boundaries of the City of Lawrenceville.

HB 636 Vidalia, City of; levy an excise tax

By: Rep. Greg Morris (156th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Vidalia to levy a hotel/motel tax, at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

HB 637 Hazlehurst, City of; provide a new charter

By: Rep. Greg Morris (156th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Hazlehurst.

HB 639 Pickens County; Magistrate Court; clerk; appointed by and serve at pleasure of chief magistrate

By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide that the clerk of the Magistrate Court of Pickens County shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the chief magistrate.

HB 642 Putnam County; Magistrate Court; revise number, manner of selection, and compensation of judges

By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the Magistrate Court of Putnam County, so as to revise the number, manner of selection, and compensation of the judges of the magistrate court.

HB 643 Warner Robins, City of; resolution passed by city council; change a reference

By: Rep. Heath Clark (147th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorizing the governing authority of the City of Warner Robins to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 644 Warner Robins, City of; ad valorem tax; filing an application for homestead exemption; change date

By: Rep. Heath Clark (147th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to providing for a homestead exemption from all City of Warner Robins ad valorem taxes for any city purposes, including but limited to, taxes to retire bonded indebtedness for certain persons who have been residents of the City of Warner Robins for at least the immediately preceding five years and who are 65 years of age or older.

- HB 650 Atlanta, City of; public safety access assessments; provide**
By: Rep. Keisha Waites (60th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Atlanta.
- HB 651 Paulding County; board of education; change method of filling vacancies - VETO**
By: Rep. Howard Maxwell (17th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the election of members of the Board of Education of Paulding County, so as to change the method of filling vacancies on the board of education.
- HB 652 Perry Public Facilities Authority Act; enact**
By: Rep. Larry O'Neal (146th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Perry Public Facilities Authority.
- HB 655 Fulton County; Magistrate Court; provide court administrator be chief magistrate or his or her designee; provisions**
By: Rep. Wendell Willard (51st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the administration of the budget of the Magistrate Court of Fulton County, so as to provide that the court administrator shall be the chief magistrate or his or her designee and that such court administrator shall have oversight of the budget.
- HB 656 Dodge County; office of Commissioner; change description of districts**
By: Rep. Jimmy Pruett (149th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the office of Commissioner of Dodge County, so as to reapportion the commissioner districts.
- HB 657 Greene County Family Connection Commission; repeal an Act**
By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating the Greene County Family Connection Commission.
- HB 661 Clarkston, City of; change corporate limits**
By: Rep. Karla Drenner (85th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reincorporate the City of Clarkston, so as to change the corporate limits of the city by annexing certain territory.
- HB 664 Griffin, City of; levy an excise tax**
By: Rep. David Knight (130th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Griffin to levy a hotel/motel tax, at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.
- HB 668 Peachtree City Public Facilities Authority; add an additional power**
By: Rep. Matt Ramsey (72nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Peachtree City Public Facilities Authority, so as to add an additional power to sell or assign its rights under its contracts, lease agreements, or installment sale agreements or its right to receive payments thereunder, either directly or through trust or custodial arrangements whereby interests are created in such contracts, lease agreements, or installment sale agreements or the payments to be received

thereunder through the issuance of trust certificates, certificates of participation, custodial receipts, or other similar instruments.

HB 669 Chatham County; provide for compensation of certain officials

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for the compensation of certain officials in Chatham County.

HB 674 Catoosa County; State Court; create

By: Rep. Tom Weldon (3rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the State Court of Catoosa County.

HB 675 Gilmer County; coroner and deputy coroner; provide compensation

By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for compensation of the coroner and deputy coroner of Gilmer County.

SB 75 Putman County; board of commissioners; provide for staggered terms

By: Sen. Burt Jones (25th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the board of commissioners for the Putnam County.

SB 84 Tybee Island, City of; provide for an advisory referendum election; construction of a public swimming pool

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for an advisory referendum election to be held in the City of Tybee Island for the purpose of determining if the construction of a public swimming pool with municipal funds.

SB 171 Probate Court of Cobb County; change the compensation of the chief deputy, assist. chief deputy, and executive assist. to the sheriff

By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act changing the compensation of the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system, so as to change the compensation of the chief deputy, the assistant chief deputy, and the executive sheriff.

SB 172 Probate Court of Cobb County; change the compensation of the clerk of the superior court; change salary of deputy clerk of superior court

By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act changing the compensation of the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system, so as to change the compensation of the clerk of the Superior Court, the deputy clerk, to provide for an executive assistant and an executive secretary.

SB 182 "Newton County Community Improvement Districts Act" - VETO

By: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in Newton County and in each municipality therein.

SB 197 Buford, City of; provide for corporate boundaries

By: Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Buford.

- SB 211 McDuffie County; change the annual salary of the coroner**
By: Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act placing the county officers of McDuffie County on an annual salary.
- SB 212 Leslie, City of; provide for a new charter; incorporation, boundaries, and powers**
By: Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Leslie.
- SB 215 Schley County Utilities Authority; create - VETO**
By: Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Schley County Utilities Authority.
- SB 216 Acworth, City of; adopt by reference a certain map**
By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reincorporate and provide a new charter for the City of Acworth, so as to adopt by reference a certain map.
- SB 217 Acworth, City of; change the corporate boundaries**
By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reincorporate and provide a new charter for the City of Acworth, so as to change the corporate boundaries.
- SB 220 "Schley County Utilities Authority Act"; create**
By: Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Schley County Utilities Authority.
- SB 224 Lawrenceville Building Authority; create; public corporation**
By: Sen. P. K. Martin (9th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Lawrenceville Building Authority as a public corporation and an instrumentality of the State of Georgia.
- SB 231 "City of Conyers Public Facilities Authority Act"; create**
By: Sen. Ronald Ramsey, Sr. (43rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the City of Conyers Public Facilities Authority and to provide for the appointment of members of the authority.
- SB 237 Board of Education of White County; provide for the compensation of members**
By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the compensation of the members of the Board of Education of White County.
- SB 238 Bainbridge-Decatur County Recreation Authority; create**
By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Bainbridge-Decatur County Recreation Authority and to authorize such authority to provide recreational services throughout Decatur County.

Judiciary Committee**HB 17 Hidden Predator Act; enact**

By: Rep. Jason Spencer (180th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 17, the 'Hidden Predator Act,' extends the statute of limitations for civil actions for childhood sexual abuse under certain circumstances.

Currently, an action for childhood sexual abuse must be filed before the plaintiff's 23rd birthday. As to childhood sexual abuse committed on or after July 1, 2015, HB 17 allows for an action to be brought against an individual alleged to have perpetrated such abuse either: by the plaintiff's 23rd birthday; or within two years from the date the plaintiff knew or had reason to know of such abuse and that such abuse resulted in injury to the plaintiff, as established by competent medical or psychological evidence. If an action is filed under the second option above, the judge must determine within six months of the filing of the case when the plaintiff knew or had reason to know of the alleged childhood sexual abuse.

If an action is filed before the plaintiff attains the age of 23 and the alleged perpetrator of the childhood sexual abuse was a volunteer or employee of an entity that owed a duty of care to the plaintiff or if the alleged perpetrator and the plaintiff were engaged in some activity over which the entity had control, the entity may only be found liable for damages to the plaintiff if the entity is found to be negligent by a preponderance of the evidence.

If an action is filed after the plaintiff attains the age of 23 pursuant to the discovery rule and the alleged perpetrator of the childhood sexual abuse was a volunteer or employee of an entity that owed a duty of care to the plaintiff or if the alleged perpetrator and the plaintiff were engaged in some activity over which the entity had control, the entity may only be found liable for damages to the plaintiff if the entity is found to be grossly negligent by a preponderance of the evidence (that the entity knew or should have known of the alleged conduct giving rise to the civil action and failed to take remedial action).

The bill provides a two-year retroactive window to allow revival of civil cases that have been time-barred by Georgia's current five-year statute of limitations for child sexual abuse cases. Such actions may only be filed against the individual alleged to have committed the abuse; no claim may be brought under the revival window against an entity. A revival action may not be brought if any claim has already been litigated to finality on its merits or if a written settlement agreement has been entered into between the plaintiff and defendant.

The bill also allows access for victims of child abuse or their guardians to investigation files after criminal cases have been closed.

HB 90 Code Revision Commission; revise, modernize, and correct errors in said Code

By: Rep. Wendell Willard (51st) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 90 revises, modernizes, and corrects errors or omissions in the Code and reenacts the statutory portion of the Code, as amended, in furtherance of the work of the Code Revision Commission. The bill repeals portions of the Code which have become obsolete, have been declared to be unconstitutional, or have been preempted or superseded by subsequent laws.

HB 98 Appellate courts; provide direct appeals and appeals requiring an application for appeals pertaining to courts-martial; provisions

By: Rep. Christian Coomer (14th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 98 incorporates the recommendations of the 2014 House Study Committee on the Georgia Code of Military Justice. The bill repeals in its entirety Article 5 of Chapter 2 of Title 38, the Georgia Code of Military Justice (GCMJ), and enacts a new article emulating the Model State Code of Military Justice. HB 98 clarifies U.S. Code Title 32 (Full-Time National Guard) duty status of National Guard members so as to align it with U.S. Code Title 10 (Active) duty status in regard to rights, responsibilities, violation proceedings, and available punishment for continuity purposes.

HB 99 Property; joint tenants divorce or have marriage annulled under certain circumstances; provide tenancy in common

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

Final Bill Summary: In many divorce actions in which the parties represent themselves, the parties' interests in jointly held property are not properly divided. HB 99 allows divorced couples to convert a joint tenancy with right of survivorship into a tenancy in common if either spouse files an affidavit in the county property records containing: a statement that the parties have divorced or their marriage has been annulled and that the party intends to terminate the joint tenancy, a statement of the book and page of recordation of the deed creating the joint tenancy, a copy of the final order of divorce or annulment, and a legal description of the property.

HB 233 Georgia Uniform Civil Forfeiture Procedure Act; enact

By: Rep. Alex Atwood (179th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 233, the 'Georgia Uniform Civil Forfeiture Procedure Act' (UCFPA), increases transparency and oversight in the civil forfeiture process by strengthening the mandatory reporting requirements of all law enforcement agencies, standardizes civil forfeiture procedure statewide, and collects the disparate provisions into one uniform procedure to be followed for almost all civil forfeiture proceedings.

The UCFPA provides for due process safeguards to assist innocent owners in recovering seized property. The Act simplifies the standard for initiating a claim to recover wrongfully seized property, reducing the likelihood that procedural pitfalls will deprive innocent owners of an action to recover their property. A provision of the Act allows the judge in a civil forfeiture action to grant either party additional opportunity for investigation into the facts and issues involved. Additionally, it permits anyone who has a claim to the seized property to appear before the court to defend his or her interest. The Act eliminates imposition of the State's litigation costs on an unsuccessful forfeiture claimant.

The Act strengthens and standardizes the mandatory reporting requirements of all law enforcement agencies by requiring agencies to provide an accounting of all property and funds derived from seizures and forfeitures. The UCFPA defines the specific purposes for which law enforcement agencies may use forfeited proceeds. Payment of salaries or rewards to law enforcement officers would not be considered an authorized expenditure. The Act resolves ambiguities in reporting procedure by authorizing the creation of a standardized reporting form and placing the duty to submit the form annually on all law enforcement agencies, which have control over expenditure of any forfeiture proceeds.

The bill also disqualifies certain individuals involved in pending criminal cases from serving on a grand jury. Currently, the only individuals ineligible for service are those convicted of a felony who have not had their civil rights restored and those who have been judicially determined to be mentally incompetent.

The bill adds to the list of those ineligible to serve on a grand jury to include the following: an individual in any pretrial release program, pretrial release and diversion program, or pretrial intervention and diversion program (including a similar program in another state or similar federal court program); an individual sentenced under the first-offense controlled substances conditional discharge statute (Code section 16-13-2) who has not completed the terms of his or her sentence; an individual serving a first-offender sentence pursuant to Georgia law or the law of another state; and an individual participating in a drug court division, mental health division, or veterans court division court program (or a similar program in another state or a similar federal court program).

The bill specifies that if an indictment is returned and a grand juror was ineligible to serve based upon any of the grounds stated above, the indictment will not be quashed solely as a result of such ineligibility.

HB 245 Condominiums; amount permissible as a special assessment fee; change

By: Rep. Matt Dollar (45th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 245 changes the maximum amount per fiscal year that the board of directors of a condominium association may charge as a special assessment fee per unit in a condominium instrument without approval of a majority of unit owners. The current law allows for a maximum fee of \$200; HB 245 allows for one-sixth of the annual common expense assessment for each unit.

HB 322 Foreclosure; provide for recording of deeds under power within a certain time after sale; provisions

By: Rep. Brian Strickland (111th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 322 institutes a penalty for failure to file a deed under power after a foreclosure sale. Currently, the law allows 90 days from the foreclosure sale for filing of a deed under power with the clerk of the

superior court of the county or counties in which the foreclosed property is located. HB 322 requires the holder of the deed under power to pay a late filing penalty of \$500 upon filing, in addition to required filing fees if the deed under power is not filed within 120 days of the foreclosure sale.

The bill specifies that the clerk of the applicable superior court collects the penalty before the deed under power is filed. The sums are then remitted to the governing authority of the county. If the foreclosed property is located within a city, the county governing authority must remit the sums to the city governing authority within 30 days after receipt of the sums. For each late filing penalty for property located within a city, the county governing authority may withhold a five percent administrative processing fee from the remittance to the city.

The bill also clarifies provisions in Title 44 regarding the number and type of witnesses required to execute and record certain security instruments. A 2013 Georgia Supreme Court decision (*Wells Fargo Bank v. Gordon*, 292 Ga. 474) interpreted the current law to require attestation of a security deed by both an official witness and an unofficial witness, although the current language allows for acknowledgment as well as attestation.

The bill removes the acknowledgment provisions to clarify that only attestation will suffice in recording and executing mortgages, security deeds, and bills of sale to secure debt. The bill replaces circular, ambiguous language with clearly delineated requirements for execution and recordation of these security instruments, and also removes some outdated terminology.

Additionally, HB 322 provides that U.S. savings bonds which are unclaimed property subject to the provisions of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act (O.C.G.A. § 44-12-190, et seq.) will escheat to the State three years after becoming unclaimed property. If no claim to the savings bonds has been filed within 180 days after three years have passed, the Revenue Commissioner shall commence a civil action in Fulton County Superior Court for a determination that the bonds shall escheat to the state. The commissioner may postpone bringing the action until sufficient bonds have accumulated in the commissioner's custody to justify the expense of the proceedings. If no person files a claim or appears at the hearing to substantiate a claim, or if the court determines that a claimant is not entitled to the property claimed, then the court shall enter a judgment that the bonds have escheated to the state, so long as the court is satisfied that the commissioner has substantially complied with Georgia law. The commissioner shall then redeem the bonds and the proceeds shall be deposited in the state general fund.

The bill provides that any person making a claim for the U.S. savings bonds escheated to the state or for the proceeds from such bonds may file a claim in accordance with the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, and upon providing sufficient proof of the validity of such person's claim, the commissioner may pay it.

HB 342 Nursing homes; violation of certain regulations shall not constitute negligence per se; provide
By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 342 provides that no violation by a nursing home of any regulation pursuant to the federal 'Nursing Home Reform Act' or any Georgia regulation shall constitute negligence per se; however, courts in a civil action shall still take judicial notice of these regulations and admit them into evidence if the court finds the regulations to be relevant to the harm alleged in the complaint.

Additionally, the bill states that results or findings of a federal or state survey or inspection of a nursing home facility shall not be used in an advertisement or solicitation, unless the advertisement or solicitation includes: the date of the survey; a statement that the Department of Community Health conducts a survey of all nursing home facilities at least once every 15 months; if applicable, a statement that the finding has been substantially corrected and the date of correction; the number of findings and the severity level of each finding; the average number of findings on the basis of surveys conducted by the department during the same calendar year as the survey used in the advertisement; the disclosure of whether each finding caused actual bodily harm to any residents and the number of residents harmed; and a statement that the advertisement is neither authorized nor endorsed by any government agency. A party found to have violated this provision shall be liable for attorney fees and costs incurred in an action to restrain or enjoin the violation; however, damages, attorney fees, and costs are not recoverable against any newspaper, news outlet, or broadcaster publishing an advertisement or solicitation submitted by a third party for a fee.

The bill only applies to causes of action arising on and after the effective date.

HB 347 Interest and usury; interest on certain domestic relations cases; clarify provisions
By: Rep. Dustin Hightower (68th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 347 specifies that interest begins to accrue on all monetary rulings rendered pursuant to Title 19 (including child support, alimony, and equitable division of assets) 30 days after such ruling is entered or an installment payment is due, unless a judge modifies the date on which interest begins to accrue.

HB 452 Protective Order Registry Act; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 452 expands the scope of the existing protective order registry to include registration of pretrial release orders and sentencing orders that prohibit contact. This allows law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys, and the courts to have access to an electronic database of all protective orders to aid in the enforcement of such orders and in the protection of victims.

HB 524 Trade names; require registration with clerk of superior court; provisions - VETO

By: Rep. Barry Fleming (121st) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 524 establishes a state-wide electronic network of trade name registrations filed in Georgia superior courts, to be developed and implemented by the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA), or its designated agent. The bill requires superior court clerks to participate in the network.

The bill maintains the current \$15 fee for filing and registering trade names, and creates a \$15 fee for reregistering an existing trade name in the electronic registry. The clerk of the superior court that collects these fees must remit \$5 from each fee collected to the GSCCCA.

HB 567 Alimony and child support; jurisdiction of courts that hear contempt proceedings; expand

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 567 allows a contempt proceeding for enforcement of a child support order to be brought in a court other than the court that issued the order, specifically, in the county where the person owing the duty of support may be found or is employed.

SB 65 Property; change provisions relating to an exemption

By: Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 65 amends Code Section 44-13-100, which permits debtors to exempt certain property from bankruptcy proceedings, by doubling the catch-all property exemption. Current law allows debtors to exempt the value of any piece of property, not in excess of \$600, plus up to \$5,000 of any unused amount of the homestead property exemption. SB 65 permits debtors to exempt the value of any piece of property, not in excess of \$1,200, plus up to \$10,000 of any unused amount of the homestead exemption. In summary, Senate Bill 65 increases the maximum exemption under the catch-all property exemption to \$11,200 from \$5,600.

