



SESSION REPORT

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2016 Session Report

HB 34 Georgia Right to Try Act; enact

By: Rep. Mike Dudgeon (25th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 34, the 'Georgia Right to Try Act,' grants some terminally-ill patients faster access to investigational drugs that have that have passed phase one in the three-phase Food and Drug Administration's drug approval process. The bill only grants access to investigational drugs, biological products, or devices for eligible patients with terminal illnesses. The process requires written informed consent, as well as full voluntary cooperation from all parties. Under HB 34, manufacturers are not required to offer the treatment, and health insurance companies are not required to pay for the treatment. Doctors, as well as other involved participants, are indemnified.

HB 51 Taxes; amount payable at redemption of property; change provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: This legislation provides that if a property sold in a tax sale is redeemed by the original owner, the redemption price must include any payments that were required to be made by the tax sale purchaser to a property owners' association for the purchase of the property.

HB 52 Child custody; require parenting plans to be incorporated into final orders; change provisions

By: Rep. Regina Quick (117th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: This bill clarifies language regarding parenting plans involving child custody. The bill adds to the court's discretion by giving the court the ability to waive the requirement for a parenting plan in the court's final decree in legal action involving the custody of a child.

HB 54 Tuition grants; children of officers killed in line of duty who attend University System institutions and meet certain requirements; provide

By: Rep. Keisha Waites (60th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 54 allows the Department of Revenue to establish a contribution method through which Georgia residents can deem part of their tax refund to provide postsecondary education financial assistance for children of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedic, prison guard, emergency medical technician, or Highway Emergency Response Operator who was killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

HB 59 State tort claims; waiver of sovereign immunity for declaratory judgment or injunctive relief; provide

(Vetoed)

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

Final Bill Summary: This bill waives the defense of sovereign immunity by an aggrieved person seeking a declaratory judgment or injunctive relief against the state to remedy an injury caused by the state or any political subdivision acting beyond the scope of their authority or power. Provided, however, that sovereign immunity is not waived when a state law explicitly prohibits such a waiver; when monetary relief, attorney's fees, or expenses of litigation are included or related to such a claim; when a claim is made in regards to a contract between a third party and the state or any political subdivision; any claim brought by an individual in the penal system; and any claim brought by an individual in a mental health facility.

This bill neither alters nor amends any other waiver of sovereign immunity provided by law nor applies to any claim brought in the courts of the United States. Additionally, this waiver extends to conventional quiet title proceedings. Any conventional quiet title proceeding, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, shall be served on the Attorney General where title to property or an instrument is held by the state or any state entity. If the Attorney General fails to file a responsive pleading then that shall be recognized by the court as the state's acquiescence to the petitioner's filed claim for relief. Additionally, the defense of sovereign immunity of a municipal corporation shall be waived in accordance with this section.

HB 65 Education; local boards of education and certain charter schools to hold at least two public meetings on the proposed annual operating budget; require

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 65 requires local school boards and charter schools to hold at least two public meetings prior to adopting any budget, so that the public can provide input on the proposed annual budget. The public meetings must be advertised in a local newspaper, and a summary of the proposed budget must be posted on the local board's website. The governing body must also provide to any person requesting an electronic copy of the line item budget at no cost and within three days of such request.

HB 73 Public officers; counties and municipalities provide by local law for district durational residency requirements; authorize

By: Rep. Scot Turner (21st) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 73 reserves the power of the General Assembly to pass a local law requiring candidates running for any county or municipal governing body or board of education to reside within their electing district for a period not to exceed 12 months before those individuals are eligible to seek election from that district.

HB 100 Education; date by which a child must reach a certain age in order to be eligible for enrollment in certain educational programs; change provisions

By: Rep. Tom Dickson (6th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 100 requires local school systems that provide virtual instruction to students, with more than five percent of those students being out-of-system students, to spend 90 percent of funds earned for those students on costs for their virtual instruction. This legislation also requires the local school system to count such out of system student in the system's College and Career Ready Performance Index data. Section 3 of this bill states that local school systems shall not provide virtual instruction to out-of-system students if the system's College and Career Ready Performance Index for the most recent available academic year is below the state average. Section 3 stands repealed on June 30, 2019.

HB 166 Motorcycle Mobility Safety Act; enact

By: Rep. John Yates (73rd) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 166 is the 'Motor Cycle Mobility Safety Act.' The legislation increases the height limitation for motorcycle handlebars to 25 inches.

HB 172 Watercraft; operation while under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or drugs; revise types of vessels

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 172 amends Code where "personal watercraft" is defined. New definitions are "homemade or inflatable raft", "personal watercraft", and "vessel". A homemade or inflatable raft is any platform which floats for giving buoyancy to a person and renders transportation with only the aid of the person's hands, arms, legs, or feet. Personal watercraft has the same meaning set forth in Code Section 52-7-8.2. A vessel is defined as every description of watercraft, other than a sailboard or homemade or inflatable raft, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water. These new definitions remove homemade or inflatable rafts from watercraft subject to boating under the influence provisions. Additionally, the legislation provides that these rafts are not subject to the provisions in Code requiring life saving devices on vessels as long as they are operated no more than one hundred feet from shore on a lake, pond, or other non-flowing body of water.

HB 193 Life Insurance Consumer Disclosure Model Act; enact*By: Rep. Carl Rogers (29th)**Through the Insurance Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 193 provides that no insurer shall penalize an agent for advising a policy holder of the living benefits contained in a life insurance policy.

HB 205 Drivers' licenses; require driver who refused blood alcohol concentration testing to install and maintain ignition interlock devices on vehicle; provisions*By: Rep. Tom Rice (95th)**Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 205 provides an option to Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offenders to apply for an interlock device limited driving permit. Any person who has not been previously convicted or adjudicated delinquent for a violation of the DUI code, within five years of a previous DUI arrest, and whose driver's license is subject to an administrative driver's license suspension may apply for such permit. Moreover, any person who has had an administrative license suspension due to a violation of the DUI code may apply for an interlock device limited driving permit only after serving at least 120 days of said suspension. In addition, the department shall not issue an ignition interlock device limited driving permit to any person: under 21 years of age; not currently licensed to operate a motor vehicle in this state; who currently holds a commercial driver's license; or whose license is subject to a suspension, revocation, or cancellation. No person who has been granted an exemption from the ignition interlock device due to financial hardship shall be eligible for a limited driving permit or any other driving privilege for a period of one year.

An ignition interlock device limited driving permit shall become invalid upon the expiration of one year or upon any earlier reinstatement of the permittee's driver's license. The restrictions regarding places for driving are expanded from a limited driving permit for an interlock device limited driving permit.