The bill also updates and modernizes the following three uniform acts in the debtor-creditor area to reflect recent changes to these acts by the Uniform Law Commission: the 'Uniform Foreign-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act,' which codifies the most prevalent common law rules with regard to the recognition and enforcement of money judgments rendered in other countries; Article 1 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), which serves all other articles of the UCC with definitions and general provisions; and, the 'Uniform Voidable Transactions Act,' formerly named the 'Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act,' which strengthens creditor protections by providing remedies for certain transactions by a debtor that are unfair to the debtor's creditors.

SB 135 Clerks of Superior Courts; provide for protection and disclosure of records held; procedure for disclosure

By: Sen. Charlie Bethel (54th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 135 provides that the clerk of superior court in each county is the sole custodian of all original filed records that the clerk is required by law to retain in his or her office or permitted to store and archive in another location. The bill states that any request for access to or copies of records shall be made to the clerk, regardless of the methodology, system, or location used by the clerk for filing, recording, archiving, and storing records.

The bill allows the clerk to contract with any person or entity for the purpose of archiving or storing electronic

records of the clerk's office. When the clerk executes a contract for such purpose, the service provider may not provide access to or copies of any records with the clerk's express written approval, and must relinquish possession of all such records and any copies and return them to the clerk on his or her request (but this provision does not apply to records provided by the clerk to the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA)).

SB 135 states that records the clerk is required by law or rules and regulations to provide to other governmental departments, agencies, authorities, and entities to enable such offices to perform their duties or to support the functions assigned to such offices shall not be used for any purpose by such offices other than the performance of such duties or functions. The bill provides that records provided by the clerk to the GSCCCA can be used by the GSCCCA only for the performance of its statutory duties. The bill specifies that nothing in Code section 15-6-60.1 shall be construed to require or otherwise affect the appropriation of public funds by a local governing authority to a clerk.

The bill requires a clerk that elects to record in digital format any record of which he or she is custodian to maintain a back-up record in at least two ways: by permanently retaining the back-up record on the clerk's secure file server, and by the clerk submitting digitally formatted records to the GSCCCA for permanent archiving. The clerk must submit his or her records to the GSCCCA in a format acceptable to the GSCCCA at least monthly, but not later than the fifteenth day following the last day of each month. Upon receipt, the GSCCCA must permanently and securely maintain the records, and shall not provide access to or copies of records maintained by it to any person without the express written approval of the clerk who originally maintained the records (excluding records to which the GSCCCA is required by law to provide online access). All requests for access to records must be made to the clerk who originally maintained them. The bill also exempts from public disclosure records held by the GSCCCA or any other public or private entity for and on behalf of a superior court clerk, while stating that such records may be obtained from the clerk unless otherwise exempted from disclosure.

The above provisions become effective on July 1, 2015.

Additionally, the bill amends Code Section 9-11-4.1 relating to certification of process servers. Currently, this section has a sunset provision taking effect on July 1, 2015; SB 135 repeals the sunset provision. This repeal provision becomes effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SB 138 Social Services; provide for various reforms regarding the state's child welfare system

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 138 provides for various reforms to the state's child welfare system pursuant to a comprehensive review by the Governor's Child Welfare Reform Council.

The bill gives the governor the authority to appoint the director of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and outlines the qualifications for the position. The director will serve at the governor's pleasure and report directly to the governor, while remaining an employee of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

SB 138 also establishes the DFCS State Advisory Board, consisting of 20 members appointed by the governor as follows: one representative from each of the 15 state DFCS regions, and five members who are either state legislators or representatives from the fields of child welfare, foster care, public health or behavioral health and developmental disabilities, or juvenile justice. The advisory board shall meet at least quarterly to review and make recommendations to the DFCS director regarding issues related to the protection of children and DFCS's welfare and public assistance functions.

The bill also amends provisions regarding county DFCS boards, providing that such boards will consist of between five and seven members. Appointments made to county boards on or after the bill's effective date should be made from enumerated categories of persons from fields related to child welfare. The bill outlines the purpose and duties of county boards, providing that they will serve as an active liaison between the county departments and the local community and report no less than annually to the DFCS director regarding service delivery, community needs, and recommendations for operational improvements on the county level.

SB 138 clarifies that the purpose of county DFCS departments is to protect children, and outlines what county departments must do to achieve this primary purpose: investigate reports of abuse and neglect; assess, promote, and support the safety of a child in a safe and stable family or other appropriate placement in response to allegations of abuse or neglect; work cooperatively with law enforcement regarding reports that include criminal conduct allegations; and without compromising child safety, coordinate services to achieve and maintain

permanency on behalf of the child, strengthen the family, and provide prevention, intervention, and treatment services.

The bill also establishes a DFCS Regional Advisory Board in each of the 15 state DFCS regions, to meet at least quarterly. Each board would be composed of at least five members and shall include the director and at least one board member of each county DFCS department within the region as selected by the DFCS regional director. The regional director may appoint additional members who are representatives from enumerated fields related to child welfare. The purpose of the regional advisory boards is to improve communication and coordination between the county departments within the region, improve and streamline service delivery by the county departments within the region, and provide for consistent application of state DFCS policy within the county departments within the region.

SB 138 also expands the authorization of DHS to provide casework services and care to children where the parent, custodian, or guardian has placed his or her child in the custody of DHS by voluntary agreement until such agreement is revoked by the parent, custodian, or guardian or the agreement expires. DHS is also empowered with preparing, educating, and training foster parents to provide them with the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the needs of foster children, including knowledge and skills relating to the reasonable and prudent parent standard for the participation of the child in age or developmentally appropriate activities. Additionally, DHS is authorized to provide each youth aging out of foster care (unless the child has been in foster care less than six months and provided the child is eligible to receive such documents) with an official birth certificate, social security card, health insurance information, a copy of the child's medical records, and a state-issued driver's license or ID card.

The bill provides for immunity from civil liability for any foster parent, caregiver, or child welfare agency or other entity under contract with DHS as a result of the caregiver's approval of the participation of a child in DHS custody in an age or developmentally appropriate activity, so long as the caregiver acts in accordance with the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

SB 138 brings certain statutes in compliance with federal laws in order for the state to continue to receive federal funding under Title IV-E of the 'Social Security Act'.

The bill also states that the General Assembly supports interagency efforts to gather comprehensive data and to actively share and disseminate data among agencies responsible for making informed decisions about the treatment, care, security, and protection of Georgia children. The bill requires DHS, working with DFCS, the Department of Early Care and Learning, the Department of Community Health, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education, and the Georgia Crime Information Center, to develop and implement a workable state-wide system for sharing data relating to the care and protection of children between such agencies to streamline access to such data. DHS, working with the above agencies, must also establish an interagency data protocol to enable each agency to accurately and efficiently collect and share data with the other agencies in the most effective and expeditious manner. The bill allows for specific interagency agreements to be executed between or among agencies to further delineate the parameters for the sharing of data with one or more agencies. If a federal law or regulation impedes necessary data sharing between agencies, the appropriate agency or agencies must make all reasonable attempts to be granted a waiver or exemption from the applicable law or regulation.

SB 138 also allows DHS or a county or other state or local agency to release information about records concerning reports of child abuse to any school official of a school that a child, who was the subject of a report of suspected child abuse, attends in which there is an ongoing investigation of the reported abuse. Any ongoing investigation must include contact with the school to obtain any relevant information from school personnel regarding the report of suspected child abuse. The bill also gives foster parents access to the medical and educational records of a child in their care in the same manner and to the same extent as DHS itself would have, and to the fullest extent allowable by law, to ensure the proper care and education of foster children.

The bill provides that DFCS must create and maintain a confidential central child abuse registry known as the Child Protective Services Information System (CPSIS), which will receive notice of substantiated cases of child abuse occurring on and after July 1, 2016, and of persons convicted of child abuse crimes on and after July 1, 2016. The registry will be operated in a manner that enables abuse investigators to immediately identify and locate substantiated cases of child abuse and convicted child abusers and to maintain and produce aggregate statistical data of substantiated cases of child abuse and cases of child abuse in which a person was convicted. The bill also includes procedures for allowing a person to determine whether his or her name is included in the registry, and for removing his or her name from the registry.

Judiciary Non-Civil Committee**HB 1 Haleigh's Hope Act; enact***By: Rep. Allen Peake (141st)**Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 1 redefines what constitutes marijuana. Although the meaning of "marijuana" stays the same, the bill adds substantially to the substances that do not constitute marijuana. First, the bill provides that the term "marijuana" does not include marijuana stalks with no leaves, fibers produced from stalks, oil, or cake including cannabitol or cannabidol. Second, the bill provides that the term "marijuana" does not include derivatives, products, samples and oils of industrial hemp as defined by federal law. Finally, this section states that the term "marijuana" does not include extracted cannabitol or cannabidol provided that such oil: is prescribed to persons diagnosed with one of several conditions or is involved with the clinical research trials approved by the Board of Regents at the University of Georgia; the cannabidol must not contain an amount of Tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) that exceeds five percent of the total contents of such oil; and contains an amount of cannabidol not less than one part of the total amount of THC. If the person is 18 years or younger, the THC content in the oil cannot exceed three percent.

The bill creates the Georgia Commission on Medical Cannabis Regulation (the "commission") for the purpose of studying effective means to legalize and regulate medical cannabis. The commission is responsible for establishing plans to create a program that oversees all aspects (licensing, distribution, security, etc.) of the medical cannabis industry. The commission is made up of 17 members and includes the following permanent members: the commissioner of public health; the director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the director of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency; the commissioner of agriculture; the chairperson of the Georgia Composite Medical Board; and the Governor's executive counsel. The remaining members shall be appointed by the Governor on or before July 1, 2015: two members of the Senate; two members of the House; certified hematologist-oncologist; certified neurologist; certified gastroenterologist; certified pharmacist; a prosecuting attorney; a sheriff; and a police chief. A chairperson of the commission is designated by the governor, and other officers may be elected by the commission. The chairperson has the power to appoint committees and other persons to perform functions he or she deems necessary. The chairperson does not vote unless it is to break a tie.

The commission is attached for administrative purposes to the Department of Public Health, and that office may use any funds specifically appropriated to it to support the commission.

The commission meets at the call of the chairperson. The commission must establish recommendations regarding the regulation of medical cannabis. The commission must also submit a report by December 31, 2015 to the governor's executive counsel, the Office of Planning and Budget, the General Assembly's Appropriations, Health and Human Services, and Judiciary Non-civil Committees. The report will outline issues with regulation and any proposed legislation the commission deems necessary. The committee must also evaluate and consider medical cannabis legislation in other states.

The commission has the power to: evaluate how state laws affecting medical cannabis should operate; request and review data from state agencies; accept grants; enter into contracts through chairperson; establish rules for conducting business of the commission; conduct studies; hold public meetings; collect data; retain the services of appropriate professionals; and any other action necessary to fulfill its responsibilities. The commission is repealed June 30, 2016.

Finally, the bill creates a Medical Cannabis Patient Registry within the Department of Public Health. The registry will provide a card to an adult patient or a minor patient's parent who is being treated with legal cannabitol as provided for in the bill. The department is tasked with establishing rules and regulations for dispensing the cards. All records received by the department under this bill are confidential, but may be disclosed upon request of a registered person.

HB 71 Pardons and paroles; provide input and transparency relative to granting a parole or commutation of a death sentence to a life sentence; provisions*By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th)**Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 71 imposes several requirements on the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. The bill changes procedures for notifying a victim of an impending parole, pardon, release of an inmate, or request to commute a death sentence. Moreover, the bill defines what constitutes a serious offense regarding providing clemency for an individual. The bill also allows information regarding a person who has previously been paroled but whose civil rights have been restored to be released publicly. Next, the bill requires that a written decision

granting a pardon or commuting a death sentence contain certain additional information. The bill also requires that the Board, when considering any case within its power, to consider certain additional information about the person in question. Finally, it requires the Board to release certain information upon request and adds to the list of information required to be disclosed.

HB 72 Crimes and offenses; protection of disabled adults and elder persons; expand and clarify

By: Rep. Wendell Willard (51st) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 72 adds the definition for "mentally or physically incapacitated" as an impairment that substantially affects an individual's ability to provide for their own: personal protection, necessities (food, shelter, clothing, medical, or other health care), completion of daily activities, or management of their own resources.

This bill also precludes a private cause of action against an owner, agent, or employee of a long-term care facility but will not limit the criminal or civil remedies available to the state.

Venue changed to provide that any violation will be considered to have been committed in any county where the violation occurred and any county where the victim resides.

The bill also adds a violation of Article 8 of Chapter 5 of Title 16, relating to protection of elder persons, to the list of offenses that constitute racketeering activity.

When the alleged victim is 65 years of age or older ("elder person") or is 18 or older and is mentally or physically incapacitated, has Alzheimer's, or has dementia ("disabled person"), the prosecuting attorney may seek preferred scheduling, but must notify the accused, in writing, if he or she intends to do so. Such notice must allege the factors which would prohibit the disabled adult from attending court proceedings, or state the age of the alleged victim if the victim is an "elderly person." After notice has been given, a hearing on the request must be conducted within 14 days. If the court determines that preferred scheduling is needed, the trial must be no earlier than 30 days from the hearing date and is not required to be called on the criminal docket.

This bill defines "investment company" to mean an individual, business entity, or any organized group of persons that is engaged or proposes to engage in: the business of effecting securities transactions; the business of issuing securities or has been so engaged and has any outstanding certificates; the business of advising others as to the value of securities, the advisability of investing in, purchasing, or selling securities or that, for compensation, issues or promulgates analysis or reports concerning securities. This bill requires employees of these "investment companies" who have reasonable cause to believe that a "disabled adult" or "elder person" has been exploited to report such exploitation to an adult protection agency and to an appropriate law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney.

Those employees acting as a fiduciary are exempt from this obligation, but only for such assets that the employee is holding/managing in a fiduciary capacity.

When a report that a disabled adult or elder person is in need of protective services or has been abused, neglected, or exploited is made to an adult protection agency, the agency must immediately make a reasonable determination as to whether the incident alleges actions that constitute a crime and include that information in the report. If a crime is suspected, the agency must immediately forward a report to an appropriate law enforcement agency. The agency must also report any evidence of a crime that it discovers during its investigation. When a report is originally made to a law enforcement agency, the agency must forward the report to the director or his designee within 24 hours of receipt.

For the purposes of these reporting requirements, "disabled person" means a person, 18 or older, who is not a resident of a long-term care facility, but who is mentally/physically incapacitated or who has Alzheimer's or dementia. An "elder person" means a person, 65 or older, who is not a resident of a long-term care facility. If a person is a resident of a long-term care facility, the report must be made in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 8 of Title 31.

If a person is convicted of the felony offense of running an unlicensed personal care home in conjunction with abuse, neglect, or exploitation that conviction will constitute a "crime" which will preclude an owner from obtaining a license to operate a facility.

This bill also changes the provisions regarding applications for and executions of inspection warrants. The commissioner of The Department of Community Health, his/her designee, or any person authorized to make

inspections for the commissioner must make an application to a judicial officer. The warrant may only be issued upon cause and when supported by an affidavit that describes the place to be inspected, the purpose of the inspection, and a statement that either consent has been sought and refused or describes why consent was not sought. Cause sufficient to justify an inspection warrant can be based on: reasonable legislative or administrative standards for conducting an inspection are satisfied with respect to a particular establishment; or reasonable belief that nonconformity exists.

An inspection warrant will only be effective for the time specified on the search warrant, but not for more than 14 days unless the judicial officer who issued the warrant extends the warrant upon satisfaction the extension is in public interest. Unless executed before this time period, the inspection warrant will be void.

The warrant may be executed at any time deemed appropriate by the person executing it, but whenever possible made during business hours. The person executing the warrant cannot enter forcibly unless it can be shown that: there is a reasonable suspicion that a violation, if it existed, would be an immediate threat to health or safety; or previous attempts to serve it were unsuccessful.

An inspection warrant may be executed without notice to the owner when prior consent has been sought and refused and an "investigation warrant" has been issued.

An owner, operator, or employee of a place being inspected pursuant to an inspection warrant will be guilty of a misdemeanor if they refuse to allow such inspection.

The bill removes language in current law that precludes the use of facts or evidence discovered through the execution of an inspection warrant as evidence in any criminal proceeding against any party.

This bill clarifies that emergency care will include the rescue of an incapacitated or endangered individual from a locked motor vehicle. The bill also clarifies that a person providing emergency care in these situations will have a defense of justification.

HB 89 Drug-free commercial zones; date of incorporation of local ordinances by reference; change

By: Rep. Roger Bruce (61st) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: This bill is the annual update to drug-free commercial zones and incorporates all drug-free commercial zones that have been properly adopted by municipal or county ordinance since 2013.

HB 211 Controlled substances; Schedule I, III, and IV; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Bruce Broadrick (4th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 211 is the annual update to the list of prohibited controlled substances.

HB 310 Penal institutions; create Board of Community Supervision, Department of Community Supervision, and Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry; provisions

By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 310 creates: the Board of Community Supervision; the Department of Community Supervision; and the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry. These agencies assume the duties related to probation and parole previously held by other state agencies. Also, the bill provides several changes to the law governing probation for misdemeanors.

HB 310 creates the Board of Community Supervision (the "board") which establishes the general policies to be followed by the Department of Community Supervision ("DCS") and the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry.

The bill transfers the powers of several state agencies to the newly established board including the powers, duties, and functions of: the Board of Corrections, with regard to the Department of Corrections' probation division; the Board of Pardons and Paroles, with regard to the supervision of parolees; the Board of Juvenile Justice and Department of Juvenile Justice, with regard to the probation and supervision of certain youthful offenders; and the County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council.

The transfers become effective July 1, 2015 with the exception of the transfer of power from the Board of Juvenile Justice and Department of Juvenile Justice, which is effective on July 1, 2016.

Eleven members make up the board, six of whom will serve for the entire time they remain in their appointed positions. These six members are the: commissioner of corrections, commissioner of juvenile justice, chairperson and vice-chairperson of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, director of the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services, and commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities. The other five members are appointed by the governor and serve terms of varying lengths. These members will consist of a: sheriff, superior court judge, juvenile court judge, mayor or city manager, and county commissioner. Vacancies in office are filled by appointment by the governor. A chairperson is also elected by the Board's membership.

The board is required to adopt rules and regulations governing the management and treatment of probationers and parolees. These rules must ensure that the board's decisions regarding probationer and parolee management are guided by practices that have been shown by scientific research to reduce recidivism.

The board must also require the DCS to collect and analyze certain data regarding the type and effectiveness of treatments given to probationers and parolees. The DCS must prepare an annual report of this information and submit it to various elected officials.

The bill gives the board the authority and duty to consult with and seek input from an advisory council. Such council will be composed of a: state court judge, municipal court judge, probate court judge, magistrate judge, criminal defense attorney appointed by the governor, and private probation officer or an expert in private probation appointed by the governor.

Finally, the board must promulgate rules requiring probation officers to register and pay a fee for such registration. These rules must also provide for the imposition of sanctions and fines for officer misconduct.

HB 310 also creates the Department of Community Supervision (DCS), which is the agency primarily responsible for supervision of: defendants who receive a felony sentence of straight probation; defendants who receive a split sentence; defendants placed on parole or other conditional release; and, certain juvenile offenders released from confinement.

The DCS is also responsible for administering and enforcing laws, rules, and regulations related to probation and parole supervision. Within the DCS, a victim services unit will be established to coordinate the payment of court-ordered restitution and other victims' services.

A commissioner of community supervision, a salaried position to be appointed by the governor, is responsible for supervising, directing, and executing the functions of the DCS. With approval of the board, the commissioner is authorized to make and publish rules and regulations related to the administration of probation and parole supervision. Until the commissioner does so, the effective rules and regulations will be those previously adopted by the agencies that, pursuant to this bill, transferred their probation and parole supervision duties to the Board. Finally, the commissioner may prescribe forms, confer powers of police officers on its employees, and allow certain employees to assist law enforcement officers in preserving order and peace.

The state agencies that transfer their duties and powers to the newly created DCS must also transfer personnel, equipment, and facilities to the DCS. Additionally, appropriations to these agencies will also be transferred to the DCS.

HB 310 allows a DCS or community supervision office to purchase vending machines or contract with vending services if the operation of such services is capable of generating a profit. The profits generated from these services go to an "employee benefit fund" which, with some restrictions, may be expended on items or activities that benefit employees of the office. Examples include recognizing the birth of an employee's child, events that foster camaraderie amongst employees, or training sessions. The bill provides monetary limitations on how much may be spent on these items or events.

HB 310 creates the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry (the "office") in order to administer rules and regulations that promote successful offender reentry. The duties and powers related to reentry services of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, Department of Corrections, and Board/Department of Juvenile Justice are transferred to the office. Personnel, equipment, and facilities of these agencies are also transferred this newly created office. Finally, appropriations to these agencies related to reentry service functions are also transferred to the office.

A director of the office, a salaried position appointed by the governor, will be responsible for supervising, directing, organizing, planning, administering, and executing the functions of the office. The director is

authorized to establish units within the office and designate assistant directors of each unit.

The commissioner of the DCS and the director of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry hold positions that are separate and distinct from any other position in state government. These officers are authorized to employ, assign, compensate, and discharge employees; however, no DCS employee or person performing services for the Office may be compensated on a commission or contingent fee basis. Neither the commissioner of the DCS, the director of the Office, nor any employee thereof may be given anything of value in addition to their compensation.

HB 310 makes it a misdemeanor for a community service officer to use an offender for any purpose resulting in private gain to any individual. This prohibition does not apply to services provided to a disabled person under the newly enacted law, work on private property because of a natural disaster, or if the services are performed pursuant to an order by the court.

The bill also requires agencies that wish to participate in a community service program to submit an application letter to the court showing eligibility, number of offenders capable of being placed in the agency, the type of work to be performed, and provisions for supervision. The court will then assign offenders to work for the agency.

This bill provides immunity from liability for acts performed by community service officers while the officers are participating in a community service program. The immunity does not apply to acts that are grossly negligent, reckless, or willful.

HB 310 allows that community service may be considered as a condition of probation. Primary consideration will be given to traffic violation offenders, ordinance offenders, offenders convicted of non-injurious or nondestructive, nonviolent misdemeanors or felonies. If community service is ordered as a condition of probation, the court shall order not less than 20 hours and no more than 250 hours in cases involving traffic/ordinance violations or misdemeanors, such service to be completed within one year. In felony cases, the court shall order not less than 20 hours and no more than 500 hours, such service to be completed within three years. A written report evaluating the offender's performance must be prepared by the community services officer to be used to determine if conditions of probation have been satisfied.

The court may also authorize an offender to serve as a live-in attendant for a disabled person if both the offender and disabled person agree and such service is deemed appropriate by the court. Such service shall last, at most, two years. The arrangement can be terminated upon request by the offender or disabled person, and the agency must frequently ensure the safety and welfare of the disabled person by maintaining personal contact. If an offender providing these services is later incarcerated, they may be awarded time for good time for each day of live-in community service.

The court may also order an offender to perform 40 hours of community service per week in lieu of incarceration. A court may also add community service hours to the original court ordered hours as a disciplinary action, as an additional requirement of any program in lieu of incarceration, or as part of the sentencing options system.

HB 310 allows the DCS to establish and operate pretrial release and diversion programs as rehabilitative measures for persons charged with felonies for which bond is permissible; however, unanimous approval of the superior court judges, the district attorney, and the sheriff of the county is required in each county before these programs may be established.

Upon the application by the person charged with a felony for which bond is permissible, a court may release the person prior to conviction to the supervision of a pretrial release or diversion programs after an investigation and upon recommendation of the staff of the program. A person must voluntarily agree to participate in the pretrial release or diversion program and knowingly and intelligently waive his or her right to a speedy trial for the period of pretrial release or diversion. Finally, the judge having jurisdiction over the case must approve of the release in writing. Under this bill, the Georgia Department of Labor may still enter into agreements with district attorneys in order to establish and operate pretrial intervention programs.

HB 310 allows a county to establish diversion programs and centers for the confinement of persons who have violated court orders granting alimony or child support. Under certain conditions, a person confined in a diversion center may be allowed to travel to and from his or her place of employment. If not traveling to and from work, the person shall be confined to the diversion center and will continue to be responsible for alimony and child support. The person may also be required to pay for the costs of his or her incarceration at the center as well as the cost of administering the program. A judge is authorized to provide other methods of incarceration if

the person fails to comply with requirements imposed upon him or her.

This bill allows a sentencing judge to require defendants sentenced to probation to be ordered to a "sentencing options system" which allows the DCS, as an alternative to judicial modifications or revocations, to sanction probationers who violate terms and conditions of their probation. The sentencing judge still retains jurisdiction over a defendant ordered to the sentencing options system. Before a sanction is imposed, there must be an administrative hearing to determine, by a preponderance of the evidence, if a probation violation has occurred. The determination is reviewable by the senior hearing officer if the offender files a request for review within 15 days of the decision. In turn, this decision is reviewable by the sentencing court. The sanctions include a confinement to a probation detention center or substance abuse treatment facility, probation boot camp, day reporting center, intensive probation, electronic monitoring, community service, or probation supervision.

If a probationer who has been ordered to this system is arrested on a warrant for an alleged probation violation, a preliminary hearing is required within, at most, 15 days. This hearing is not required if the probationer was not under arrest on a warrant, the probationer signed a waiver of a preliminary hearing, or if the administrative hearing is scheduled to be heard within 15 days of arrest. The system will only apply in judicial circuits where DCS has allocated certified hearing officers.

HB 310 adds language that requires the chief judge of a municipal court that has contracted for probation services to initiate the termination of that contract. The termination is subject to approval by the governing authority of the municipality or consolidated government which entered into the contract.

If a defendant has violated an ordinance or committed a misdemeanor, this bill allows a court with original jurisdiction to stay or suspend the execution of a sentence or place the defendant on probation if the court determines that the defendant is not likely to engage in an unlawful course of conduct and justice does not require the defendant to suffer the penalty imposed by law. The period of probation cannot exceed the maximum amount of confinement which could be imposed on the defendant.

The court may also require the defendant to pay a fine or fee as a condition of probation. The court may also require the defendant to pay a probation fee if the probation requires supervision. When considering any amount imposed on a defendant, other than when the amount imposed is for restitution, the court may consider the financial situation of the defendant and the goal of the punishment imposed. A court may also convert fines, statutory surcharges and probation supervision fees to community service.

If a court determines that the defendant has a significant financial hardship or inability to pay, the court must waive, modify, or convert fines or other moneys assessed. There is a presumption of significant financial hardship when a person has a developmental disability, is totally and permanently disabled, is indigent or released from confinement within the last 12 months and was incarcerated for at least 30 days before his or her release. Additionally, absent a waiver, a hearing is required before a court may revoke a probationary sentence for failure to pay fines or fees. If the probation is revoked, the court must make a written determination that the probationer has not made good faith efforts to pay and the failure was willful.

This bill also provides that a sentencing judge will retain jurisdiction over any person placed on probation for the entire term of the person's probated sentence. The judge may revoke, rescind, modify, or toll the sentence at any time during the probated sentence.

In revocation hearings, the court must consider alternatives to confining the probationer. If a person violates probation by failing to report to probation or failing to pay fines or fees, and an alternative is not warranted, the court must revoke the balance of probation or a period no more than 120 days in confinement, whichever is less. If a person violates probation by failing to comply with any other provision of probation, and an alternative is not warranted, the court must revoke the balance of probation or a period of no more than two years in confinement, whichever is less.

If a defendant is only under probation supervision for his or her failure to pay court imposed fines or statutory surcharges, probation supervision fees cannot exceed three months of ordinary probation supervision fees.

If the defendant's sentence is later converted to one that requires community supervision, the court may reinstate probation supervision fees to monitor the defendant's compliance with community service obligations.

A court must determine the terms and conditions of probation including, but not limited to, requirements that the probationer: avoid injurious and vicious habits, avoid harmful or disreputable places, report to the probation officer, permit a probation officer to visit the probationer's home, work at a suitable place of employment, remain at a specified location, pay restitution or reparation to an aggrieved person or municipality, support the

probationer's legal dependents, not violate any law, allow extradition to this state, submit drug or mental health screenings, wear a tracking device, wear an alcohol or drug monitoring device, or complete substance abuse or mental health treatment.

A probated sentence may be tolled if it is established by affidavit of the probation officer that the probationer has failed to report despite efforts to contact the probationer. If after receiving notice of the probation officer's intent to seek a tolling order, and thereafter reported to the officer within a certain amount of time, the probationer may be entitled to a hearing to consider whether the probation sentence should be tolled.

Any unpaid fines or other moneys owed as a condition of probation are due when the probationer is arrested. If the entire probation is revoked, all of the conditions of probation, including owed money, are negated by the imprisonment. If only part of the probation is revoked, the court determines the probationer's responsibility for unpaid fines or other moneys owed.

Any private probation company that contracts with a municipality to provide services must report to the board and the judge who entered into the contract on a quarterly basis the amount of fees collected and the nature of such fees as well as the number of community service hours performed by probationers and a list of any other service for which the probationer was required to pay to attend. Once a year, this information must also be reported to the governing authority that entered into the private probation contract.

A probationer must be provided with a written receipt each time he or she makes a payment. Also, upon request, a probationer must be given a copy of his or her own probation file. One of these requests will be processed for free, but the probationer will be required to pay a fee for each subsequent request. The Board shall promulgate rules and regulations to clarify what information, such as victim information, shall be withheld from these files. Probationers shall be able to seek an in camera inspection of the entire file if they contend that report of the information is being improperly withheld.

This bill also requires that certain rules and regulations of the board will be subject to disclosure. This includes rules and regulations regarding: agreements for the provision of probation services, the conduct of business by private probation companies, local governments establishing probation systems, and guidelines of private probation companies.

The bill requires private probation companies to register with the board before entering into any contract to provide services. If a company was registered with the County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council on or before June 30, 2015, they shall be deemed to be registered with the board.

After January 1, 2016, in order for a person to be a community service officer, he or she must complete the basic training course for supervision of probations and parolees certified by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council.

Currently, many defendants facing a probation revocation proceeding are denied an opportunity to enter into a felony accountability court program as part of their revocation sentence due to having insufficient time remaining on their original sentence sufficient to complete the program. This bill would permit the defendant under such circumstances to voluntarily agree to an extension of his or her original sentence for a period not to exceed three years to permit the defendant to enter and complete a felony accountability court program. Upon graduation, the balance of the extended probation sentence may be modified by the court.

This bill also revises language to incorporate "community supervision officers," instead of or in addition to "probation officers," into applicable sections of the Code. References to probation officers and the Board of Pardons and Paroles are removed from sections where they no longer apply.

Superior Court fees may not be charged to a person filing a petition under the first offender act.

The list of persons subject to special rules for sexual assault because of their supervisory role is expanded from "probation or parole office" to "community supervision office, county juvenile probation office, Department of Juvenile Justice juvenile probation office, or probation office."

After July 1, 2015, defendants serving a split sentence will have their probation supervised by the DCS instead of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. "Split sentence," in the context of criminal sentencing, means any felony sentence requiring imprisonment followed by probation. The DCS does not have jurisdiction to supervise probation for misdemeanor offenses unless that probation runs concurrent to the probation for a felony offense or the court orders such supervision.

A new subsection is added to the State Sexual Offender Registry that requires the DCS to keep all records of registered sexual offenders until the death of that offender. HB 310 provides specific guidance regarding who must inform a defendant of his or her eligibility as a first offender. If an attorney represents the defendant, the attorney is responsible for informing the defendant. If the defendant is pro se, the court shall inquire as to the defendant's desire to be sentenced as a first offender. When imposing the sentence, the court will ensure the defendant is aware of the consequences of entering a first offender plea. Individuals who were eligible for first offender treatment, but not informed of their ability to receive such treatment, may petition the Superior Court for discharge or exoneration under the first offender statute with the permission of the prosecutor. The court shall hold a hearing on the petition and consider any evidence introduced by the petitioner or the prosecuting attorney and any other relevant evidence. If the court finds a preponderance of the evidence supports the defendant's contention that they were eligible for first offender treatment and justice is served, the court may retroactively apply first offender treatment and the GBI must modify their records accordingly.

The duties of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles is no longer charged with supervising persons placed on parole or aiding parolees and probationers with securing employment.

HB 328 Adult offenders; enact reforms recommended by Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform
By: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (104th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 328 modifies the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975' by adding a section to regulate "consumer reporting agencies," those persons or entities that assemble or evaluate consumer information to provide third parties with a "consumer report" used to evaluate the consumer's fitness for insurance, credit, or employment.

The bill requires consumer reporting agencies to notify consumers when their public record information is provided to a third party, along with the name and address of the receiving party, or to maintain strict procedures to ensure the accuracy of any information that is likely to adversely affect the consumers' ability to obtain employment.

Any consumer reporting agency providing information to a third party domiciled or having a principle place of business within the state will be considered to be conducting business in the state.

HB 328 allows parole eligibility for inmates required to serve their entire sentence under the repeat offender statute who are serving a sentence of 12 years up to life and meet certain requirements. Requirements for the inmate include: no conviction of certain felonies which are violent in nature, weapons-related or result in registration as a sex offender; completion of at least 12 years of the sentence; determination by the Department of Corrections to have low-risk for recidivism; classification as medium risk (or less) for institutional housing purposes; no serious disciplinary infractions for 12 months prior to consideration; and obtained a high school diploma or GED.

The bill allows drug court diversion program participants to receive a probationary professional or business license when the applicant submits an application for licensure or renewal and proof of program completion. This amendment does not preclude the board from considering convictions other than the conviction that resulted in the assignment to the drug court.

The bill adjusts the public assistance fraud statute, clarifying that the statute is not gender specific by adding "or she" after "he" where it is appropriate. The amendment also raises the threshold for felony fraud from \$500 to \$1,500.

Code sections referencing the "Georgia Public Defender Standards Council" are amended by striking "Standards" thus changing the name to "Georgia Public Defender Council."

The bill removes language that required the council to select their director on the basis of training and experience. The bill also strikes language that gave the director the power to: take action necessary to perform indigent defense services, enforce rules and regulations necessary to perform indigent defense services, carry into effect the minimum standards promulgated by the council, and to perform functions and duties that the council is authorized to perform under O.C.G.A. § 17-12-4. The director is also prohibited from representing any indigent person or engaging in the private practice of law for profit.

The director is no longer required to submit procedures he or she develops for the council's approval. Also, the director is no longer required to consult with professionals about implementing and improving indigent services programs. Finally, this bill requires the director to "hire or remove" directors for the offices of mental health

advocacy and the Georgia capital defender.

HB 328 gives the council the authority to assist public defenders instead of requiring them to do so. Similarly, the bill allows, instead of requires, the council to keep and publish statistics to evaluate the delivery of indigent defense in Georgia. The council is required to meet at least semi-annually instead of quarterly under the bill.

The bill strikes the Code section that required the council to approve programs for representation of indigent persons. Language is also stricken from the Code that required policies and standards promulgated by the council to be publicly available on the council's website.

HB 328 changes the reporting requirements of the council and director. Instead of requiring an annual report of the council's expenditures and revenue, such report is only required "upon request." The same change is made regarding reports by the director assessing the delivery of indigent defense in Georgia.

The legislative committee providing oversight of the council is only required to meet once, instead of three times, each year. Also, this legislative oversight committee is no longer required to submit an annual report of its activities and findings.

When a public defender is replaced due to a conflict of interest, this bill strikes language that required the replacing attorney to have the training and experience that the complexity of the case requires. Language is also stricken that required such attorney to meet standards established by the council.

Instead of requiring a public defender to represent any juvenile case where there is a possibility of confinement, commitment or probation, this bill only requires representation in juvenile delinquency cases.

Circuit public defenders are no longer required to establish a special juvenile defense division. The bill also strikes language that entitled a person arrested or served with any initiating process to the services of public defense council within three business days.

Current law allows a city or county to contract with circuit public defenders to provide indigent defense to people accused with violating ordinances or state laws. This bill strikes language that subjects the city and county to policies adopted by the council if they do not contract with the circuit public defenders.