A driver's ignition interlock device limited driving permit shall be revoked if: the permittee is convicted of violating any state law relating to the movement of vehicles or driving a motor vehicle in violation of an ignition interlock limited driving permit; has failed to complete a required substance abuse program; or the ignition interlock provider center notifies the court that the device was tampered with; the driver fails to report for monitoring; or the offender tries to drive after drinking.

Any person whose ignition interlock device limited driving permit has been revoked, or who has been refused such permit, may make a request, in writing, a hearing and shall follow the procedures required by the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act'. Any person issued an ignition interlock device limited driving permit who operates a vehicle in violation of such permit, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Moreover, the commissioner shall submit an annual report to the House and Senate detailing the amount of interlock device limited driving permits issued.

Any person issued an ignition interlock device limited driving permit, within 10 days of such issuance, shall have a certified ignition interlock device installed in any motor vehicle to be driven by such person and shall not drive any motor vehicle until such equipment is installed. In addition, an ignition interlock provider shall notify the Department of Driver Services for any unsatisfactory reports by such driver or if such driver requests the provider to remove the ignition interlock device at any time during the ignition interlock device limited driving permit period.

HB 216 Occupational diseases; define certain terms; provisions*(Vetoed)**By: Rep. Micah Gravley (67th)**Through the Industry and Labor Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 216 establishes that cancer will be covered by a firefighter's worker's compensation benefit if it is demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence that the cancer was caused by the circumstances of his employment.

HB 219 Health; swimming pools; exempt certain privately owned pools from inspection and licensing requirements*(Vetoed)**By: Rep. J. B. Jones (167th)**Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 219 exempts private swimming pools, to include pools in apartment complexes, country clubs, subdivisions, condominium associations, town homes, and time shares, from health inspections by the Department of Public Health; however, a resident, member, or the owner of the private swimming pool may request an inspection of the pool at any time for informational purposes only.

HB 229 Domestic relations; grandparent rights to visitation and intervention to great-grandparents and siblings of parents; expand

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 229 expands the grandparent's visitation statute to include great-grandparents, aunts and uncles. A great-grandparent, aunt or uncle may seek visitation rights when a child custody case has gone before a court or in cases where the parents are no longer living together. In order to be eligible for visitation rights, a great-grandparent, aunt or uncle must prove that they have a relationship with such child through clear and convincing evidence, that the health and welfare of a child will be harmed without such visitation, and that the visitation is in the best interest of the child.

The bill also provides that a legal custodian of a child, through the use of a properly executed power of attorney, may delegate caregiving authority regarding such child for a period not to exceed one year, unless that legal custodian is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States. The delegation of the power of attorney shall not operate to change, modify, or deprive any parental right, legal right, or authority of such legal custodian. Such delegation can be made without a court order, but can be accomplished through a signed affidavit, confirmed by a notary public, acknowledging the power of attorney. The attorney-in-fact under the power of attorney for the care and custody of a child shall act in the best interest of said child. Moreover, the attorney-in-fact shall have the right to enroll the child in public school serving the area where said individual resides. Moreover, the attorney-in-fact may seek emergency medical treatment, or other services for a child. Such execution in the change of power-of-attorney shall not be for the purposes of enrolling said child in a school to participate in the academic or interscholastic athletic programs, or for the purposes of subverting an investigation into such child's welfare. The legal custodian of a child shall have the authority to revoke or withdraw the power of attorney.

HB 362 Student health; licensed health practitioners to prescribe albuterol sulfate for schools; authorize

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 362 amends O.C.G.A 16-13-30.3 by removing phenylpropanolamine from the definition of drug products that contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Under the provisions of this bill, pharmacies must require customers to issue a valid government ID when purchasing a product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Additionally, the retail distributor must maintain a record of certain "required information", defined in the bill as the full name and address of the purchaser; the type of government ID; a description of the product purchased; and the date and time of the purchase.

Further, pharmacies must electronically track such sales using a "real-time electronic logging system", defined in the bill as a system that can track required information and generate a stop sale alert to notify a retail distributor that the purchase exceeds the quantity limits (9 grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine per 30 day period in dosage form; or 3.6 grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine per day in dosage form). The system will also contain an override function to be utilized in the event that the cashier is in imminent danger if the sale is not made; however, the system will still track any override sales. This system must be approved by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and be accessible to state, pharmacies, and law enforcement agencies without a charge or fee, including a transaction fee.

HB 364 Real estate transfer tax; change certain provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 364 allows the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to review and request an alteration of a county digest and to create an appeals process if a tax assessor disagrees with an alteration. It also provides that the Department of Revenue shall notify the Department of Community Affairs if there has been a finding of the illegal taxation of property or intangibles. If there is such a finding, the Department of Community Affairs may revoke the county's qualified government status for three years, although the county's qualified government status will not be revoked if the county removes the tax assessor.

This legislation allows the owner of a property that has been illegally taxed under a prior county digest to directly petition the Georgia Tax Tribunal. The bill provides corresponding legal filing requirements to support such an action.

HB 370 Elections; provide for waivers of certain civil penalties and fees incurred by candidates for local elected office; provisions
(Vetoed)

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 370 provides for waivers of fines and fees incurred by candidates for local elected office. Upon written request of a candidate or in a response by the candidate to any notification from the State Elections Commission alleging noncompliance with filings required between January 1, 2010 and January 10, 2014, the commission shall be authorized to waive late fees, fines, and civil penalties incurred by candidates for public office. Candidates have until December 31, 2016 to file notice of any financial activities during the period of January 1, 2010 and January 10, 2014, and shall be allowed to file on a single consolidated form.

HB 402 Insurance; encourage employers to provide work based learning opportunities for students age 16 and older; provisions

By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 402 provides for a five percent discount in worker's compensation insurance premiums for employers that provide work-based learning opportunities for students aged 16 years and older. Any work-based learning program must be certified by the State Board of Education. The participating student must be covered by the employer's worker's compensation policy.

HB 408 Excise tax; rooms, lodging and accommodations; clarify application of certain provisions to certain municipalities

By: Rep. Wendell Willard (51st) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation allows municipalities that were authorized to levy hotel/motel excise taxes to repay debt service for the Georgia Dome to use the revenues for "tourism product development". "Tourism product development" means the expenditure of funds for the creation, expansion and operating of physical attractions which are: available and open to the public, improve destination appeal, support visitors' experiences, and are used by visitors.

HB 421 Retirement and pensions; officers employed by Department of Community Supervision shall be entitled to certain disability benefits; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 421 amends O.C.G.A. 47-2-221 relating to the eligibility of Employees' Retirement System's enhanced disability benefits. This bill entitles community supervision officers employed by the Department of Community Supervision to enhanced disability benefits if they become permanently disabled due to an act of external violence or injury incurred in the line of law enforcement duty. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill. The actuary has determined that a state appropriation is not required to implement the changes set forth in this bill.