This bill strikes language enumerating the specific types of records that the public defenders are required to keep. Instead, the public defenders are required to keep records "as requested by the council."

Current law allows a single county judicial circuit to, upon approval by the council, establish an alternative system of delivering indigent defense services. If the council disapproves, this bill allows the system to appeal that disapproval to the council instead of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

The governing authority within a judicial circuit is still required to provide the public defender with the name and identifying information of each person who applies and is eligible for legal services; however, such authority is no longer required to submit that information within one day of the defendant's application.

SB 72 "Tanja's Law"; provide measure of equivalency in punishment of crimes committed against police dogs in performance of their official duties

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 72, known as "Tanja's Law," revises the penalties for harming a law enforcement animal in the performance of its duties by creating tiers of offenses, defining terms, and providing for exceptions. Previously, a person intentionally causing serious or debilitating injury was automatically guilty of a felony.

The law deletes the previous definition of the crime and creates four punishment tiers. A fourth-degree offense occurs when a person intentionally causes physical harm to a law enforcement animal. Offenders are guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall receive up to 12 months in prison and a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both.

A third-degree offense occurs when a person intentionally causes physical injury to a law enforcement animal through the use of a deadly weapon likely to cause harm. Offenders are guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished by not less than six and not more than 12 months in prison and a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both.

A second-degree offense occurs when a person knowingly or intentionally shoots a law enforcement animal with a firearm or causes a debilitating physical injury to a law enforcement animal. Offenders are guilty of a felony and shall receive at least one year but not more than five years in prison and a fine not exceeding \$25,000, or both.

A first-degree offense occurs when a person knowingly or intentionally causes the death of a law enforcement animal. Offenders are guilty of a felony and shall receive at least 18 months but not more than five years in prison and a fine not exceeding \$50,000, or both.

In addition to any other penalty, the offender must pay restitution equal to all necessary costs of veterinary treatment, the full cost of replacing the animal and its handlers, to the agency that was the owner of the animal.

The Code section applies only to animals harmed in or because of the performance of their duties. It does not prevent people, who are attacked by a law enforcement animal without command, from defending themselves. The section excludes euthanasia of the animals by the law enforcement agency. Whenever a law enforcement animal dies in the line of duty, the GBI must perform a necropsy on the animal.

SB 72 also revises the statute prohibiting harassing phone calls to include harassing or threatening electronic communications. A person commits this offense by repeatedly telephoning or communicating with another person via electronic communication for the purposes of harassing, molesting, threatening or intimidating. The crime will be considered to have been committed where the phone call or electronic communication was sent or where such communication was received. There is no merger for such offenses and the prohibition does not apply to protected speech.

Finally, SB 72 also fills a gap in Georgia's criminal incest statute to include half-blood relatives.

SB 79 Victim Compensation; expand the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's powers and duties relative to claims

By: Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation makes minor changes to rules for administering the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund. The Act raises the maximum amount payable for funeral expenses from \$3,000 to \$6,000. The list of eligible family members is modified to include step-parents and step-children.

SB 94 Criminal Procedure; require a procedure for enhancing witness identification accuracy

By: Sen. Charlie Bethel (54th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 94 requires law enforcement agencies that conduct live lineups, photo lineups, or showups, to adopt written policies for using such procedures. These policies must contain the following requirements: if using a live lineup procedure, a person who does not know the identity of the suspect must be the one to conduct the procedure; or if using a photo lineup, the person conducting the procedure must either not know the identity of the suspect or use a procedure that randomly places photographs in folders so that the conductor cannot physically see which photograph is being viewed by the witness until the procedure is complete.

In either case, the witness must be instructed that the perpetrator of the alleged crime may or may not be present in the lineup. There must be at least four individuals who are not suspects ("fillers") in live lineups and at least five in photo lineups. These fillers must generally resemble the witness's description of the perpetrator.

The witness, who makes the identification, whether at a live lineup, photo lineup, or showup, must make and document a clear statement in their own words about their confidence level in the identification. These policies will be subject to public disclosure. If an agency fails to comply with these requirements, the judge may consider such failure, but is not required to exclude identification evidence obtained.

SB 94 allows for law enforcement officers in the course of their lawful performance of his/her official duties to observe, photograph, videotape, or record the activities of individual's in that officer's presence.

This bill also changes the scope of items that can be taken into evidence in a search incident to arrest to include instruments, articles, and information or data, and anything that is tangible or intangible, corporeal or incorporeal, visible or invisible which is evidence of the commission of a crime. The private papers of any

person are excluded.

SB 94 bill allows other personnel acting on behalf of a peace officer to assist in the execution of a warrant. The bill also allows the use of a "device" when executing a warrant. A device means an electronic instrument used for overhearing sounds or for observing images. This also includes instruments that can be used to intercept a wire, oral, or electronic communication. Certain instruments are excluded from the definition of device, such as hearing aids or "trap and trace" devices.

The bill also protects from disclosure, audio and video recordings from the "devices" used by law enforcement officers where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy and no pending investigation, unless a sworn affidavit is provided that attest to certain facts as to why release of such information is eligible.

SB 99 Conduct of Proceedings; reversal on appeal; judge expresses an opinion regarding proof in a criminal case; change provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 99 revises the provisions for when a judge may express his opinion to a jury about the guilt of the accused or whether a fact has been proved; this bill makes it an error for a judge to do so during any phase of a criminal trial. If a judge expresses his opinion regarding the guilt of the accused (not whether a fact has been proved), the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, or trial court is required to grant a new trial. A party alleging a violation under this bill must make a timely objection, outside the presence of the jury, and inform the court of the specific grounds for the objection. The court is then charged with giving a curative instruction to the jury, if appropriate. Failure to object precludes appellate review unless the violation constitutes plain error which affects the substantial rights of the parties.

SB 134 Speed Detection Devices; provide for a rebuttable presumption for law enforcement agencies' use of speed detection devices

By: Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 134 expands the rebuttable presumption against law enforcement agencies that derive more than 35 percent of that agency's budget based on the use of speed detection devices and other moving violations. The calculation shall not include fines from speeding violations that exceed 20 mph over the speed limit in the calculation for determining that agency's percentage of budget derived from speeding violations. Furthermore, local governments must include total amount of speeding fine revenue generated in the annual report of local finances to the Department of Community Affairs.

SB 160 Alcoholic Beverages; revise penalties for a violation of Code Section 3-3-23

By: Sen. Michael Williams (27th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 160 changes provisions regarding the punishment for unlawfully selling or furnishing alcohol to people under 21-years old and for underage people possessing alcohol. This bill requires an officer to arrest by issuance of a citation to a person violating the law regarding a minor in possession of alcohol or furnishing alcohol to a minor. In addition to a citation, the officer may effect a custodial arrest of a person violating the provisions of this bill if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person is intoxicated to the extent that he/she poses a danger to himself or the person/property of another. The citation must enumerate the specific charges against the person and the date which they are required to appear and answer the charges. In lieu of the appearance date, the citation may provide that the person will be notified later about the date they are required to appear and answer the charges.

SB 160, moreover, makes it a crime to intentionally cause a minor to be identified as someone in an obscene depiction in a way that a reasonable person would conclude that the person in the image was the minor. This includes giving the minor's name, address, telephone number, or email address. This also includes the electronic imposing of the minor's face onto an obscene depiction. If the violation involves an individual who resides in the state of Georgia, the person will be subject to prosecution even if their conduct took place outside of the state. If the conduct takes place within the state, the person will be subject to prosecution even if it involves an individual who resides outside the state. The prohibition does not apply to law enforcement activities when investigating crimes or when the identification and image is made in anticipation of litigation. Also, the bill contains a non-merger of offenses clause. The punishment is a misdemeanor on the first offense, and a felony for second and subsequent offenses.

SB 195 Bonds and Recognizances; increase fees allowed for continuing education programs

By: Sen. Michael Williams (27th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 195 raises the annual maximum fee for continuing education programs for professional bondsmen from \$125 to \$250.

The bill also requires the judge at a bond forfeiture proceeding to issue a bench warrant for the principal's arrest when the principal fails to appear.

Finally, the bill provides that judgment shall not be rendered on a forfeiture of any appearance bond if it is shown that the principal on the bond did not attend because he/she was deported or removed from the United States by federal authorities.

Juvenile Justice Committee**HB 177 Social services; school personnel required to report child abuse shall be notified by child protective agency upon receipt of report and completion of investigation; provide**

By: Rep. David Wilkerson (38th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 177 requires that within 24 hours of a school employee making a report of suspected child abuse, the agency which receives the report to acknowledge in writing to the reporting individual that the receiving agency has received that report. Further, after the agency has completed the investigation, that agency is required to disclose in writing, within 5 days, whether the agency confirms or un-confirms that child abuse has occurred to the school counselor or the principal.

HB 263 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; advisory board to the council for juvenile justice issues; provide

By: Rep. Christian Coomer (14th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 263 implements the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council regarding the Juvenile Code, family violence shelters, and social services. The changes allow the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to receive and distribute grants from the federal Department of Justice. The bill creates an advisory board comprising of professionals associated with juvenile justice to offer suggestions on implementing the policies developed by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Moreover, the bill provides for the management of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation to be transferred to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia effective July 1, 2015.

HB 268 Child abuse; mandatory reporters; change provisions

By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 268 strengthens the laws requiring mandatory reporting of child abuse by certain types of employees. It requires individuals who are employees or volunteers in a location where their duty is to attend to a child, such as a school, hospital, or social agency, to report to the person in charge of that facility whenever they receive reliable information that child abuse has occurred. The individual in charge of the institution, or the person delegated to receive the report, may not exercise control over the person writing the report or make any change to the information that is provided to them. Prior to receiving the report, they may be consulted and may provide additional relevant information. The bill also allows reports to be filed by telephone, email, or facsimile. Oral reports must be followed with a written report. The initial report must be filed within 24 hours from the time there is a reasonable suspicion of abuse.

HB 361 Juvenile Code; enact reforms as recommended by Georgia Council on Criminal Justice reforms; provisions

By: Rep. Andrew Welch (110th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 361 represents an on-going effort between the Criminal Justice Reform Council and all stakeholders to harmonize the Juvenile Justice Code provisions originally passed as HB 242 in 2013 within the existing statute. Superior court judges are given explicit factors to consider for transferring cases to juvenile court. The bill also clarifies that 17-year olds, who are treated as adults for all other criminal offenses, will also be treated the same way for traffic offenses. Also, the Code is amended to clarify that district attorneys and general counsels for police departments are authorized to file petitions in juvenile court for children in need of services.

HB 568 Paternity; testing in certain cases; revise provisions

By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 568 allows for DNA testing in all new child support cases in Georgia. The legislation allows Georgia to receive block grants from the federal government. If the genetic testing excludes the alleged father from being the actual father of a child, the Department of Human Services will reimburse for the genetic testing fee. Also, if an alleged father is already paying child support, that individual can petition for a DNA test to determine paternity. If the test shows that the alleged father is not the biological father, he is relieved from the duty to pay child support going forward and any payments in arrears are forgiven. The genetic tests administered to the alleged father shall not be attached to any pleading or court order. Moreover, the results of such tests shall not be shared with any other person or entity and are to be destroyed within a reasonable amount of time.

SB 8 Crimes and Offenses: children who have been sexually exploited; make provisions; create Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission

By: Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 8 restructures and revises the statute of limitations period for bringing a civil action for recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse for clarity. In addition, the definition of "childhood sexual abuse" is expanded to include trafficking a person for sexual servitude, sexual exploitation of children, furnishing obscene materials to minors, child pornography, and obscene telephone contact. If the abuse was committed before July 1, 2015, this bill requires the action to be brought on or before the date which the plaintiff reaches the age 23. If the abuse was committed on or after July 1, 2015, this bill requires the action to be brought on or before the date that the plaintiff turns age 25.

The bill provides for tolling of a cause of action for individuals who are below the age of 18, and are legally incompetent, that the cause of action for the same time after they reach the age of 18.

The bill first establishes the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission, which is assigned to the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Resources for administrative purposes only. The bill also creates a separate fund in the state treasury called the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund.

The commission may allow money from the fund to be disbursed for the purposes of providing rehabilitative and social services to sexually exploited children, defined by the act as any child under the age of 18 who has been the victim of trafficking, engaged in certain acts related to prostitution, or has been the victim of child pornography. The commission may also authorize disbursement of money to eligible persons, entities, or programs. Eligibility is determined by criteria set by the commission. The act requires the commission to consider giving money from the fund to programs or entities devoted to the promotion of awareness and prevention of becoming a sexually exploited child. Finally, the commission may use the fund money for its own operating expenses provided that such use is minimal and in furtherance of the commission's primary purpose.

Other than as noted above, money may not be disbursed from the fund unless approved by the governor. The governor is not authorized, however, to disburse money from the fund to entities or programs that the commission has not recommended for a grant.

The commission has eight members, seven of whom will serve two-year terms and the director of the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services will be a permanent member. The terms are different for the first commission appointed. The governor appoints four of the members, and the rest are appointed by various agencies. Membership is not considered a public office and no member is precluded from holding public office. The governor designates a chairperson of the commission from among the members and other officers may be elected by the commission. Members of the commission are not salaried but will receive expense allowances commensurate with those received by the General Assembly for their attendance at meetings.

The commission may recommend to the governor and General Assembly changes in programs, laws, budgets, etc. relating to the care and rehabilitation of sexually exploited children, changes to improve conditions among agencies that provide care to such children, and changes to improve the condition of such children who are in need of rehabilitative and social services. The commission may also accept federal funds, as well as gifts or donations by private citizens.

SB 8 requires the imposition of an additional penalty of \$2,500 in any case where a fine has been imposed on a

defendant who is over the age of 18 for trafficking a person for sexual servitude. The additional fines are allocated to the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund. The bill also criminalizes any refusal to collect and remit the funds in this manner.

Moreover, the bill provides an affirmative defense relating to sex crimes where the alleged perpetrator is under the age of 18 and has been forced into sexual servitude.

The bill further provides that vehicles used in furtherance of certain sexual offenses, and proceeds derived from certain crimes, will be subject to forfeiture. The bill adds the crimes of keeping a place of prostitution, pandering, and pandering by compulsion to be subject to forfeiture.

SB 8 requires that those convicted of trafficking to register on the State Sexual Offender Registry.

The Department of Human Services is required under the bill to develop a plan for delivering services to sexually exploited children, trafficking victims, and children or persons at risk for becoming victims. The plan must identify children who need services, provide assistance with applying for government benefits and services, coordinate the delivery of services, prepare materials to increase awareness of such services, develop and maintain community based services, provide assistance with family reunification or repatriation to a country of origin, and assist law enforcement officers with identifying children in need of such services.

SR 7 Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund; provide that General Assembly by law may impose additional penalties or fees for the offenses- CA

By: Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: SR 7 is the companion constitutional amendment for SB 8 which dedicates the funding derived from the imposition of assessments against the adult entertainment industry to provide for rehabilitative services for minors who have been trafficked for sexual servitude.

Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment Committee

HB 566 State house districts; boundaries of certain districts; revise

By: Rep. Randy Nix (69th) Through the Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 566 alters certain House districts around the state. Districts altered by the legislation include: 27, 30, 53, 55, 59, 60, 73, 104, 105, 109, 110, 111, 130, 165, 166, 176 and 177. This impacts districts in Butts, Bryan, Chatham, Clayton, Cobb, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Lamar, Lowndes, Newton, Rockdale, Spalding, Ware and White counties.

Motor Vehicles Committee

HB 48 Special license plates; include surviving spouse of a sibling of service member killed in action; extend eligibility

By: Rep. Brooks Coleman (97th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 48 is the annual omnibus license plate bill. Section 1 relates to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles by adding a new Code section that states that any law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services personnel, ambulance driver, or other similarly employed public safety first responder who has sustained a major injury during his or her duties may apply to receive such special license plate. There is a one-time \$25 manufacturing fee and a \$35 yearly registration fee which shall be collected by the county tag agent.

Section 2 relates to free license plates and revalidation decals for certain disabled veterans by stating that any disabled veteran who is a citizen and resident of the State of Georgia shall be issued a free motor vehicle license plate upon application. The term "disabled veteran" means any veteran who was discharged under honorable conditions and who has been adjudicated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being 100 percent disabled or as being less than 100 percent disabled but is compensated at the 100 percent level due to individual un-employability.

Section 3 relates to special and distinctive license plates for veterans by adding motorcycles to the list of vehicles able to receive such license plates.

Section 4 relates to special license plates honoring family members of service members killed in action by

adding that a surviving spouse of such service member's sibling may apply for a Gold Star license plate.

Section 5 relates to special license plates promoting certain beneficial projects and supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations by stating that no special license plates authorized pursuant to subsections (l), (m), and (n) of this Code section shall be issued except upon the receipt by the department of at least 1,000 prepaid applications along with manufacturing fees.

Section 6 relates to ad valorem taxation of property by relating to eligibility and filing requirements for homestead extension for a qualified disabled veteran but stating that any veteran who was discharged under honorable conditions and who has been adjudicated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being 100 percent disabled (or is compensated at the 100 percent level) is entitled to receive a statutory award from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Section 7 relates to constitutional exemption from ad valorem taxation for disabled veterans by stating that once a disabled veteran has established his or her eligibility for such ad valorem tax exemption by being 100 percent disabled, he or she shall be entitled to receive such ad valorem tax exemption in succeeding years thereafter but must furnish proof of such disability through a letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. If a disabled veteran's disability has not been adjudicated at 100 percent total disability, he or she shall be entitled to such ad valorem tax exemption in succeeding years upon furnishing, on an annual basis, proof of their disabled status from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs. In the event of the death of a disabled veteran who received such tax exemption, his or her unmarried surviving spouse or minor child may continue to receive the exemption.

Finally, it provides for a distinctive license plate for members of the Georgia State Defense Force. The plate will be issued free of charge.

HB 118 Drivers' licenses; issuance of commercial licenses and instruction permits to comply with federal law; amend certain provisions

By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 118 is a housekeeping bill for the Department of Driver Services to align Georgia with the Federal Motor Carrier Statute and retain eligibility for federal highway funds.

HB 147 Motor vehicles; initial two-year registration period for certain vehicles; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 147 allows for a two-year registration period for motor vehicles within the 16 counties of Georgia that requires federal emission inspections.