HB 509 Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council; create; provisions

By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 509 creates the Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council within the Department of Community Health. The council will be composed of nine members, to include: the chairperson of the House Committee on Health and Human Services; the chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee; two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; two members appointed by the president of the Senate; and three members appointed by the governor. It is preferable that at least two councilmembers are board-certified hospice and palliative medicine physicians or nurses.

Additionally, this bill establishes a state-wide Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program within the department. The purpose of this program is to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in Georgia by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and education about palliative care is available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities.

- HB 513 Pleadings and motions; procedure for claims asserted against a person or entity arising from an act which could be construed as an act in furtherance of the right of free speech or right to petition government for redress of grievances; revise provisions**
By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 513 updates Georgia's anti-slap legislation to increase the coverage from protecting the right to petition to also include the right of free speech in connection with an issue of public interest or concern. When a claim for relief is asserted against another party involving such situations, the action shall be subject to a motion to strike, unless the court determines that the non-moving party has established that such persons will prevail on the claim. The court shall consider the pleadings, and supporting and opposing affidavits stating the facts upon which the liability or defense is based. The result of the motion shall not be admissible into evidence at any later stage of the case. Moreover, if the moving party prevails, that party shall be granted the recovery of attorney's fees and costs associated with the motion. If the court finds the motion to strike is frivolous, or solely intended to cause unnecessary delay, then the court will award attorney's fees and costs to the non-moving party. In addition, if there is a claim that the non-moving party is a public figure plaintiff, then the non-moving party is entitled to discovery on the sole issue of malice. An order granting or denying a motion to strike shall be appealable without the entry of an order by the trial judge.
- HB 514 South Fulton, City of; Fulton County; incorporate**
By: Rep. Roger Bruce (61st) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 514 authorizes a referendum to create the city of South Fulton and establishes its charter.
- HB 547 Estates; taxes and tax liens; change provisions**
By: Rep. Barry Fleming (121st) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 547 narrows the exemption from real property taxes for the family of a decedent so that either a homestead property or a business property is eligible for the exemption.
- HB 555 Courts; provide reporting of certain statistics regarding juveniles seeking abortions without parental notice; provisions**
By: Rep. Joyce Chandler (105th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 555 requires the clerk of a juvenile court to report the number of petitions granted or denied for an abortion without parental consent to the Administrative Office of the Courts on an annual basis.
- HB 579 Motor vehicles; operation of certain vehicles upon highways when used in connection with agricultural pursuits; provide**
By: Rep. Tom McCall (33rd) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: The legislation creates a new Code section for uniform rules of the road. It defines "farmer" as the owner, employee or family member of the owner of a commercial agricultural or silvicultural venture. It allows a farmer to use a "farm use vehicle," defined as an all-terrain or personal transportation vehicle, on any public road or highway in Georgia, as long as a legal slow-moving vehicle emblem is affixed to the vehicle and the vehicle is actively operated by the farmer to transport agricultural products, livestock, farm machinery, or farm supplies from the farm; or the farmer is driving between his residence and the farm properties. The legislation also provides that any municipality may prohibit the operation of a farm vehicle on public roads and highways within its jurisdiction if it endangers the safety of the traveling public.
- HB 605 Georgia Judicial Retirement System; member who was serving in a full-time position on his or her retirement may use prior part-time service for vesting; provide**
By: Rep. Tom Weldon (3rd) Through the Retirement Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 605 amends O.C.G.A. 47-23-63 relating to the calculation of benefits under the Judicial Retirement System (JRS). The calculation for part-time service is currently calculated as one of credit for each three months of prior part-time service. This bill's calculation for part-time service changes to a ratio determined by dividing the average monthly compensation for the highest average producing 24 consecutive month period of part-time service by the average monthly compensation for the highest average producing 24

consecutive month period of full-time service. The resulting percentage will be multiplied by the part-time service and the result added to the total full-time service, resulting in the total service to be used in all benefit calculations. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuary has determined that a state appropriation is not required to implement the changes.

HB 614 Landon Dunson Act; enact

By: Rep. Valencia Stovall (74th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: The 'Landon Dunson Act' authorizes the Department of Education to establish a program for placing video cameras in classrooms which are used for special education services. Video would be retained for no less than three months nor more than 12 months and cover all areas of the classroom to the extent practical.

HB 635 Judges of Probate Courts Retirement Fund; increase number of years of mandatory contribution; provisions

By: Rep. James Epps (144th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 635 amends O.C.G.A. 47-23-63 relating to member dues and creditable service for the Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund. This bill increases the period of time in which a member must pay dues from 20 years to 30 years. Also, any member who is active on July 1, 2016 may obtain creditable service for any service in excess of 20 years as judge of the probate court, employee of the board, or secretary or treasurer, but not more than the number of years of service or 30 years, whichever is less. Any member who wishes to receive creditable service must apply and pay the member contributions they would have paid during that time period plus seven percent interest. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuary has determined that a state appropriation is not required to implement the changes set forth in this bill; the \$311,000 per year cost for 30 years will be paid through fines, fees, and bond forfeitures.

HB 641 Spalding County; levy an excise tax

By: Rep. David Knight (130th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill authorizing the governing authority of Spalding County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 649 Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 649, the 'Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act,' creates a Lactation Consultant Advisory Group consisting of five members. The secretary of state will consult with the advisory group and call meetings to order at least once a year. The advisory group will disseminate information and act as a facilitator between lactation consultants, the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, and the secretary of state. Additionally, the secretary will have the power to grant a license to applicants. The secretary will also have the authority to revoke, suspend, deny, or refuse to issue or renew a license; place a licensee on probation; or issue a letter of admonition. Each applicant for a license must receive certification as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. Additionally, the applicant must be at least 18 years old and pass a criminal background check.

HB 658 DeKalb County; community improvement districts may be created within municipalities; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Billy Mitchell (88th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

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

HB 659 Education; provide transparency of financial information of local school systems and schools; provisions
(Vetoed)

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 659 requires school systems to make financial information, other than information specifically confidential by law, available for public access in order to promote greater transparency within public schools.

HB 676 Accountability, Change Management, and Process Improvement Act of 2015; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 676 is the 'Accountability, Change Management, and Process Improvement Act of 2015.' It provides that all state agencies, boards, authorities, and commissions shall provide a written business case for every information technology project that exceeds \$1 million in value. It provides what information shall be included in the business case.

Further, it provides that all state agencies, boards, authorities, and commissions shall provide for a change management plan and resources necessary for plan execution for projects that exceed \$1 million in value, projects that directly involve two or more state agencies, or service delivery changes in existing programs that significantly impact more than 10,000 citizens in Georgia.

HB 683 Rockdale County; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize Rockdale County to exercise all redevelopment and other powers.

HB 690 Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; provide that certain law enforcement officers obtain creditable service in system under certain conditions; provisions

By: Rep. Amy Carter (175th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 690 amends O.C.G.A. 47-2-226 relating to creditable service for certain members of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS). In this bill, the definition of "law enforcement officer" is expanded to include any member in service of the Uniform Division of the Department of Public Safety, any conservation ranger of the Department of Natural Resources, any officer of the Georgia Bureau of the Investigation, and any alcohol and tobacco officer or agent with the Department of Revenue. Any "law enforcement officer" is eligible to obtain five years of creditable service for certain prior year service as a full-time employee of a local governing authority. The law enforcement officer must meet the following criteria to receive creditable service: held a position invested with the authority to enforce criminal or traffic laws, had the power to arrest, and had duties which included the preservation of public order, the protection of life and property, or the prevention, detection or investigation of crime; was not eligible for a defined benefit or defined contribution retirement or pension plan while employed by the local governing authority; and has been a member of ERS for at least 10 years. Any member wishing to receive creditable service must apply to the Board of Trustees of ERS and pay an amount determined to be sufficient to cover the full actuarial cost of granting creditable service. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuary has determined that a state appropriation is not required to implement the changes set forth in this bill.

HB 691 Municipal courts; removal of appointed judges under certain circumstances; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 691 provides for the removal of an appointed municipal court judge for certain unethical conduct by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the municipal governing authority. The bill has provisions to temporarily fill a resulting vacancy until a new appointment is made. The bill also provides that this Code section shall not apply to a local Act creating a municipal court for a consolidated government.

HB 697 Unsolicited merchandise; solicitors to receive from consumers affirmative assent to continued receipt of certain merchandise following a free trial before charging; require

By: Rep. Tom Kirby (114th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 697 revises Code Section 10-1-50 and provides that no "person" shall offer for sale goods, wares or merchandise where the offer includes voluntary and unsolicited sending of goods, wares or merchandise not actually ordered or requested by the recipient. The receipt of such goods is deemed an unconditional gift to the recipient who may use or dispose of the items without any obligation to the sender unless the items were delivered as result of a bona fide mistake.

No person shall require payment for the continued provision of any goods, wares, or merchandise following the expiration of a trial period during which the items were provided free of charge unless the recipient of those goods assents to the receipt on a paid basis. In the absence of such assent, the receipt of the merchandise is

deemed an unconditional gift to the recipient who may use or dispose of the items, unless the items were delivered as a bona fide mistake, without obligation to the sender.

Any violation of this Code section shall be considered a violation of the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975.'

HB 725 "Child Abuse Records Protection Act"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 725 provides for greater confidentiality regarding an individual's child abuse records by requiring a court order before the release of such records. Moreover, when a court does authorize the release of such records, the court shall issue a protective order covering those records where anyone allowed to access such records be required to acknowledge, in writing, that he or she agrees to be bound by the protective order. In addition, those records released shall be returned to the court upon completion of the matter that caused the release of such records. Any failure to obey the protective order may be punished as contempt of court.

HB 726 Excise tax; tobacco products; clarify certain charges

(Vetoed) By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation exempts the amount of any federal excise tax or shipping charges listed separately on a dealer or distributor's sales invoice from the state tobacco excise tax. Retailers will continue to pay the state excise tax if the shipping and federal excise tax charges are not itemized.

HB 727 Fireworks; certain further regulations by counties and municipal corporations; provide

By: Rep. Paul Battles (15th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 727 regulates where and when fireworks can be exploded. It is unlawful to explode fireworks within five yards of an overhead obstruction, across or into a public road. Fireworks may not be used in close proximity to electric plants, wastewater treatment plants, jails, prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes. It is unlawful to explode fireworks at public gatherings where the local fire department or the state fire marshal determines that such conduct would be unreasonable. Also, it is unlawful and punishable as a misdemeanor to explode fireworks while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The governor or the director of the Environmental Protection Division may issue a declaration to prohibit the use of fireworks for a specific duration. The bill extends the times which fireworks may be exploded on January 1, July 3, July 4, and December 31. Moreover, the bill allows for local noise ordinances to govern when fireworks are otherwise permitted to be exploded. HB 727 also allows for temporary fireworks stands for the benefit of non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporations.

The bill also updates the Code relating to fire protection and safety relating to issuance of certificates, definitions, functions and powers of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council and qualifications of firefighters.

HB 735 Stewart County Water and Sewerage Authority; membership appointments; revise

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to revise the Stewart County Water and Sewerage Authority, so as to change the method of membership appointments.

HB 736 Special license plates; marine habitat conservation; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 736 establishes a special license plate promoting marine habitat conservation. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be disbursed to the Coastal Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources to supplement marine habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement projects undertaken to increase the abundance of marine fish and invertebrate species.

It also contains provisions creating special license plates for: female veterans; the Omega Si Phi Fraternity; Hampton University; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; the law enforcement division of the Department of Natural Resources; and the Georgia Pet Foundation.

Finally, HB 736 provides that a spouse of a veteran is eligible for a free "veterans" license plate.

- HB 737 Code Revision Commission; revise, modernize and correct errors of said Code**
By: Rep. Johnnie Caldwell (131st) Through the Code Revision Committee
Final Bill Summary: The bill revises, modernizes, corrects errors or omissions, and removes obsolete and unconstitutional references in Georgia Code as recommended by the Code Revision Commission.
- HB 739 Elementary and secondary education; process for state approved instructional materials and content is optional; provide**
By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 739 clarifies the state instructional recommendation process and makes optional the use of a committee selected by the State Board of Education to review instructional materials. This legislation also provides that local boards of education shall have a review process for any locally approved instructional material.
- HB 742 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: House Bill 742 is the annual bill to align the Georgia Revenue Code with federal adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code. The bill allows most businesses to file state and federal returns simultaneously and makes the \$500,000 deduction for the purchase of qualifying equipment over \$2 million a permanent business reduction (Section 179). The bill also makes the Research Tax Credit permanent.
- HB 745 Public property; extend automatic repeals of certain provisions relating to writing off small amounts due to the state; provisions**
By: Rep. Earl Ehrhart (36th) Through the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee
Final Bill Summary: This bill extends the sunset from July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2021 for provisions relating to state agencies and departments writing off small amounts due to the state, as well as for provisions relating to non-lapsing revenue collected by the university system and the Technical College System of Georgia.
- HB 747 Motor vehicles; safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles; update reference date to federal regulations**
By: Rep. Terry Rogers (10th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 747 updates the reference date to federal regulations regarding the safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles to take effect on January 1, 2016.
- HB 748 Thomas County Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees as part of court costs; provide**
By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the Magistrate Court of Thomas County to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs.
- HB 750 Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**
By: Rep. David Ralston (7th) Through the Appropriations Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 750, the Amended FY 2016 budget, recognizes \$1.2 billion in additional revenue or 5.67% over the original FY 2016 budget. This brings the total appropriation for Amended FY 2016 to \$23.06 billion. The new revenue is mainly comprised of \$204 million from the K-12 midterm adjustment reserve; \$30.3 million in additional lottery proceeds to meet the HOPE demand; and the recognition of \$758 million in new general and motor fuel proceeds for transportation resulting from HB 170 (2015 Session). The final version of the budget also includes \$70 million in anticipated settlements from the federal government that will be used to provide a one-time infusion in health care programs with long-term impacts. The bill and budget highlights may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website:
<http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/>