HB 325 Safety belts; definition of term passenger vehicle; modify

By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 325 includes 15-passenger vans in the definition of "passenger vehicle" as it pertains to safety belt requirements in passenger vehicles.

HB 393 Motor vehicles fair practices; restrictions on ownership, operation, or control of dealerships by manufacturers and franchisors; provide exception

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 393 allows manufacturers of zero emission vehicles that were doing business prior to January 1, 2015, to sell factory direct to consumers. This is a narrowly-crafted exception to Georgia's dealership law. Manufacturers are allowed to build up to five brick and mortar facilities, of which two must be designed to do maintenance on their vehicles.

SB 100 Motor Vehicles and Traffic; provide for applicability with current federal reg. in the safe operations of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 100 is a housekeeping bill for the Department of Public Safety (DPS). It defines a "for hire intrastate motor carrier" as a person engaged in the transportation of goods or passengers for

compensation wholly within the boundaries of Georgia.

It defines an "intrastate motor carrier" as any self-propelled or towed vehicle that is used on a highway in intrastate commerce to transport property or passengers and: has a gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight of 10,001 lbs. or more; is designed or used to transport more than ten passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or is used to transport hazardous materials in any quantity.

It requires that all intrastate motor carriers must register with the Department of Revenue (DOR). Prior to the initial registration, all intrastate motor carriers must also provide evidence to DPS of the completion of an educational and safety seminar. All for-hire intrastate motor carriers must now file a certificate of insurance with DOR in order to be issued a registration.

This bill also eliminates all mandatory driver's license suspensions for non-highway safety related or non-moving violations; however, the legislation does maintain suspension provisions imposed for failure to provide child support under the 'Child Support Recovery Act'. It eliminates the driving restrictions on an "Interlock Limited Driving Permit" as defined in Title 40.

It allows for organ donation on state issued I.D. cards.

It allows a driver cited for driving a motor vehicle with a suspended, cancelled, or revoked vehicle license to plead nolo contendere. The nolo plea can only be used once within a five-year period, which is measured from the date of the last previous offense resulting in a conviction or a nolo plea. Any other nolo plea within the time period will constitute a conviction.

The bill also provides for a 30-day temporary operating permit when a vehicle fails to pass federal emissions standards. Proof of valid insurance is still required.

It amends Title 40 as it relates to persons exempt from driver's license requirements by stating that any resident, who is 15 years of age or over, while taking actual in-car training in a training vehicle, must be in a vehicle equipped with dual-controlled brakes and marked as a training vehicle.

It provides that the department shall not issue an instruction permit or driver's license to a person who is younger than 18 years of age, unless the applicant can prove at least one of the following, he or she: is enrolled in a public or private school and satisfies attendance requirements; is enrolled in a home education program and satisfies the reporting requirements; or has already received or is pursuing a high school diploma or general educational development (GED) diploma.

The department is also authorized to issue a limited driving permit to an applicant whose license is currently under suspension or revocation in any other jurisdiction.

It states that no noncommercial driver's license shall be issued to any person who does not have a visual acuity of 20/60, corrected or uncorrected, in at least one eye or better.

The bill allows that the department shall, upon payment of the required fee, issue to every applicant qualifying for a driver's license that indicates: the type or general class of vehicles the licensee may drive; which license shall be upon a form prescribed by the department; a driver's license number; a photograph of the licensee; the licensee's full legal name, and the licensee's signature. No license shall be valid until it has been signed by the licensee.

It states that the department shall suspend the license of any driver who fails to pay child support.

It provides that the department shall suspend the driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in the State of Georgia of any person who has failed to respond to a citation to appear before a court of competent jurisdiction in this state or in any other state for a traffic violation other than a parking violation.

SB 100 requires that any person under the age of 21 who has been convicted of: a hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident; racing on highways or streets; using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer; reckless driving; any offense for which four or more points are assessable; or illegally purchasing alcohol shall have their license suspended by the department. Any person under the age of 18 who has accumulated a violation point count of four or more points in any consecutive 12-month period shall also have their license suspended by the department.

It states that any person who is a habitual violator must be notified by the department that his or her driver's

license has been revoked by operation of law and that it shall be unlawful for such habitual violator to operate a motor vehicle.

It grants limited driving permits for certain offenders solely for the following purposes: going to his or her place of employment/performing occupational duties; attending college or school at which he or she is regularly enrolled as a student; attending regularly scheduled sessions or meeting of treatment support organizations for persons who have addiction or abuse problems; and going for monthly monitoring visits with the permit holder's ignition interlock device service provider.

It states that the contents of personal identification cards must include: full legal name; address of residence; birth date; identification issue date; sex; height; weight; eye color; signature of person; and such other information required by the department.

It requires the contents of commercial drivers' licenses to include: full legal name; residential address; person's photograph; physical description including sex, height, weight, and eye color; date of birth; driver's license number; person's signature; class or type of commercial motor vehicle; state name; and dates the license is valid.

It mandates the contents of personal identification cards for persons with disabilities to include: full legal name; address of residence; birth date; date identification is issued and date when it expires; sex; height; weight; eye color; signature of person; and such other information as required by the department.

HB 199 Timber harvesting; require notice only in an approved form; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 199 amends Part 1A of Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 12, relating to timber harvesting and removal requirements, by changing the timing notices to local governing authorities, clarifying the bond requirement, and stating that no county shall require a fee for receiving a notification of a timber harvest. The bill requires that all persons or firms harvesting standing timber provide notice, to the proper county or municipal governing authority, of the harvesting operation prior to entering onto the property if possible but not later than 24 hours upon entering onto the property and within 24 hours after the harvesting is completed. The bill also states that only one bond shall be required in each county regardless of the number of tracts being harvested so long as the bond remains in effect; otherwise a valid replacement bond must be obtained and provided to the governing authority within five business days.

HR 601 House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers; create

By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th) Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 601 creates the House Study Committee on Saltwater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers. The study committee shall be chaired by the chair of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee and be composed of five members. The committee may meet up to five times and may file a report or a copy of the meeting minutes with the Clerk of the House of Representatives before the committee is abolished on December 1, 2015.

HR 613 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); withdraw the proposed Clean Air Plan; encourage

By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 613 encourages the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to withdraw the proposed Clean Power Plan and supports the comments on the Clean Power Plan submitted to EPA by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, the Public Service Commission, and the Georgia Attorney General.

HR 620 Local boards of education; provide educational awareness regarding renewable energy; urge

By: Rep. Karla Drenner (85th) Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 620 urges local boards of education to provide educational awareness regarding renewable energy.

SB 101 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation; provide for buffer against coastal marshlands within which

certain land-disturbing activities are prohibited**By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st)****Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee**

Final Bill Summary: SB 101 amends Chapter 7 of Title 12, relating to the control of soil erosion and sedimentation, by establishing a 25-foot buffer along coastal marshlands and providing exceptions to that buffer. The definition of "coastal marshlands" is as defined in O.C.G.A. 12-5-282. No land-disturbing activity shall be conducted within the 25-foot buffer and the buffer shall remain in its undisturbed state of vegetation until all land-disturbing activities on the construction site are complete. Once the final stabilization of the site is completed, the buffer may be thinned or trimmed so long as protective vegetative cover remains.; however, for single family residence construction sites, the buffer may be thinned or trimmed at any time so long as a protective vegetative cover remains. On or before December 31, 2015, the board of Natural Resources shall promulgate rules and regulations that contain criteria for the grant or denial of requests for variances pursuant to this paragraph including where an alteration has been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers and provide variances by rule where an alteration will have a minimal impact on the water quality or aquatic habitat of adjacent marsh, including where the area within the buffer is not more than 500 square feet. The board may adopt rules and regulations that provide for an expedited process for certain categories of activities. The exceptions to the buffer are:

- Where the director determines to allow a variance that is at least as protective as a 25 foot buffer;
- Where otherwise allowed pursuant to 12-2-8;
- Where an alteration has been authorized pursuant to 12-5-286;
- For maintenance of any currently serviceable structure, landscaping, or hardscaping; provided that if such maintenance requires any land disturbing activity, adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- Where a drainage structure or roadway drainage structure is constructed or maintained; provided that if such maintenance requires any land disturbing activity, adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- On the landward side of a currently serviceable shoreline stabilization structure;
- For the maintenance of any manmade storm-water detention basin, golf course pond, or impoundment located within the property of a single owner; provided that if such maintenance requires any land disturbing activity, adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- For utility lines that cause a width of disturbance of not more than 50 feet within the buffer; provided that adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- For any land-disturbing activity conducted pursuant to and in compliance with a valid and effective land-disturbing permit issued between April 22, 2014 and the effective date of this act; provided that adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented; and
- For any lot for which the preliminary plat has been approved prior to the effective date of this act if roadways, bridges, or water and sewer lines have been extended to such lot prior to the effective date of this act and if the requirement to maintain a 25-foot buffer would consume at least 18 percent of the high ground of the platted lot otherwise available for development; provided that adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented.

SB 119 "Water Professionals Appreciation Day"; designate the first Monday in May of each year in Georgia**By: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)****Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee**

Final Bill Summary: SB 119 designates the first Monday in May of each year as "Water Professionals Appreciation Day" in Georgia.

Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee**HB 123 Motor vehicles; use of safety chain or cable when operating a motor vehicle drawing a trailer; provide****By: Rep. John Yates (73rd)****Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee**

Final Bill Summary: HB 123 requires trailers which are required to register for a tag with the Department of Revenue to be adequately secured to the towing vehicle when in operation on the roadways of this state. Violation of this Code results in a misdemeanor.

HB 206 Uniform rules of the road; procedure for passing sanitation vehicles; provide**By: Rep. Brett Harrell (106th)****Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee**

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 206 relates to the general provisions relative to uniform rules of the road and is amended by adding a new Code that states that the operator of a motor vehicle approaching a vehicle with active sanitation workers that is displaying flashing yellow, amber, white, or red lights shall approach the vehicle with

due caution and shall, absent any other direction by a peace officer, proceed as follows:

- (1) Make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the vehicle; or
- (2) If lane change is not possible, reduce the speed of the motor vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the existing road and traffic conditions, which speed shall be at least ten miles per hour less than the posted speed limit or five miles per hour, whichever is more and be prepared to stop.

HB 278 Public Employee Hazardous Chemical Protection and Rights to Know Act of 1988; transfer responsibility to Safety Fire Commissioner; provisions

By: Rep. David Clark (98th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 278 shifts the responsibility of managing and enforcing the 'Public Employee Hazardous Chemical Protection and Right to Know Act of 1988' from the Georgia Department of Labor to the Georgia Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner.

HB 492 Crimes and offenses; carrying in unauthorized locations; revise provisions

By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 492 amends the juvenile proceedings Code so that minor violations of weapons in school safety zones are not considered Class B felonies and to allow school personnel to report violations only when those violations occur with an assault. The bill also amends Title 16 in several areas. This legislation revises the unauthorized locations to provide that carrying in a government building as a non-license holder is unlawful. This section is further revised to provide that the prohibition on polling places is only in effect when elections are being conducted and polling places are being used for that purpose.

A new subsection states that nothing in said sections are to affect, repeal, or limit the exemptions provided for in 16-11-130. Those sections are those relating to: carrying in places other than homes, motor vehicles, public property; carrying in unauthorized locations; carrying in school safety zones, at school functions, or on a bus or transportation provided by the school; or weapons on the premises of a nuclear power facility.

The Code relating to renewals of licenses is amended. For license renewals, the bill requires the probate judge to investigate the applicant pursuant to Code. License applications will be considered for renewal if the applicant has a license with 90 or fewer days to expiration or 30 or fewer days past expiration. Applications for persons under 21 who are members of the armed forces must be accompanied by a letter from the applicant's commander and a copy of his/her orders. For renewals, the presentation of the current license is evidence to the judge of the probate that the applicant's fingerprints are on file. The background check for renewals will be a non-fingerprint check with GCIC and the FBI.

GCIC is to be notified immediately of the judge's revocation of a license but no less than ten days later.

If a person is convicted of a crime that would make it unlawful for him to maintain a weapons license, the judge will inquire whether such person has a license and in which county. The judge would then contact the probate in the county maintaining the license of the matter that makes the maintenance of such license is unlawful.

The bill adds political subdivisions and school districts to those entities that cannot regulate transport of firearms except as provided for in the Code. The instances where the municipality and the county can regulate are when it pertains to their employees and volunteers.

HR 744 House Study Committee on the Use of Drones; create

By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 744 creates the House Study Committee on the Use of Drones. The committee will be composed of five members of the House, is allotted five meetings, and stands abolished on December 1, 2015.

SB 76 "Motorcycle Mobility Safety Act"; safe operation of a motorcycle; inoperative traffic-control signal - VETO

By: Sen. Bill Jackson (24th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: If a driver has stopped at a traffic signal and has reasonable belief that the lightweight design of their bike or motorcycle has rendered the signal inoperative, this legislation allows the operator to proceed if there is no other motor vehicle within 500 feet approaching or entering the intersection. The driver is

also required to proceed cautiously with consideration for all other rules of the road.

The bill defines "reasonable belief" as the belief of a reasonable person in consideration of the conditions of their stop, including but not limited to the number of seconds stopped, or the number of signal changes he or she has observed of the traffic control device or signal which did not include a change for him.

The committee substitute repealed existing law on handle bar height. Additionally, the substitute incorporated language requiring that drivers stop at a crosswalk when there are flashing beacons rather than requiring a pedestrian step into a crosswalk in order to stop traffic.

Regulated Industries Committee

HB 18 Professional engineers and land surveyors; defense, aviation, space or aerospace companies from complying with provisions; exempt

By: Rep. Jason Spencer (180th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 18 allows professional engineers or land surveyors in the defense, aviation, space, or aerospace companies to work without requiring licensing, if a license is not otherwise required. The proposed additions broaden employees this act applies to and removes license restrictions from similarly situated persons, such as properly certified architects, Department of Transportation employees who do not conflict with Title 46, and women. Also, engineers and landscape employees working in the specified industries would be expanded in two ways. First, the definition of company includes "any sole proprietorship" and "any affiliate" of the business entities described. Second, the bill includes an individual "who provides engineering for aircraft, space launch vehicles, or aerospace-related products or services."

HB 85 Alcoholic beverages; sale or furnishing to patients or inmates of Central State Hospital and sale or possession near or upon the grounds; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Brett Harrell (106th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 85 regulates the furnishing of alcohol in certain areas, including prisons, schools, and the Georgia War Veteran's Home. This act prevents the solicitation of alcohol with any person in lawful confinement and does not allow possession within 200 yards of said designated institutions.

HB 110 Fireworks; provide for sale of consumer fireworks; provisions

By: Rep. Jay Roberts (155th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 110 legalizes and sets parameters for the distribution, transportation and retail sale of consumer fireworks. The legislation defines consumer fireworks in accordance with the regulations set forth by the United States Consumer Product Safety Mission. It is now lawful in the state of Georgia for any person over the age of 18 years old to use, detonate, possesses, manufacture or transport consumer fireworks.

Use of consumer fireworks is permitted without a license between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. in any location not prohibited by law. Locations specifically prohibited by law include locations where the user is a trespasser, where law specifically prohibits, and locations within 100 feet of a gas station or a nuclear power facility.

The legislation also outlines requirements for the sale of consumer fireworks. Permanent consumer fireworks stores may be opened in accordance with NFPA 1124 and they must have a valid license as a distributor. Individuals ages 16 or 17 may sell or transport fireworks if they are serving as an assistant to a licensed distributor unless they are driving on an interstate. The initial fee for distributing fireworks will be \$5,000, with a \$1,000 annual renewal fee, payable to the Safety Fire Commissioner. Each distributor must carry a minimum of \$2 million dollars of liability insurance.

Temporary fireworks stands may be operated by distributors or non-profit groups if they are licensed and located within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant or co-located with a permanent store. No licensed distributor can operate more than two temporary stands per permanent fireworks store. In counties without a permanent store, a licensed distributor located within 75 miles of the counties border may operate one of their two allotted temporary stores in that county. The license fee for operating a temporary fireworks store is \$500 per year, per location and must expire 90 days after the license is issued.

The legislation also imposes an excise tax on the sale of consumer fireworks at a rate of five percent per item

sold. The tax must be paid by the seller, who is subject to a \$10,000 fine for non-compliance, in addition to the tax.

HB 152 Alcoholic beverages; holders of certain alcohol licenses and those who issue such licenses; impose certain requirements

By: Rep. Geoff Duncan (26th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 152 amends the Code regarding the operation of a bar. When a person who has been issued a license to operate a bar ("licensee"), an employee of that person, or anyone who has a financial interest in the license is arrested or cited for violating a rule, law, or regulation relating to the manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of alcohol ("disciplinary action"), the licensee must notify the Department of Revenue within 45 days of the details of such arrest or citation. A "bar" means any place that derives 75 percent of its gross annual revenue from the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises. If the licensee fails to notify the department, the commissioner may impose a maximum fine of \$750.00 for each violation, and may cancel, revoke, or suspend the license if there is a subsequent failure to notify within three years of the first.

Next, the bill provides that every county or municipality that issues alcohol licenses is required to adopt and implement a process by which any disciplinary action is reported to the department within 45 days of such action. The commissioner of the Department of Revenue must determine the format of such reports and promulgate rules and regulations that implement the reporting method.

The bill also prohibits anyone under 21 from serving as a bouncer at places where alcoholic beverages are dispensed, served, or sold. The bill also prohibits anyone under 21 from entering any place that derives 75 percent of its gross annual revenue from the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises ("bar") unless (1) he or she is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or spouse who is older than 21; or (2) he or she is attending a musical performance or presentation of the performing arts.

Finally, this bill prohibits the manufacture, sale, use, and possession of powdered substance that contains any amount of alcohol for direct use or reconstitution ("Powdered alcohol"). This prohibition does not apply to use of powdered alcohol for research purposes. A violation and conviction constitutes a misdemeanor and a violation by a licensed person will constitute grounds for suspension and revocation of any and all licenses issued.

HB 153 Courts; civil action for damages; provide

By: Rep. Tom Weldon (3rd) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 153 creates a civil cause of action to recover damages, reasonable attorney's fees, and expenses of litigation for the unauthorized practice of law involving real estate transactions.

HB 225 Local government; all for-hire drivers obtain a for-hire license endorsement before driving for hire; provide

By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 225 amends the Code regarding certificates of public necessity and convenience and medallions for taxicabs by adding a new subsection that states that no person shall operate a taxicab for the purpose of carrying or transporting passengers for hire unless such person has a for-hire license endorsement or an approved private background certificate. Operators of taxicabs must maintain insurance from a properly licensed insurance carrier. Counties and municipalities which have previously adopted valid ordinances requiring medallions or certificates of public necessity may continue to require the previous certificates or medallions. Counties and municipalities shall not impose further licensing requirements on such persons. The bill provides that limousine chauffeur employed by a limousine carrier shall secure from the Department of Driver Services a for-hire license endorsement.

HB 225 defines: for hire, for-hire license endorsement, limousine carrier, ride share driver, ride share network service, and taxi service. "For hire" means to operate a motor vehicle in this state for the purpose of transporting passengers for compensation or donation. "For-hire license endorsement" means an endorsement to a driver's license that authorizes the holder of the license to operate a motor vehicle for the purpose of transporting passengers in this state for compensation or donation. "Limousine carrier" means any limousine company or provider which is licensed with this state. "Ride share driver" means an individual who uses his or her personal passenger car to provide transportation for passengers arranged through a ride share network service. "Ride share network service" means any person or entity that uses a digital network or internet network to connect passengers to ride share drivers for the purpose of prearranged transportation for hire or for donation, and "taxi service" means any taxicab company or provider which utilizes a motor vehicle or similar vehicle, device,

machine, or conveyance to transport passengers; uses a taximeter; and is authorized to provide taxicab services pursuant to an ordinance of a local government in this state.

Each transportation referral service provider doing business in this state must register with the Department of Public Safety to obtain a license on an annual basis. The department may charge a fee for said license not to exceed \$100. Those services must: ensure that drivers possess and maintain proper state and federal licenses; ensure the drivers have a proper background check; have a zero tolerance policy regarding drugs and alcohol for drivers while on duty; have proper commercial indemnity and liability insurance; properly follow any fee structure prescribed by local ordinance; and comply with the laws of this state and rules and regulations from the Department of Public Safety. Failure to properly register is a misdemeanor.

Ride share networks doing business in this state must register with the Department of public safety in a similar manner to transportation referral services for an annual license not to exceed \$100. Moreover, ride share networks must maintain a current list of all drivers enrolled in their network who are doing business in this state. Such records are not to be disclosed to the public, but can be used by law enforcement or other government agencies. Ride share networks must comply in the exact same manner as transportation referral services regarding the requirements of transportation referral services.

All taxi services, transportation referral services and providers, and ride share networks shall abide by the advertising limitations that apply in this state. The bill provides the authority to the department to promulgate rules and regulations as are necessary to implement these provisions.

The bill requires endorsements on licenses of limousine chauffeurs, and states that no person shall operate a motor vehicle for hire in this state unless such person has a for-hire license endorsement and has liability insurance coverage in the amounts required by law for the class of motor vehicle being operated for hire. This shall include, but not be limited to, ride share drivers and persons operating motor vehicles for limousine carriers and taxicabs for taxi services.

On or after July 1, 2016, owners of for-hire vehicles must either elect to continue to pay sales and use taxes, or obtain a for-hire vehicle master license. HB 225 provides for the fee scale of said master license ranging from \$1,500 to \$300,000. Of the fees generated: 57 percent shall be retained by the state for deposit in the general fund and 43 percent shall be forwarded to the appropriate county tag agent to properly distribute to the appropriate governing authority.

HB 232 State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Amy Carter (175th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 232 creates the State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers. The bill details the makeup of the board, requirements to be on the board, and sets the amount of continuing education required to renew a dispensary license at 20 hours.

HB 253 Real estate appraisers; requirements for establishment and maintenance of a real estate appraisal management company; change certain provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 253 restricts appraisal management companies from paying fees to any appraiser performing any real estate appraisal activity regarding federally-related transactions without complying with rules and regulations according to federal law and in accordance with standards required by the federal financial institution regulatory agency which regulates such transactions. The bill allows for real estate appraisers to appeal to federal court without leaving the state.

HB 314 Professions and businesses; State Board of Barbers and State Board of Cosmetology; combine

By: Rep. Jan Tankersley (160th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 314 provides for the combination of the Georgia State Board of Cosmetology and the Georgia State Board of Barbers into one board. The bill makes changes to the requirements for the composition of the board, adjusts the renewal period for certificates of registration, and provides for changes and definitions related to the combination of the two existing boards.

HB 316 Professional corporations; practice of medicine and surgery and optometry shall be considered the practice of only one profession; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 316 allows ophthalmologists to organize and jointly own a professional corporation with optometrists so long as they continue to practice within their respective scopes established by law.

HB 461 Secondary metals recyclers; buying and selling regulated metal property; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 461 clarifies and expands the code relating to secondary metals recyclers. The bill prohibits secondary metals recyclers from purchasing catalytic converters unless the catalytic converter is attached to a vehicle or purchased from a used motor vehicle dealer or used motor vehicle parts dealer, a new motor vehicle dealer, a motor vehicle repairer, a manufacturer or distributor of catalytic converters, a seller with verifiable documentation, or a secondary metals recycler with proof of registration. The bill also eases the requirements for a secondary metals recycler to be able to purchase a burial object from manufacturers or distributors of burial objects by eliminating the need for a letter by the owner expressly recognizing the seller as an employee or authorized agent of the manufacturer or distributor. Also, the bill expands the list of required records a secondary metals recycler must keep to include the name and date of birth of the seller or deliverer. The database documenting all transactions by secondary metals recyclers shall be maintained by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and be considered a trade secret. The GBI database is accessible and searchable by all law enforcement agencies and employees of electric suppliers and telecommunications companies provided that the employees are licensed private detectives or Georgia POST certified. It is unlawful for employees of electric suppliers and telecommunications companies to use the database for any purpose other than the investigation of alleged theft of regulated metal property.

SB 63 Alcoholic Beverages; provide for manufacturers of malt beverages to make limited retail sales of malt beverages under certain circumstances

By: Sen. Hunter Hill (6th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 63 allows for manufacturers or distillers who are issued a distiller's license and issued a permit by the commissioner to conduct distillery tours, for a fee or free of charge. If conducting these tours, the distiller may provide a free souvenir of a complimentary sealed container of distilled spirits, free food and free tastings. The free souvenir must be a single bottle of distilled spirits manufactured by the distiller of not more than 750 milliliters. The free souvenir must be provided after the tour, and the recipient must be 21 years of age or older. Moreover, brewers of malt beverages may also conduct brewery tours in the same manner as distillery tours. However, the free souvenir from a brewery tour is a sealed container or containers of malt beverages not to exceed 72 ounces. All fees for tours must be collected prior to conducting the tour.

SB 103 Sales of Alcoholic Beverages on Sunday; allow for local authorization; consumption on the premises on Sundays during St. Patrick's Day holiday period

By: Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 103 allows for alcohol consumption on premises in the City of Savannah for the St. Patrick's Day Holiday week by allowing for local authorization to sell such beverages beginning at 5:30 a.m.

SB 190 Bona Fide Coin Operated Machines; provide certain definitions; license fees and requirements for manufacturers and distributors

By: Sen. Butch Miller (49th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 190 adds a new definition to the Code section regarding licensing of coin-operated amusement machine businesses. "Master licensee" means any person who has lawfully applied for and received a master license, which every owner of such machine must display in order to legally operate the business.

The bill provides for a distributor or manufacturer who offers the machines for sale to pay an annual license fee of \$5,000. These licenses must be available for inspection at the manufacturer's and distributor's place of business.

The bill also allows for the transferability of the master license. Previously, such licenses were not transferable or assignable; however, SB 190 states that upon the sale of an entire business that contains such machines, the

buyer must pay a transfer fee to the governing authority ("corporation") in charge of administering such licenses. The first sale of a master license holder's business will require a transfer fee of \$10,000 with each consecutive sale increasing the amount of the fee.

The remainder of the bill largely inserts manufacturer and distributor licenses into the sections governing master licenses. Under current law, businesses cannot obtain or renew a license if their offices are not located in this state or if the applicant does not permit inspection of their place of business and records. This bill provides that this section does not apply to manufacturers.

The bill allows the corporation to issue up to 220 Class B licenses through the process of competitive auctions which shall occur at least once every three years. The corporation can renew Class B licenses at any time, and current holders of Class B licenses are not subject to the auctioning process. Current law provides that an owner or operator of a business where the machines are available for public use may not derive more than 50 percent of its "gross retail receipts" from Class B machines. The gross retail receipts do not include revenue derived from non-cash redemption of winnings from Class B machines or revenues that are due to a master licensee or the corporation. Thus, these revenues do not count towards the owner's 50 percent limitation.

SB 190 strikes language that allowed by local ordinance authorization the use of more than nine Class B machines; no owner can offer more than nine machines, even with a local ordinance.

A person is not eligible for a distributor license if that person has had a gambling license in the last five years in any state.

A person applying for a manufacturer license or distributor license cannot have an interest in an owner, location owner, or location operator in Georgia. A manufacturing license applicant cannot have an interest in any distributor, and a distributor license applicant may not have an interest in any manufacturer.

As a condition to the issuance of a license, location owners or operators and master license holders may not remove or replace a machine until they certify that there are no disputes or other claims between the master licensee and the location owner or operator. If they cannot make this certification, the dispute will be referred to a hearing officer, who must be approved by the corporation. The corporation must adopt rules and regulations to govern the resolution of disputes by hearing officers. One of the parties may request a hearing to resolve the dispute, but the hearing officer may not conduct a hearing more than 90 days after he or she has been appointed to decide the dispute.

A decision may be appealed to the chief executive officer of the corporation who will not reverse a finding of fact if any evidence supports the hearing officer's conclusion. The CEO may only reverse a finding of law if it is clearly erroneous.

Retirement Committee

HB 217 Investments; public retirement systems to invest in mutual funds, commingled funds, collective investment funds, common trusts, and group trusts; authorize

By: Rep. Howard Maxwell (17th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 217 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-83 relating to the certified and uncertified forms of investment and real estate investment under the Public Retirement System Standards. The bill expands the list of allowable investments that can be used for public retirement funds to include mutual funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and commingled funds and collective investment funds regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States Department of Treasury, including common and group trusts. HB 217 has been certified as a nonfiscal retirement bill by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts.

HB 266 Retirement and pensions; investment authority of local retirement systems; correct certain provisions

By: Rep. Paul Battles (15th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 266 amends O.C.G.A. 47-1-12 relating to investment and reinvestment of assets of local retirement systems, valuation and limitation on investments, and duties of the state auditor. The bill refers the terms, conditions, limitations, and restrictions from "the laws of this state upon domestic life insurance companies" to the code section relating to "Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority" (Article 7 of

Chapter 20 of Title 47).

Also, this bill amends O.C.G.A. 47-2-323 relating to Georgia Public Defenders Standards Council. This bill changes the name of the council from "Georgia Public Defender Standards Council" to "Georgia Public Defender Council" to align with HB 328 (2015 Session). This law would become effective July 1, 2016 only if HB 328 is enacted and becomes law.

Lastly, HB 266 amends O.C.G.A. 47-5-2 and 47-5-47 relating to Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System. It expands the definition of employee to include an employer created pursuant to the charter of a municipal corporation of the state. It also clarifies that mandatory contributions made by a participating employee shall be returned to the employee's surviving spouse or to the estate of the participant or the participant's pre-retirement beneficiary.

HB 266 has been certified as a nonfiscal retirement bill by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts.

Rules Committee

HR 827 House Study Committee on the Preservation of the HOPE Scholarship Program; create

By: Rep. Matt Ramsey (72nd) Through the Rules Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 827 creates the House Study Committee on the Preservation of the HOPE Scholarship Program.

Small Business Development Committee

HB 246 Accountants; provide for powers and actions granted to other licensing boards; provisions

By: Rep. David Knight (130th) Through the Small Business Development Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend Chapter 3 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to accountants, so as to provide for powers and actions granted to other licensing boards so that the State Board of Accountancy is administratively attached to the State Accounting Office. Georgia is home to over 20,000 licensed CPAs who are charged with protecting and promoting the public interest, most notably with regard to financial reporting. The legislation establishes the Georgia Society of CPAs as an independent agency within the State Accounting Office and updates the Accountancy statute's definition of "attest" to reflect the most recently adopted version of the 'Uniform Accountancy Act'. Through this process, unlicensed individuals would not legally be allowed to imply assurances to organizations on their financial statements or financial reports.

HR 810 House Study Committee on Short-Term Rental Providers; create

By: Rep. Jon Burns (159th) Through the Small Business Development Committee

Final Bill Summary: This resolution creates the House Study Committee on Short-Term Rental Providers. The committee shall be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the committee to serve as chairperson. In order to determine the best methods to ensure the safety of the public, prevent illegal practices, collect taxes on business activities, and otherwise properly regulate short-term rental providers, a comprehensive study of the issues surrounding such practices is necessary. The market for short-term rental providers creates possible issues that need to be addressed, ranging from taxation to public safety concerns. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.

Special Rules Committee

HB 70 State symbols; designate gray fox as official state mammal

By: Rep. Carolyn Hugley (136th) Through the Special Rules Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 70 designates the whitetail deer as the official state mammal.

State Planning & Community Affairs Committee

- HR 519** **Mixon, Mr. Harry; Mr. Brad Dorminy; name building in their honor; recognize**
By: Rep. Jay Roberts (155th) Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: HR 519 renames a building on the campus of the Wiregrass Georgia Technical College in honor of Mr. Harry Mixon and Mr. Brad Dorminy.

State Properties Committee

- HB 104** **State Properties Code; applicability of public bidding processes for certain conveyances; clarify**
By: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (30th) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 104 amends the "State Properties Code" by clarifying the applicability of public bidding processes for certain conveyances and correcting any cross-references.
- HB 255** **State purchasing; equal credits be given to certain forestry certification systems when using green building standards in state construction operation, repair, and renovation projects; require**
By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 255 requires the state to use only those green building standards that give equal certification credits to Georgia forest products grown, manufactured, and certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the American Tree Farm System, and the Forest Stewardship Council when using green building standards in any new construction, operation, repair, or renovation of any state building.
- HB 259** **Georgia Business Act; enact**
By: Rep. Terry Rogers (10th) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 259, known as the 'Georgia Business Act,' provides an exemption for certain automobiles manufactured in Georgia from competitive bidding procedures, as well as increases the exemption threshold for competitive bidding procedures from \$5,000 to \$25,000.
- HB 341** **Buildings and housing; certain qualified inspectors may be certified by Building Officials' Association of Georgia; provide**
By: Rep. Howard Maxwell (17th) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 341 amends the definition of "qualified inspector," regarding state buildings, plumbing, and electrical codes, to include inspectors who have a certification from the Building Officials' Association of Georgia.
- HR 419** **United States Congress; extend authorization for Augusta Canal National Heritage Area to receive federal funding from the National Park Service through 2021; encourage**
By: Rep. Barbara Sims (123rd) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: HR 419 encourages the United States Congress to extend authorization for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area to receive funding from the National Park Service through 2021.
- SR 266** **Property Conveyance; authorizing 10 counties**
By: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) Through the State Properties Committee
Final Bill Summary: SR 266 is a conveyance resolution for property located in 10 counties, conveying property owned by the State of Georgia or amending those conveyances, as follows:

Article I conveys property in Appling County, the former site of the Altamaha Technical College and currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to Appling County for the widening of U.S. Highway 341.

Article II conveys property in Baldwin County, currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Public Safety, by competitive bid for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for consideration of \$10 so long as property is used for public purposes.

Article III conveys property in Cherokee County, currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, to the Georgia Department of Transportation for the replacement and realignment of the bridge on SR 372 at Etowah River.

Article IV conveys property in Clinch County, commonly known as Homerville State Prison and currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections, by competitive bid for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for consideration of \$10 so long as property is used for public purposes and payment of any outstanding bonds.

Article V conveys property in Douglas County, currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to Douglas County to realign Timber Ridge Road.

Article VI authorizes the lease of property in Fulton County, upon acquisition of the property that will be in the custody of the Georgia Department of Driver Services, to the Georgia United Credit Union.

Article VII authorizes the lease of property in Fulton County, known as the Geo. L. Smith II Georgia World Congress Center and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, to the Georgia World Congress Center Authority and grants easements through the lease area.

Article VIII conveys property in Fulton County, commonly known as 7 Wall Street or Park Plaza in the City of Atlanta and currently under the custody of the State Properties Commission, by competitive bid for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for consideration of \$10 so long as property is used for public purposes.

Article IX conveys property in Fulton County, commonly known as the Gateway Probation Office and Day Report Center in the City of Atlanta and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections, by competitive bid for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for consideration of \$10 so long as property is used for public purposes.

Article X authorizes the lease of property in Gordon County to the Calhoun Elks Home, Inc., which is an adjustment from previous lease property sizes due to an easement granted to the Georgia Department of Transportation to realign and repair a bridge on Highway 225 at the Coosawattee River.

Article XI conveys property in Hall County, commonly known as the Oakwood Poultry Lab in the City of Oakwood and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, by competitive bid for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for consideration of \$10 so long as property is used for public purposes.

Article XII conveys property in Lamar County, commonly known as the Barnesville Armory and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense, by competitive bid for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for consideration of \$10 so long as property is used for public purposes.

Article XIII authorizes the lease of property in Meriwether County, known as the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation's Golf Course and currently under the custody of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, to The Warrior Alliance to operate the golf course as a vocational rehabilitation training program.

Article XIV authorizes the lease of property in Monroe County, located at the Tift College campus headquarters and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections, to the Georgia United Credit Union.

Article XV conveys easements on property in Paulding County, located in the Sheffield Wildlife Management Area and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, to the Lee family and to the Paulding County to provide improved access to the Sheffield Wildlife Management Area.

Article XVI conveys property in Sumter County, commonly known as the Sumter Armory and Annex and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense, by competitive bid for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for consideration of \$10 so long as property is used for public purposes.