HB 751 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017*By: Rep. David Ralston (7th)**Through the Appropriations Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 751, the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of \$23.7 billion - an increase of \$673.9 million, or 2.9%, over the Amended FY 2016 budget. The bill and budget highlights may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website: <http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/>

HB 757 Domestic relations; religious officials shall not be required to perform marriage ceremonies in violation of their legal right; provide
*(Vetoed)**By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th)**Through the Judiciary Committee*

Final Bill Summary: The 'Free Exercise Protection Act' provides ministerial and individual protections against infringement on religious exercise balanced with protecting individuals from invidious discrimination (which is discrimination that is offensive or objectionable, especially because it involves prejudice or stereotyping or otherwise treats a class of persons unequally in a manner that is irrational, malicious, hostile, or damaging).

This bill adds O.C.G.A. 19-3-11, relating to marriage, by providing certain ministerial protections. Specifically, clergy ordained or authorized to solemnize marriages, according to the usages of his or her denomination and acting in an official religious capacity, shall not be required to solemnize any marriage in violation of his or her right to free exercise of religion under the United States or Georgia Constitutions. A refusal by such clergy shall not give rise to a cause of action, alter in any way state tax treatment, cause any tax or penalty or payment to be assessed against such faith-based organization, or otherwise disallow charitable deductions for state tax purposes.

The bill amends 10-1-573, relating to day of rest for employees of business and industry, to prohibit any business or industry from being compelled to work on either of the two rest days (Saturday or Sunday) by ordinance or resolution of any county, municipality, or consolidated government.

Additionally, Title 10, relating to commerce and trade, is amended to provide certain protections for faith-based or religious organizations, which include religious clergy, religious schools, or non-profit corporations. Under this legislation, faith-based organizations will not be required to rent, lease, or otherwise grant permission for property to be used by another person for purposes which are objectionable to the religious organization; nor shall faith-based organizations be required to provide social, educational, or charitable services that violate that faith-based organization's religious beliefs as demonstrated by practice, expression or clearly articulated tenet of faith; however, the government could enforce the terms of a grant, contract or other agreement voluntarily entered into by such an organization. Additionally, under Title 34, relating to labor and industrial relations generally, faith-based organizations will not be required to hire persons whose religious belief or practices or lack of either are not in accord with the faith-based organization's religious beliefs as demonstrated by practice, expression or clearly articulated tenet of faith.

HB 757 further provides that a refusal by faith-based organizations under Title 10 or Title 34, shall not give rise to a cause of action, alter in any way state tax treatment, cause any tax or penalty or payment to be assessed against the faith-based organization, or otherwise disallow charitable deductions for state tax purposes. The same Code sections also provide faith-based organizations grounds for a claim or defense in any judicial, agency or other proceeding to obtain a declaratory judgment or injunctive relief, as well as in some instances reasonable court costs and attorney's fees. A 30-day ante litem notice is required to be given to the government when bringing such suits against the government.

Under Title 50, relating to state government, the act provides guidelines on when the government may regulate religious exercise. The government may only burden a person's exercise of religion by a generally applicable law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution, where the government demonstrates that application of the burden to the person is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of achieving that interest. Nothing in this provision prevents local ordinances with antidiscrimination provisions from existing so long as those ordinances meet the stated criteria. The bill allows a person aggrieved by a violation of this provision to seek a declaratory judgment action or injunctive relief against the government, as well as in some instances reasonable court costs and attorney's fees. A 30-day ante litem notice is required to be given to the government when bringing such suits against the government.

Additionally, Section 50-15A-5 is added, which provides that persons may act in accordance with their religious beliefs, as allowed under the Georgia Constitution and consistent with decisions of the Georgia Supreme Court; however, a person's right to exercise religious freedom, which may be manifested in acts,

ceases where such actions would constitute invidious discrimination. These protections are not to be construed as applying to penological rules, regulations, conditions, or policies established by penal institutions that are reasonably related to the safety and security of incarcerated persons, staff, visitors, or otherwise for the maintenance of good order at the penal institution or parole or probation program. Nor is this chapter to be construed as either giving rights to an employee against an employer that is not a government, or to provide any relief or protection to a public officer who fails or refuses to perform his or her official duties.

Accordingly, 50-21-38 is added, whereby the state expressly waives sovereign immunity to any claim, counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim brought in the courts of this state by an aggrieved individual or faith-based organization seeking a declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, or reasonable attorney's fees and court costs against the state.

HB 759 Courts; financial institutions; certain activities shall not constitute the unauthorized practice of law; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: This legislation updates the terms banks and banking with "financial institutions" and "financial services" in the Code section that allows for certain business-related advice and transactions to occur without being deemed the unauthorized practice of law.

HB 763 Sales and use tax; exemption regarding certain food and food ingredients; remove sunset

By: Rep. Penny Houston (170th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation provides a sales and use tax exemption to companies that donate nearly-expired food to food banks. Under current law, the food would not be taxed if it was thrown away, but it would be subject to the sales and use tax if donated in bulk to a food bank shortly before expiration. The bill has a sunset provision ending in 2021 and creates reporting requirements to provide the Georgia General Assembly with information on the effectiveness of the exemption.

HB 765 Social services; board member appointments may include certain retired individuals; provide

By: Rep. Jay Powell (171st) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 765 allows retirees, in addition to active personnel, to be appointed from the list of professionals required to be appointed to a county's Board of Family and Children Services.

HB 767 Motor vehicles; add utility service vehicles to the "Spencer Pass Law"; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 767 adds utility service vehicles to the "Spencer Pass Law," which states that a driver must make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to a stationary towing, recovery, or highway maintenance, or utility service vehicle. If a lane change would be impossible or unsafe, the driver must reduce the speed of the motor vehicle to a reasonable speed less than the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop.

HB 768 Handicapped persons; ABLE program establishment to use tax exempt accounts to pay for qualified expenses of eligible individuals with disabilities; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: This legislation establishes the Georgia Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program, which is modeled after Internal Revenue Code Section 529A education savings plans. The bill allows disabled individuals to save private funds in tax-exempt accounts to pay for qualified disability expenses without becoming ineligible for Medicaid due to the possession of over \$2,000 in assets.

The governing corporation will have a board of directors consisting of: the commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the commissioner of the Department of Community Health, the state auditor, the director of the Office of Planning and Budget, the state revenue commissioner, the state treasurer, and three directors appointed by the governor. The three gubernatorial appointees shall include at least two persons with a disability, a family member of a person with a disability, or a disability advocacy professional. The program may also participate jointly with other state ABLE programs to raise necessary assets.

- HB 769 Ad valorem tax; certain watercraft held for sale or resale; make permanent an exemption**
By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: This legislation permanently exempts watercraft and all-terrain vehicles held in inventory by a dealer for sale or resale from ad valorem taxation by removing the sunset provision set to expire on December 31, 2019.
- HB 770 Crimes and offenses; trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude; provisions**
By: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (104th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 770 revises terms and increases penalties relating to trafficking of persons. "Developmental disability" and "controlled substance" are incorporated into the sexual servitude definitions. The definition of "sexual servitude" is expanded to include conduct induced or obtained by coercion or deception from an individual who is younger than 18 or who has a developmental disability. The penalty for trafficking is modified to require imprisonment for not less than 10 or greater than 20 years and a mandatory fine not to exceed \$100,000. Finally, the bill specifically states that the involvement of an undercover operative or law enforcement officer in a trafficking investigation is not a defense to prosecution.
- HB 773 Georgia Housing and Finance Authority; outstanding bond limit; increase**
By: Rep. Penny Houston (170th) Through the Appropriations Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 773 increases the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority's bond limit for the single-family, residential housing program from \$1.3 billion to \$3 billion.
- HB 775 Health; restrictions on sale and dispensing of spectacles; provide**
By: Rep. Earl Ehrhart (36th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 775 defines "over the counter spectacles" and "spectacles". Spectacles and contact lenses require a prescription, from a duly-licensed examiner, and no prescriptions shall be given unless an eye examination is performed by the person writing the prescription. The penalty for writing a prescription without a license is lowered to a misdemeanor, while being convicted of violating this provision three or more times shall be punished as a felony.
- HB 777 School buses; drivers use cellular telephones in similar manner as a two-way radio; allow**
By: Rep. Mike Dudgeon (25th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
Final Bill Summary: This legislation amends a prohibition on school bus drivers using a cell phone while a bus is in motion. The legislation allows an exception for those using the phone in a similar manner as a two-way radio to allow live communication between the driver and school/public safety officials.
- HB 779 Crimes and offenses; regulate use of unmanned aircraft systems and images; provisions**
(Vetoed) By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 779 regulates the use of drones in Georgia. Except for military or governmental contracts involving research, it is unlawful to sell, manufacture, possess, or operate an unmanned aerial vehicle that is equipped with a weapon. The punishment for such conduct is a felony. Moreover, the bill provides that state law preempts any local law or ordinance unless such ordinance has been enacted prior to April 1. HB 779 also provides for the creation of the Unmanned Aircraft Commission with the purpose of increasing the amount of industry located within Georgia regarding the manufacture, research, and development of unmanned aircraft.
- HB 782 Hall County; Gainesville City and Buford City School Districts; provide continuation of an alternative method of distribution of net proceeds of sales and use tax**
By: Rep. Carl Rogers (29th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the continuation of an alternative method of distribution of the net proceeds of the sales and use tax for educational purposes.

HB 783 Controlled substances; Schedules I and IV; change certain provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 783 revises O.C.G.A 16-13-25, relating to Schedule I controlled substances, by adding and removing certain substances from the Code section. Additionally, this bill revises O.C.G.A 16-13-28, relating to Schedule IV substances by adding and removing certain substances from the Code section. Further, multiple new substances are added to O.C.G.A 16-13-71 relating to the definition of a dangerous drug, and a list of restricted dangerous drugs which are deemed by the General Assembly to have no medical use is created.

Additionally, HB 783 changes the definition of "low tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) oil" as used in Code Section 16-12-190. This bill also makes it illegal for manufacturers to ship low THC oil to individuals registered on the THC oil registry with the Department of Public Health. Finally, the bill expands the definition of "conditions" under which an individual may be eligible for a THC oil registration card.

HB 784 Insurance; advertising and promotional items not exceeding \$100 will not be considered an unfair trade practice; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 784 clarifies the prohibition of gifts from insurance agents to their current or prospective clients. It allows a gift, not to exceed \$100 per year, for promotional purposes. The gift cannot be contingent upon the purchase of a policy or other product.

HB 786 Manchester, City of; filling of vacancies of the governing authority; change provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Manchester to change provisions relating to the filling of vacancies of the offices of members of the governing authority.

HB 787 Varnell, City of; homestead exemption for residents 65 years or older; provide

By: Rep. Tom Dickson (6th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from the City of Varnell ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the full amount of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are 65 years of age or older or who are not remarried spouses of deceased firefighters, police officers, or military veterans.

HB 792 Firearms; carrying, possession, and use of electroshock weapons by persons who are students or who are employed at a public institution; authorize

By: Rep. Buzz Brockway (102nd) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 792 allows anyone who is 18 years of age or older or currently enrolled in classes at any postsecondary education institution to carry electroshock weapons on campus. The bill requires the use of that weapon to be only in self-defense or the defense of another.

HB 794 Macon County; probate court judge shall also serve as chief magistrate judge; provide

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

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

HB 798 HOPE; home study students who receive certain scores on standardized college admission tests; provide eligibility

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 798 revises eligibility requirements for the Zell Miller Scholarship and HOPE Scholarship. Home study students who receive scores in the 75th percentile or higher nationally on standardized college admissions test shall be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. Eligibility for the Zell Miller Scholarship requires a score of at least 1,200 on the combined critical reading and math portions of the SAT or a 26 on the ACT administered prior to March 1, 2016 or the total score of the SAT administered on or after

March 1, 2016. The bill further modifies the eligibility requirements for the Zell Miller Scholarship for home study students or graduates from an ineligible high school to require a score in the 93rd percentile or higher on the ACT or SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016 or the total score of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016.