Article XVII conveys property in Tattnall County, commonly known as the Tattnall Institute Building and Allied Health Building at Southeastern Technical College- Glennville Campus and currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the City of Glennville for fair market value.

Article XVIII conveys property in Tattnall County, known as a parking lots and vacant lot at Southeastern Technical College- Glennville Campus and currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the City of Glennville for public use.

Article XIX conveys property in Thomas County, commonly known as Southwestern Regional Hospital in the City of Thomasville and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, by competitive bid for fair market value or to a local government or state entity for consideration of \$10 so long as property is used for public purposes.

Article XX authorizes the lease of property in Troup County, located on a portion of the West Georgia Technical College's LaGrange campus and under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the Troup County School System for the THINC College and Career Academy.

Article XXI conveys property in Upson County, currently under the custody of the Georgia Forestry Commission, to Upson County as part of a property exchange.

SR 267 Public Property; granting of nonexclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities; 24 counties

By: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: SR 267 is a resolution granting nonexclusive easements for construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads, and ingress and egress in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through state-owned property in Baldwin, Barrow, Bartow, Chatham, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Floyd, Fulton, Gordon, Houston, Laurens, Liberty, Lowndes, Macon, McIntosh, Meriwether, Newton, Polk, Richmond, Troup, Walton, and Wayne counties.

Article I grants an easement in Baldwin County to CorrectHealth GDC, LLC of approximately 3.68 acres currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Georgia Department of Corrections for the purpose of ingress/egress at the Bostick State Prison site for \$650.00.

Article II grants an easement in Baldwin County to the Georgia Power Company for approximately 4,153 acres currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Corrections, Department of Driver Services, State Forestry Commission, and Department of Veterans Services for the operation and maintenance of the Central State Campus electrical power grid, including any transmission lines and associated equipment together with the right of ingress and egress.

Article III grants an easement in Barrow County to the Georgia Power Company for approximately 1.0 acre currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, and maintenance of underground distribution lines to serve new camper cabins at Fort Yargo State Park for \$10.00.

Article IV grants an easement in Bartow County to the Department of Transportation of approximately 0.548 of an acre located on the Western and Atlantic Railroad and currently under the custody of the State Properties Commission for the construction and maintenance of a bridge and road widening of SR140 from SR53 to SR3/US41 for \$10.00.

Article V grants an easement in Bartow County to the Atlanta Gas Light Company of approximately 0.57 of an acre currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia to construct, install, and maintain underground gas distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the North Metro Campus of Chattahoochee Technical College for \$10.00.

Article VI grants an easement in Chatham County to the Atlanta Gas Light Company of approximately 4.26 acres currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia to construct, install, and maintain underground gas distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the Savannah Technical College for \$10.00.

Article VII grants an easement in Clarke County to the Georgia Power Company of approximately 0.09 of an

acre at the Athens Day Reporting Center currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections for the installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical lines and associated equipment on Old Epps Bridge Road for \$650.00.

Article VIII grants an easement in Clayton County to the Georgia Power Company of approximately 0.251 of an acre currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Agriculture for the installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical lines and associated equipment to serve the Atlanta State Farmers Market for \$10.00.

Article IX grants an easement in Cobb County to the Georgia Power Company of approximately 0.049 of an acre currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense for the installation, operation, and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the Kennesaw Armory for \$10.00.

Article X grants an easement in DeKalb County to the Georgia Power Company of approximately 0.37 of an acre currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the Georgia Piedmont Technical College for \$10.00.

Article XI grants an easement in Floyd County to the Georgia Power Company of approximately 0.103 of an acre currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense for the installation, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical power lines and associated equipment to serve the Rome Armory for \$10.00.

Article XII grants an easement in Fulton County to various utility companies of approximately 25.433 acres currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the installation, operation, and maintenance of various utilities and associated equipment to serve the North Fulton Campus of Gwinnett Technical College for \$10.00.

Article XIII grants an easement in Gordon County to Department of Transportation of approximately 0.262 of an acre located on the Western and Atlantic Railroad and currently under the custody of the State Properties Commission for the road widening and construction and maintenance of a bridge on the South Calhoun Bypass from SR53 at CR13 East to SR53 at CR64 for \$10.00.

Article XIV grants an easement in Houston County to the Flint Electric Membership Corporation of approximately 0.924 of an acre currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for installation, maintenance, and operation of electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the Health Services Center at Central Georgia Technical College for \$10.00.

Article XV grants an easement in Laurens County to the City of Dublin, Georgia of approximately 0.072 of an acre currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense for the construction, installation, and maintenance of sanitary sewer lines to serve the Dublin Armory for \$10.00.

Article XVI grants an easement in Liberty County to the Georgia Power Company of approximately 0.156 of an acre at Savannah Technical College currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the relocation of power poles and guy wire anchors due to the SR 119 widening for fair market value, but not less than \$650.00.

Article XVII grants an easement in Lowndes County to the City of Valdosta, Georgia of approximately 0.04 of an acre currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections for the construction, installation, and maintenance of a sanitary sewer main to serve Valdosta State Prison for \$10.00.

Article XVIII grants an easement in Macon County to the Flint Electric Membership Corporation of approximately 226.148 acres currently under the custody of the Department of Education for the construction, installation, and maintenance of electrical transmission lines and associated equipment to serve the cabins located on Camp John Hope for \$10.00.

Article XIX grants an easement in McIntosh County to the Coastal Electric Cooperative (Coastal EMC) of approximately 15.3 acres currently under the custody of the Coastal Resources Division of Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, and maintenance of electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve Barbour and Wahoo Islands for fair market value, but not less than \$650.00.

Article XX grants an easement in McIntosh County to the Coastal Electric Cooperative (Coastal EMC) of

approximately 1.03 acres currently under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve facilities at Altamaha River-Townsend WMA for \$10.00.

Article XXI grants an easement in Meriwether County to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia of approximately 22.1 acres currently under the custody of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency for ingress and egress, parking, signage, utilities and any other rights which the parties deem desirable for the benefit of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital and the Hilliard Cottage for \$10.00.

Article XXII grants an easement in Newton County to the Walton Electric Membership Corporation of approximately 0.16 of an acre currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, operation, and maintenance of underground electrical distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the Georgia BioScience Training Center at Athens Technical College for \$10.00.

Article XXIII grants an easement in Polk County to the Corley family of approximately 0.03 of an acre currently under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for ingress and egress within Ironstob Phase I tract along Blue Car Body Road of the Paulding Wildlife Management Area in exchange for an easement to the State from the Corley family of approximately 6 acres for ingress and egress for public use and for the Department of Natural Resource's administrative use; and a grant from the Corley Family to the State of a Right of First Refusal to purchase approximately 360 acres of the Corley Family property.

Article XXIV grants an easement in Richmond County to Augusta, Georgia of approximately 0.873 of an acre currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the replacement and construction of water pipelines at East Central Regional Hospital for \$650.00.

Article XXV grants an easement in Troup County to the City of West Point, Georgia of approximately 1.391 acres at the Kia/Hyundai Dymos Tract currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Economic Development for the installation, maintenance, and operation of a water and sewer line for \$10.00.

Article XXVI grants an easement in Walton County to the Georgia Power Company of approximately 0.7 of an acre currently under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission lines and associated equipment along Willow Springs Church Road at Walton Fish Hatchery for fair market value, not to be less than \$650.00.

Article XXVII grants an easement in Wayne County to the Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation of approximately 0.28 of an acre currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, operation, and maintenance of underground power lines and associated equipment for the new Wildlife Resources Division Maintenance Facility at Penholoway Swamp Wildlife Management Area for \$10.00.

Transportation Committee

HB 106 Highways; revise what constitutes part of the state highway system; provisions

By: Rep. Jay Roberts (155th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 106 authorizes counties to impose a transportation special purpose local option sales and use tax of up to one percent, subject to voter approval. The proceeds must be used for transportation purposes. The bill also states that the \$5.00 per night hotel fee be charged on hotel or motel rooms. This amendment clarified the language used in HB 170 where this fee was originally established.

HB 170 Transportation Funding Act of 2015; enact

By: Rep. Jay Roberts (155th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 170 creates the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure to review tax reform measures.

The legislation provides for accountability from the Department of Transportation (GDOT) by requiring that there be submitted to the General Assembly a ten-year strategic plan that outlines the use of department resources for upcoming fiscal years.

This bill defines "alternative fuel" as electricity, natural gas, and propane and "alternative fueled vehicle" as any

vehicle fueled solely by alternative fuel. Alternative fueled vehicles will be assessed an annual fee upon registration of \$200 for non-commercial vehicles and \$300 for commercial vehicles. This fee will be adjusted annually based on CAFE Standards and the Consumer Price Index beginning on July 1, 2016. After July 1, 2018 the index will be based only on CAFE Standards.

Certain heavy vehicles will be required to pay an annual fee when registered; 15,500 lbs. up to 26,000 lbs. will pay \$50 and greater than 26,000 will pay \$100. Revenues derived from this fee will be required to be spent on transportation purposes.

The bill defines "transportation purposes" as roads, bridges, public transit, rails, airports, buses, seaports, including without limitation road, street, and bridge purposes pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 48-8-121, and all accompanying infrastructure and services necessary to provide access to these transportation facilities, including general obligation debt, revenue debt, and other multiyear obligations issued to finance such purposes.

In regard to the power of the governor to suspend or modify the collection of taxes, that office will now only be authorized to suspend the increase in the event that of a declared state of emergency and the General Assembly ratifies the actions with a 2/3 vote.

The tax credit for low-emission or zero-emission vehicles is removed for vehicles purchased or leased after July 1, 2015.

The tax credit given to commercial airlines is repealed and a provision requiring the revenue derived from the sales and use taxes on jet fuel to be used for a state aviation program or airport-related purposes to the extent required by federal law. Anything in excess of the federally required amount may be appropriated by the General Assembly for other purposes.

LOST, HOST, MOST, SPLOST and E-SPLOST are untouched. The local sales taxes will not be levied on any price per gallon above \$3.00, for example, if the price is \$3.50, the tax is still calculated at the \$3.00 rate. The state excise rate on a gallon of gas will be 26 cents; the rate on a gallon of diesel fuel will be 29 cents per gallon. This rate will be adjusted annually based on an aggregate of fuel efficiency standards (CAFE) and the Consumer Price Index beginning on July 1, 2016. After July 1, 2018 the Consumer Price Index will no longer be used and the index will be based only on CAFE Standards.

The bill removes all state sales and use tax from the sale of motor fuels and thus repeals the second motor fuel tax.

A new Code section establishes a new fee of \$5.00 per day for hotel stays with an exemption for extended stay lodging to be used on transportation purposes.

The Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank may give preference to eligible projects in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties as defined by Georgia Code and the Department of Community Affairs. When determining eligibility, the board shall make every effort to balance any loans or other financial assistance among all regions of this state. Additionally, preference for grants and other financial assistance may be given to eligible projects which have local financial support.

Counties are authorized to impose a transportation special purpose local option sales and use tax, of up to 1 percent, subject to voter approval, the proceeds of which must be used for transportation purposes.

HB 174 Urban Redevelopment Law; include blighted areas; provisions

By: Rep. LaDawn Jones (62nd) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: This bill removes "slum" from the Code relating to Urban Redevelopment law and applies that definition to a new term: "blighted" or "pockets of blight".

HB 213 Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965; permanent suspension of restrictions on use of sales and use tax proceeds upon submission of an independent management audit to certain officials; provide

By: Rep. Mike Jacobs (80th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 213 amends the 'MARTA Act' by: adding the executive director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority as a voting member until December 31, 2016; staggers terms for new board

members appointed by a local governing body after entering into an agreement with the authority; requires the management audit to include the auditor's recommendations and signed written verification that the authority full cooperated with the audit; gives provisions for suspensions and civil penalties for violations of Board rules and regulations, as well as appeals procedures; and requires those entering into a contract to charge a one percent sales tax. Further, the bill permanently removes from the 'MARTA Act' the 50/50 restriction on proceeds. In the event that the authority fails to file a report of findings of an independent management audit every four years with the governor, state auditor, and chair of the MARTOC committee, then for the four-year period following the year when the audit report was due but not submitted, the 50/50 restriction resumes.

HB 477 Abandoned public road property; notice and right to acquire when located within a subdivision; provide

By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 477 allows for notification about the sale of abandoned property that is a roadway to be given to the homeowner's association rather than each individual homeowner whose property borders the abandoned property which is a roadway. Additionally, the bill gives authority to new municipalities to maintain the county roads within the incorporated area unless another agreement exists between the city and the county.

HR 36 Staff Sergeant Shaun J. Whitehead Memorial Bridge; Jackson County; dedicate

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

Final Bill Summary: PART 1 - HR 36: Representative Tommy Benton
The bridge on State Route 82 at Interstate 85 in Jackson County is dedicated as the Staff Sergeant Shaun J. Whitehead Memorial Bridge.

PART 2 - HR 104: Representative Kevin Tanner
State Route 400 in Dawson and Lumpkin Counties is dedicated as the Bill T. Hardman Hospitality Highway.

PART 3 - HR 105: Representative Rusty Kidd
The bridge on State Route 16 over Rooty Creek in Putnam County is dedicated as the William Love Walton Bridge.

PART 4 - HR 225: Representative Darlene Taylor
State Route 302 in Decatur County from its intersection with State Route 97 to the Florida state line is dedicated as the Pauline Spearman Brinkley Highway.

PART 5 - HR 301: Representative Chuck Williams
The bridge on U.S. 78/State Route 10 Business over the Middle Oconee River in Clarke County is dedicated as the Officer Buddy Christian Memorial Bridge.

PART 6 - HR 306: Representative Penny Houston
The bridge on State Route 76 at milepost 3.19 in Berrien County is dedicated as the 1LT James H. Perry "Uncle Jim" Memorial Bridge.

PART 7 - HR 398: Representative Micah Gravley
The bridge on Lee Road over Interstate 20 in Douglas County is dedicated as the Captain Herb Emory Memorial Bridge.

PART 8 - HR 420: Representative Tom McCall
The bridge on State Route 79 over Soap Creek in Lincoln County is dedicated as the Wayne J. Hawes Memorial Bridge.

PART 9 - HR 425: Speaker David Ralston
The intersection of State Route 515 and Loving Road in Fannin County is dedicated as the Roy William Beaver Intersection.

PARTS 10 - 16: AMENDS VARIOUS DEDICATIONS PASSED IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS

PART 17 - SR 355: Senator Jeff Mullis
The intersection of State Route 341 and Mission Ridge Road in Walker County is dedicated as the E-4 Roger

Dorsey, United States Navy, Memorial Intersection.

PART 18 - SR 290: Senator Steve Gooch

The portion of new Cleveland Bypass from SR11/US129 at Donald E. Thurmond Drive extending northwest to SR11/US129 at Hulsey Road is dedicated as the Appalachian Parkway.

PART 19 - SR 410: Senator Steve Gooch

The portion of State Route 306 from GA 400 to State Route 53 in Forsyth County is dedicated as the Frank L. Danchetz Highway.

PART 20 - SR 411: Senator Steve Gooch

The bridge on State Route 8/North Avenue over the Interstate 75/Interstate 85 Connector in Fulton County is dedicated as the Paul V. Liles, Jr., Bridge.

PART 21 - SR 296: Senator Steve Henson

The bridge on the MARTA Indian Creek Station exit ramp to Interstate 285 southbound in DeKalb County is dedicated as the Senator Lawrence (Bud) Stumbaugh Bridge.

PART 22 - SR 40: Senator Mike Dugan

The new flyover ramp on Interstate 85 at Georgia 400 is dedicated as the Captain Herb Emory Flyover Ramp.

PART 23 - SR 159: Senator Gloria Butler

The intersection of Highway 78 and Rosebud Road in Gwinnett County is dedicated as Brooks-Foster Crossing.

PART 24 - SR 441: Senator Donzella James

State Route 9 in Fulton County from its intersection with Peachtree Street to 14th Street is dedicated as the Gladys Knight Highway.

PART 25 - SENATE ADDITION

The intersection of Interstate 985 and Mundy Mill Road is dedicated as the Loyd Strickland Memorial Intersection.

PART 26 - SENATE ADDITION

The bridge on U.S. 280 over the Oconee River in Montgomery and Wheeler counties is dedicated as the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

HR 215 Judge Ronald L. Newton Memorial Highway; Fannin County; dedicate

By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 215 dedicates a road in memory of the Honorable Ronald Lee Newton. Therefore, be it resolved and enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia that State Route 60 in Fannin County from its intersection with State Route 60 Spur in Mineral Bluff to the city limits of McCaysville is dedicated as the Judge Ronald L. Newton Memorial Highway.

SB 4 Urban Redevelopment; provide for use of surface transportation projects; definitions; public contracts with private enterprises for completion

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 4 clarifies existing urban redevelopment law to include a framework through which the City of Atlanta and its associated redevelopment partners can leverage limited public resources for transportation to deliver high-quality, cost-effective projects more quickly and at a lesser cost through outsourcing to the private sector. The bill adds a new definition of surface transportation project to urban redevelopment law and lays out the requirements of procurement and bond issuance.

SB 125 State Road and Tollway Authority; authorize the collection of tolls for the management of traffic flow

By: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 125 allows the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) to collect tolls on projects for which the primary purpose is managing the flow of traffic. The legislation provides authority to SRTA to

send subsequent notices to violators with increased administrative fees with each notice provided that the cumulative total does not exceed \$25. If repayment of financing is not the primary or exclusive purpose for the exercise of the authority's toll power, the authority is not required to issue or have outstanding bonds or other indebtedness in respect to a project in order to fix, revise, charge, enforce, or collect tolls for such project. The legislation states that the department may install gates, signs, barriers, or any combination thereof, to restrict access to managed lanes and prohibits drivers from driving around, through or under any barrier or closed moving gate of a managed lane.

SB 169 Highways, Bridges, and Ferries; revise what constitutes part of the state highway system; appropriation of funds to Dept. of Transportation

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

Final Bill Summary: Sections 1 and 2 of SB 169 update the Code to clarify that federal funds can be used to acquire right-of-way on local projects which have been approved for federal funds.