- HB 799 Hoschton, City of; manner of election of the mayor and councilmembers; provide**
By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Hoschton, so as to provide for the manner of election of the mayor and councilmembers.
- HB 800 Veterinarians; veterinarian-client-patient relationship; clarify scope**
By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: The legislation defines the "veterinarian-client patient relationship" as a licensed veterinarian who assumes responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of an animal, the need for treatment and the client or owner has agreed to follow the instruction of the licensed veterinarian. The licensed veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate a preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal by recently having seen and being personally acquainted with the care of the animal through medically appropriate visits to the premises where the animal is kept. A licensed veterinarian is readily available for follow-up in the case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy.
- HB 801 HOPE; include certain coursework in computer science as optional rigor requirements; revise provisions**
By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) Through the Higher Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 801 provides for the addition of a computer science class in the category of advanced science to satisfy the eligibility requirements to receive the HOPE scholarship. The bill also adds certain science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses, as identified by the Board of Regents, to the classes eligible for the additional 0.5 grade point average increase granted to equalize grade point averages (GPAs) of students taking college level courses while in high school. This portion of the legislation becomes effective on July 1, 2016. Section 3 changes the definitions of "factor rate", "HOPE award rate", and "HOPE tuition payment" relating to HOPE scholarships and grants and becomes effective July 1, 2020.
- HB 802 Revenue and taxation; deduction from income for contributions to savings trust accounts; revise**
By: Rep. Sam Teasley (37th) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: This legislation raises the deduction from taxable net income for contributions to a Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan (529 Plan) for married contributors filing joint returns from \$2,000 per beneficiary to \$4,000 per beneficiary.
- HB 804 Superior courts; fifth judge of the Clayton Judicial Circuit; provide**
By: Rep. Ronnie Mabra (63rd) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 804 adds a fifth judge to the superior courts of the Clayton Judicial Circuit. The additional judge will be appointed by the governor for a term beginning January 1, 2017 and continuing through December 31, 2018. The Clayton Judicial Circuit is also empowered to appoint an additional court reporter.
- HB 806 Drivers' licenses; expiration of certain licenses and identification cards; provisions**
By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) Through the Motor Vehicles Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 806 is the annual "housekeeping" bill for the Department of Driver Services (DDS). It removes the option for a driver's license with a five-year renewal. It creates a two-year statute of limitations for citations that have been adjudicated in a local court and require the suspension of an individual's driving privileges, but the citations have not been processed with DDS.

Further, this bill allows for the use of a motor vehicle of the Department of Public Safety during an off-duty job when vested police powers are required as a condition of employment and if the job is approved by the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. Those certified law enforcement officers affected by this

legislation include the uniform and motor carrier compliance divisions. These vehicles are not to be used for political functions. If the commissioner determines that reimbursement is due to the department by the officer, he must make such determination before the job is complete and the officer enters into a written agreement with the department.

Finally, House Bill 806 transfers the Georgia Driver's Education Commission from the Department of Driver Services to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. It also extends the sunset provision from June 30, 2016 until June 30, 2019.

HB 807 Clayton County; community improvement districts; provisions

By: Rep. Valencia Stovall (74th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating one or more community improvement districts within Clayton County, so as to change certain provisions relating to taxes, fees and assessments.

HB 808 Courts; Judicial Qualifications Commission; create

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 808 creates a new selection process for the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC), as well as provides guidelines on what meetings are subject to public disclosure. HR 1113 is the companion legislation that provides the amendment to the constitution necessitating these general law provisions.

From January 1, 2017, until June 30, 2017, there shall be seven members of the commission which shall be as follows: the Supreme Court of Georgia shall select two members who shall be judges of any court of record; the president of the Senate shall select two members with one member selected from a list of at least ten nominees submitted by the board of governors of the State Bar of Georgia who are members of the State Bar of Georgia who shall have been an active status member of the State Bar of Georgia for at least 10 years and shall be a registered voter of this state, provided, however, that if a nominee is not selected from such list, the board of governors shall submit another slate of 10 nominees for the president of the Senate's consideration and the other member shall be not be a member of the State Bar of Georgia but will be a registered voter of this state; the speaker of the House of Representatives shall select two members in the same manner as the president of the Senate; and the governor shall select one member to chair the JQC, who shall be a member of the State Bar of Georgia with at least 10 years active status and is a registered voter of this state.

On and after January 1, 2021, the members of the JQC shall serve for a term of three years and until their successors are appointed. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms, except for those initial appointees serving from January 1, 2017, until June 30, 2017, who may serve for three consecutive terms as a member of the commission. Any list of nominees required by this Code section shall be submitted to the Senate no later than the third Monday in January. Any member appointed to the commission shall serve until the Senate confirms the nomination, and if an individual's name is not submitted by the deadline, he or she shall not be eligible for appointment. A JQC member is be subject to removal from the commission by an affirmative vote of six members of the commission, with the member who is subject to removal being disqualified from such vote.

The JQC is empowered to adopt rules and procedures for its own governance where not otherwise provided by the Constitution; however, such rules and procedures shall: not allow an individual member to initiate an investigation without presenting the proposal to investigate to the other members of the commission at a commission meeting; and provide that all hearings in connection with a complaint filed by the commission shall be open to the public.

Unless otherwise waived by the judge involved, all papers filed with and proceedings before the commission, including any investigation that the commission may undertake, shall be confidential, and no person shall disclose information obtained from commission proceedings, except as otherwise provided. Information and testimony submitted to the commission or its staff that is not in a hearing in connection with a complaint filed by the commission shall be absolutely privileged and will not serve as the basis of any civil action.

If the commission concludes upon the completion of an investigation that a letter of caution is appropriate, then the commission shall issue a letter of caution to the judge in lieu of any further proceeding in the matter. The issuance of a letter of caution shall be confidential, unless otherwise waived by the judge involved.

Upon issuance of a public reprimand, censure, suspension, retirement, or removal by the Supreme Court, the

notice and statement of charges filed by the commission, along with the answer, all other pleadings, the recommendation of the commission, and the record filed in support of the recommendation shall no longer be confidential. The findings and records of the commission during an open meeting shall not be exempt from open records requests.

HB 811 Banking and finance; update, modernize, and streamline numerous Code sections; revise provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 811 extensively amends Title 7, relating to banking and finance, to update, modernize, and streamline numerous Code sections to provide for efficient regulation of banks, trust companies, credit unions, merchant acquirer limited purpose banks, and the mortgage lending industry.

Specifically, the bill revises the powers and duties of the Department of Banking and Finance, as well and its commissioner, deputy commissioners and examiners. Before entering office, the commissioner of the Department of Banking and finance will still take the oath of office before the governor or a justice of the supreme court, but all other deputies and examiners may take the oath before the commissioner. Bond surety duties of the commissioner and deputy commissioners are removed. Collection of amounts owed through the Attorney General's office will no longer be limited to outstanding fees.