Section 3 aligns Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) surplus right-of-way process with the local process, as currently defined in statute, to provide greater flexibility to market and notify the public of surplus right-of-way particularly by allowing said property to be listed on the Georgia MLS (multiple listing service). This provision makes clear that the department can utilize the same tools as local government in helping to reduce unneeded property owned by the state and return it to use in the private sector and the local tax digest. The section establishes a common sense look-back requirement of 30 years to identify the previous owner, successor-in-title to whom first right-of-refusal is offered to repurchase the property.

Section 4's provision updates the current state safety oversight statute to reflect requirements established by MAP-21 and provides flexibility to adhere to future federal re-authorizations. GDOT is designated as the Transit State Safety Oversight Entity.

Section 5 relates to outdoor advertising and the relocation of signs on a right-of-way that is purchased by the department. The legislation provides criteria for the new location and for just compensation to be made when relocation is not possible.

Section 6 allows for the use of PTVs by commercial delivery companies within residential subdivisions.

Section 7 designates GDOT as the repository for crash reports generated from by law enforcement at all levels of government, and this provision ensures the most efficient and complete transfer of these records by requiring them to be submitted electronically.

SR 126 Bill T. Hardman Hospitality Highway; Dawson and Lumpkin counties; dedicate

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

Final Bill Summary: PART 1 - SR 126: Senator Steve Gooch
State Route 400 in Dawson and Lumpkin counties is dedicated as the Bill T. Hardman Hospitality Highway.

PART 2 - SR 355: Senator Jeff Mullis

The intersection of State Route 341 and Mission Ridge Road in Walker County is dedicated as the E-4 Roger Dorsey, United States Navy, Memorial Intersection.

PART 3 - SR 290: Senator Steve Gooch

The portion of new Cleveland Bypass from SR11/US129 at Donald E. Thurmond Drive extending northwest to SR11/US129 at Hulsey Road is dedicated as the Appalachian Parkway.

PART 4 - SR 410: Senator Steve Gooch

The portion of State Route 306 from GA 400 to State Route 53 in Forsyth County is dedicated as the Frank L. Danchetz Highway.

PART 5 - SR 411: Senator Steve Gooch

The bridge on State Route 8/North Avenue over the Interstate 75/Interstate 85 Connector in Fulton County is dedicated as the Paul V. Liles, Jr., Bridge.

PART 6 - SR 296: Senator Steve Henson

The bridge on the MARTA Indian Creek Station exit ramp to Interstate 285 southbound in DeKalb County is dedicated as the Senator Lawrence (Bud) Stumbaugh Bridge.

PART 7 - SR 40: Senator Mike Dugan

The new flyover ramp on Interstate 85 at Georgia 400 is dedicated as the Captain Herb Emory Flyover Ramp.

PART 8 - SR 159: Senator Gloria Butler

The intersection of Highway 78 and Rosebud Road in Gwinnett County is dedicated as Brooks-Foster Crossing.

PART 9 - SR 441: Senator Donzella James

State Route 9 in Fulton County from its intersection with Peachtree Street to 14th Street is dedicated as the Gladys Knight Highway.

PART 10 - HR 396: Representative Sheila Jones

The bridge on Interstate 20 over Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard in Fulton County is dedicated as the Willie A. Watkins Bridge.

PART 11 - HR 421: Representative William Werkheiser

The portion of U.S. Highway 301 beginning at the Georgia and South Carolina state line in Screven County through Bulloch, Evans, Tattnall, Long, Wayne, and Brantley counties to the Florida state line in Charlton County is dedicated as the Georgia Grown Trail: 301.

PART 12 - HR 528: Representative Brian Prince

State Route 24 in Jefferson County from its intersection with U.S. Highway 1 on the Louisville Bypass to the Burke County line is dedicated as the Ozzie M. Hannah Memorial Highway.

PART 13 - HR 547: Representative Jeff Jones

HR 547 dedicates the portion of Georgia Highway 99 from U.S. Highway 17 in Eulonia to U.S. Highway 17 in Darien as Veterans Memorial Highway.

PART 14 - HR 548: Representative Tom Kirby

The intersection of GA 81 and GA 78 in Walton County is dedicated as the Ethan Rutledge Memorial Intersection.

PART 15 - HR 564: Speaker David Ralston

The bridge on State Route 515 over Cherry Log Street in Gilmer County is dedicated as the J. H. "Bud" Holloway Memorial Bridge.

PART 16 - HR 565: Representative Terry Rogers

The bridge on State Route 385/Old Highway 441 over Camp Creek in Habersham County is dedicated as the Johnny Mize Memorial Bridge.

PART 17 - HR 566: Representative Jason Spencer

The bridge on State Route 177 at mile marker 16 in Ware County is dedicated as the Corporal Russell S. King Memorial Bridge.

PART 18 - HR 599: Representative Paul Battles

The bridge on Ga 113 over Richland Creek west of downtown Cartersville in Bartow County is dedicated as the Hoyt D. "Slick" Tatum Memorial Bridge.

PART 19 - HR 619: Representative Paul Battles

Ga. 133 from its intersection at Doughit Ferry Road to Euharlee (Chulio) Road west of downtown Cartersville in Bartow County is dedicated as the Henry C. Floyd Memorial Highway.

PART 20 - HR 653: Representative Mack Jackson

Ga. 272 from Ga. 68 to Ga. 24 in Washington County is dedicated as the Jimmy B. Lord Highway.

PART 21 - HR 688: Representative Tonya Anderson

HR 688 dedicates the portion of Interstate 285 beginning east of Interstate 85 south of Atlanta to the top end of Interstate 75 north of Atlanta in Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton counties.

PART 22 - HR 707: Representative Jimmy Pruett

The bridge on US 280 over the Oconee River in Wheeler County is dedicated as the Lance Corporal Melvin Poole Memorial Bridge.

PART 23 - HR 725: Representative Robert Dickey
Ga. 341 in Monroe County from the Lamar County line to the Crawford County line is dedicated as the Michael Andrew Norris Memorial Highway.

PART 24 - HR 786: Representative Patty Bentley
The double bridge on East and West bound State Route 96 over Beechwood Swamp in Taylor County is dedicated as the Private John P. Dion Memorial Bridge.

PART 25 - HR 651: Representative Gloria Frazier
State Route 305 from its intersection with State Route 56 to the intersection of Old Wadley Road near the border of the city of Midvale in Burke County is dedicated as the Samuel L. Cummings Highway.

PART 26 - HR 36: Representative Tommy Benton
The bridge on State Route 82 at Interstate 85 in Jackson County is dedicated as the Staff Sergeant Shaun J. Whitehead Memorial Bridge.

PART 27 - HR 104: Representative Kevin Tanner
State Route 400 in Dawson and Lumpkin Counties is dedicated as the Bill T. Hardman Hospitality Highway.

PART 28 - HR 105: Representative Rusty Kidd
The bridge on State Route 16 over Rooty Creek in Putnam County is dedicated as the William Love Walton Bridge.

PART 29 - HR 225: Representative Darlene Taylor
State Route 302 in Decatur County from its intersection with State Route 97 to the Florida state line is dedicated as the Pauline Spearman Brinkley Highway.

PART 30 - HR 301: Representative Chuck Williams
The bridge on U.S. 78/State Route 10 Business over the Middle Oconee River in Clarke County is dedicated as the Officer Buddy Christian Memorial Bridge.

PART 31 - HR 306: Representative Penny Houston
The bridge on State Route 76 at milepost 3.19 in Berrien County is dedicated as the 1LT James H. Perry "Uncle Jim" Memorial Bridge.

PART 32 - HR 398: Representative Micah Gravley
The bridge on Lee Road over Interstate 20 in Douglas County is dedicated as the Captain Herb Emory Memorial Bridge.

PART 33 - HR 420: Representative Tom McCall
The bridge on State Route 79 over Soap Creek in Lincoln County is dedicated as the Wayne J. Hawes Memorial Bridge.

PART 34 - HR 425: Speaker David Ralston
The intersection of State Route 515 and Loving Road in Fannin County is dedicated as the Roy William Beaver Intersection.

PARTS 35 - 41: AMENDS VARIOUS DEDICATIONS PASSED IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS

PART 42 - HOUSE ADDITION
The interchange at Interstate 20 and State Route 44 in Greene County is dedicated the Honorable Mickey Channell Interchange.

PART 43 - HOUSE ADDITION
The portion of Interstate 75 from the Georgia/Tennessee state line to the Georgia/Florida state line is dedicated as the Purple Heart Highway.

PART 44 - SENATE ADDITION
The intersection of Interstate 985 and Mundy Mill Road is dedicated as the Loyd Strickland Memorial Intersection.

PART 45 - SENATE ADDITION
The bridge on U.S. 280 over the Oconee River in Montgomery and Wheeler counties is dedicated as the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

PART 46 - HR 784: Representative Patty Bentley
The bridge on State Route 96 over Interstate 75 in Peach County is dedicated as the John David Duke Lane, Sr., Memorial Bridge.

Ways & Means Committee

HB 63 Georgia Employer GED Tax Credit Act of 2015; enact

By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 63 revises the basic skills education program's income tax credit by allowing for a \$400 credit to the employer when that employer pays for an employee to take the GED test through the Technical College System of Georgia, or a \$1,200 credit when that employer also gives paid time off to the employee to prepare for the GED. The total program cap will be one million dollars.

HB 94 Ad valorem tax; certain members of armed forces from penalties for failure to timely pay tax; exempt

By: Rep. Chuck Williams (119th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 94 precludes any interest or penalties that might be assessed against the ad valorem taxes due on a vehicle when the owner has voluntarily canceled the registration of the vehicle, and the tax collector fails to adequately bill the taxpayer. This does not affect the amount of taxes actually due while the registration has been canceled, but it does apply to the penalties that might have been assessed for failure to pay taxes due.

HB 202 Revenue and taxation; provisions regarding ad valorem taxation, assessment, and appeal; provide comprehensive revision

By: Rep. Paul Battles (15th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation significantly revises the process of appealing an ad valorem tax valuation. The bill authorizes the use of electronic tax bills with the consent of the tax commissioner and the taxpayer, requires the 5-year history and proposed millage rate(s) to be published on the local government's website when one is available, and reduces the minimum time period from two weeks to one between the published notice of the proposed millage rate and five-year history and the adoption of the new millage rate. Furthermore, the bill clarifies the penalty section of Title 48 to require that the interest rate accrues from the date that such penalty is assessed for failure to pay taxes in a timely manner. The legislation also makes it illegal to interfere with a sheriff when attempting to execute a tax sale.

Additional time is granted to the tax commissioners to submit the county digests to the Department of Revenue. The legislation authorizes multiple counties to form a regional assessor's office to share staff and resources.

The bill prohibits contractors, who provide valuation services to the Board of Assessors, from providing advice or assistance to the Board of Equalization; a contractor who provides valuation services to any board must complete training specified by the Department of Revenue.

When appealing a non-homesteaded property, the threshold to use a hearing officer is lowered to \$750,000. The legislation grants certain powers to county commissions to either appoint an appeal administrator or work with the clerks of Superior Courts to better administer the appeals process, while imposing certain qualifications, educational requirements, and performance requirements on those who serve on the Board of Equalization. The bill further clarifies the processes of appealing a valuation and at what point the case may enter the court system.

The deadline for obtaining a mobile home location permit is moved from May to April 1 and increases the penalty for not having such permit.

The legislation requires the fair market value of real and personal property to be shown on the PT 61 real estate transfer form to ensure the appraised value for tax purposes the following year does not exceed the sale price of the property.

The legislation additionally provides for "manufacturer's HQ" tags, which allow for a two-year tag to be placed on any car that is owned and placed into service by a manufacturer or its affiliate that is headquartered within the state; the tag precludes the title ad valorem tax fee (TAFT).

The legislation also provides for a change in the TAVT distributions so that MARTA is to receive the same amount of money from TAVT which the entity would have received in 2012 from sales tax on motor vehicles in the three counties which the MARTA tax is now levied.

HB 215 Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax Act of 2015; enact

By: Rep. Mike Jacobs (80th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 215 establishes a new local option sales tax for counties, called the Equalization HOST (E-HOST). This new option requires that all money derived from the penny sales tax be devoted to the reduction of homesteaded property tax in counties and in cities. Additionally, the legislation allows for a county which is currently collecting the full three-penny allowable, has a HOST tax, and collects the MARTA tax to transition to the E-HOST by referendum as well as institute a SPLOST, both of which require passage or else the county reverts back to the currently imposed HOST.

HB 234 Tax collection; days in which the Federal Reserve Bank is closed in the list of days that excuse late filing or payment; include

By: Rep. Dale Rutledge (109th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 234 allows for an extension of when taxes must be remitted to the Department of Revenue if the Federal Reserve Bank is closed for any other reason excluding legal holidays.

HB 237 State income tax; angel investor tax credit; extend

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 237 extends the Angel Investor tax credit, at the current capped amount of \$5 million, for calendar years 2016-2018. These credits may be only claimed two years after the credit has been created.

HB 275 Income tax; claimant agency; revise definition

By: Rep. Brian Strickland (111th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 275 adds the Georgia Lottery Commission to the list of state agencies that are able to access the setoff debt program for funds owed to them from retailers of lottery items.

HB 277 Sales and use tax; value all flooring samples at the same rate for purposes of fair market value

By: Rep. Bruce Broadrick (4th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 277 amends the taxation of carpet samples, to include all floor covering samples, to be taxed at 21.9 percent of the value of the raw materials incorporated into the finished product. Floor covering is defined as carpet, stone, engineered, laminate, tile, vinyl, resilient, linoleum, and other floor coverings.

HB 292 Revenue and taxation; Internal Revenue Code; define terms; incorporate certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 292 amends the Revenue Code to incorporate and conform to the seven pieces of legislation which were made at the federal level and affected the Georgia Revenue code.

HB 308 Income tax; revise tax credit for rehabilitation of historic structures; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 308 extends the limitation on tax credits for the historic preservation tax credit. Current law allows for a \$300,000 maximum amount of tax credits for a certified structure. This legislation raises the cap to \$5 million per project, and if the project creates 200 or more jobs, the cap of credits increases to \$10 million per project. The legislation also places a cap on the total program cost of \$25 million per year for all projects other than historic homes. For credit other than historic homes, the credits that are created may be transferred; however, after the credits have been transferred they can no longer be transferred again.

HB 312 Tobacco products; manufacturers and importers; remove certain bonding requirements

By: Rep. Jan Tankersley (160th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 312 removes the bond requirement for tobacco manufacturers and importers, but retains the bond requirement for distributors.

HB 319 Taxes; provide for legislative findings relating to gasoline and aviation fuel; provisions

By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 319 codifies the Governor's Executive Order 12.05.14.02, which suspends the collection of any motor fuel taxes that differed from that of the taxes levied as of June 1, 2014.

HB 339 Income tax credit; film, video or digital production; extend

By: Rep. Jon Burns (159th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 339 is a three-year extension to the Qualified Interactive Gaming tax credit. The legislation also requires certain reporting requirements to be delivered to the chairs of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

HB 374 Ad valorem tax; certain farm equipment held for sale in dealer inventory; exempt

By: Rep. Randy Nix (69th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 374 clarifies the definition of farm equipment to include forestry machinery as equipment that is exempted from ad valorem taxation while held in a dealer's inventory. Additionally, the legislation clarifies that the ad valorem exemption which applies to lease transactions and purchase transactions will apply to lease-purchase transactions for farm machinery.

HB 426 Sales and use tax; provide new exemption only for limited period of time regarding tangible personal property to certain nonprofit health centers; provisions

By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 426 provides for a two-year sales tax exemption for federally qualified nonprofit health centers (FQHCs) and nonprofit volunteer health clinics. The exemption is effective from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. Additionally, the legislation requires that any clinic taking the exemption must submit certain data to the Department of Revenue.

Finally, the bill provides for a five-year sales tax exemption for the donation of food and food ingredients to food banks, as well as a use tax exemption when food is donated in times of natural disasters.

HB 428 Sales and use tax; materials to be used in certain construction projects of zoological institutions; extend exemption

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 428 provides for a sales and use tax exemption for any qualified zoological organization for a two-year period. This exemption provides for a complete exemption at the local level and a capped exemption of \$350,000 at the state level.

Additionally, the bill provides for provides a two-year maximum \$750,000 sales tax exemption for certain renovation or expansion projects at qualified aquariums in the state. Administration of such exemptions will be conducted through the qualified organization paying the sales tax at the time of purchase of the personal property and submitting a refund request to the state in accordance with the applicable limits.

HB 457 Ad valorem tax; watercraft held in inventory; exempt

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 457 provides for an exemption from ad valorem taxes for watercraft which are held in inventory by dealers. The calendar year exemption begins on or after January 1, 2016 and concludes on December 31, 2019.

HB 464 Income tax; water conservation facilities and a shift from ground-water usage; sunset tax credit

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 464 places a sunset of December 31, 2016 on three income tax credits and places an annual cap on one of the three credits. The two credits which are to be sunset are: §48-7-40.10, the tax credit for water conservation facilities and qualified water conservation investment property; and §48-7-40.11, the tax credit for shift from ground-water usage. The credit which will both be sunset and have a cap placed upon it is §48-7-29.12, the tax credit for qualified donation of real property; carryover of credit; appraisals; transfer of credit; and penalty. The cap is to be \$30 million and be effective for calendar year 2016.

SB 82 Motor Vehicles; distribution of alternative ad valorem tax proceeds; revise and change certain provisions

By: Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 82 amends the distribution formula for the alternative apportioned ad valorem system. The current formula for distributing funds to counties is dependent on the digest of the county. This legislation would alter the calculation so that the funds would be distributed based on the number of registered apportioned vehicles in that jurisdiction. Additionally, a baseline year of 2013 is established so that counties would receive the same amount of funds. This baseline will be adjusted downward by 20 percent for the next five years until the new formula is fully implemented.

SB 122 Revenue and Taxation; special purpose local option sales tax; provide for additional purpose for the use of the proceeds of tax

By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 122 amends the purpose for which SPLOST funds may be allocated. This legislation would allow SPLOST funds to be used for the repair of capital projects damaged by a natural disaster. Additionally, the legislation would allow a county to provide monetary support for a capital project which would eventually be turned over to the state for operations or ownership.