Financial institutions will not be required to publish an annual abstract summary of two of its reports unless requested to do so by the department.

Virtual currency is defined and includes digital representation of monetary value that does not have legal tender status and requires fair practice standards by those who deal with virtual currency.

The department shall provide rules for when and what type of insurance banks must obtain upon cancellation of deposit insurance, rather than the mandatory six-month period.

In order to comply with other parts of the Code, federal law and federal court decisions, the bill updates and eliminates certain provisions, such as: substituting the term "financial institution" for bank, and substituting specific provisions in favor of rules that are issued by certain federal public bodies for out-of-state banks. Georgia banks are allowed to establish branches in other states without obtaining permission by Georgia law or regulation.

The bill provides new provisions to remove a member of a credit union's board of directors, and requires meeting times to be set by bylaws, as well as other like provisions and principles on corporations regarding general fair dealings, mergers, consolidation, and criminal proceedings.

Finally, the bill deletes all appearances of and references to the term "building and loan associations."

HB 815 Meat inspection; inspection and regulation of certain avian meat products and facilities; provide

By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: The bill provides for the Georgia Department of Agriculture to conduct meat inspections of any avian species which are grown commercially for slaughter and preparation as human food but are not subject to the 'Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act.' The commissioner may exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the United States Secretary of Agriculture and may enforce this article and any regulations without regard to licensing agency. The legislation further provides for the department to inspect meat and meat products in retail and other service establishments.

HB 818 Workers' compensation; insurance, awards, benefits and administration; change certain provisions

By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 818 is the annual omnibus "housekeeping" bill for the Board of Worker's Compensation. It provides that administrative law judges are subject to the Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct. In addition, the legislation increases the weekly compensation benefits cap for total disability by \$25 to \$575 and temporary partial disability by \$16 to \$383. The total compensation payable to a surviving spouse as a sole dependent at the time of death, when there are no other dependents, is increased by \$10,000 to \$230,000.

HB 821 "Military Spouses and Veterans Licensure Act"; enact

By: Rep. Al Williams (168th) Through the Small Business Development Committee

Final Bill Summary: This bill, relating to the general provisions applicable to professions and businesses, requires professional licensing boards and other boards to adopt rules and regulations implementing a process by which military spouses and transitioning service members may qualify for temporary licenses, licenses by endorsement, expedited licenses, or a combination these for each profession, business, or trade for which a license is issued.

HB 822 Sales and use tax; energy used in agriculture; revise definition

By: Rep. Christian Coomer (14th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation revises the definition of "energy used in agriculture" under the sales and use tax exemption for agricultural machinery and equipment by removing the obsolete reference to prepaid "state" tax.

HB 831 "Protecting Guardmen's Employment Act"; enact

By: Rep. Calvin Smyre (135th) Through the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation includes all armed forces reservists under the existing reemployment protections of the Georgia National Guard for civilian reemployment after being discharged from active service.

HB 839 East Dublin, City of; corporate limits; change

By: Rep. Matt Hatchett (150th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to change the corporate limits of the City of East Dublin, so as to annex certain property.

HB 840 Conservation and natural resources; rules and regulations used to establish criminal violations; change provisions

By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) Through the Game, Fish, & Parks Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 840 amends Code Section 12-2-2, relating to the Environmental Protection Division and the Department of Natural Resources generally and Code Section 27-1-39, relating to game and fish by updating the effective date to January 1, 2016 for all standards, rules, and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources.

The bill also revises the definition of "feral hog" to specify that if a hog has lived any part of its life in a wild state, it will be considered feral.

The bill adds Code Section 27-2-13.1, which requires a film production wildlife permit for any person to keep, hold, or possess any wildlife for film production. The department may impose requirements for the housing and care of the wildlife. The permit shall authorize the permit holder to transport, possess, or transfer wildlife for any permitted purpose related to film production. The permit holder shall not release the wildlife from captivity or house the wildlife in a manner that poses a reasonable risk that the wildlife may be released or escape.

HB 844 Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund; insurance premiums subject to taxation; update certain provisions

By: Rep. Howard Maxwell (17th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 844 amends O.C.G.A. 47-7-61 and 47-7-124 relating to the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund. This bill updates and clarifies certain provisions relating to the taxation of insurance premiums. Also, this bill clarifies that the venue for any actions brought against the board or fund shall be held in the superior court in which the fund resides. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

HB 851 Local government; annual audit of financial affairs, books, and records of boards of trustees of county law libraries; require*By: Rep. Alex Atwood (179th)**Through the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 851 revises the procedure for collecting law library fees and provides that excess funds, as determined by the board of trustees of a county law library, will be granted to charitable tax-exempt organizations that provide civil legal representation for low-income people, or be used to purchase software, equipment, fixtures, or furnishings for any office related to county judicial facilities or services, including but not limited to courtrooms and jury rooms.

In addition, the bill adds the district attorney of the circuit in which the county is located to the county law library board of trustees.

Lastly, HB 851 requires county law libraries to have an annual audit of its financial affairs, books and accounts performed by a certified public accountant.

HB 853 "Coverdell-Murphy Act"; update current system of levels of certified stroke centers to reflect advances in stroke treatments and therapy; provisions*By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)**Through the Health & Human Services Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 853 encourages hospitals to establish comprehensive stroke centers to provide care to patients who experience complex strokes. Additionally, this bill promotes the establishment of remote treatment stroke centers to provide treatment to patients in rural and other underserved areas of the state.

Under the provisions of this bill, the Department of Public Health is authorized to establish one or more additional levels of stroke centers, in consultation with the Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry. Any hospital identified as a comprehensive or primary stroke center must be certified by a national health care accreditation body recognized by the Department of Public Health. Additionally, remote treatment stroke centers must be certified and identified by the Department of Public Health.

HB 857 McDuffie County; homestead exemption for residents 70 years of age or older; provide*By: Rep. Barry Fleming (121st)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from McDuffie County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of half the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are 70 years of age or older and in the full amount of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are 75 years of age or older.

HB 859 Firearms; weapons carry license holders; carrying and possession of certain weapons in certain buildings or real property owned or leased to public institutions of postsecondary education; authorize
*(Vetoed)**By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)**Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 859, regarding carrying concealed weapons within a school safety zone, allows licensed holders to keep their weapon on their person while in or on any building or real property owned by or leased to any technical school, vocational school, college, university, or other institution of postsecondary education. This exception does not apply to buildings or property used for athletic events or student housing, which includes sorority and fraternity houses.

HB 862 Ad valorem tax; homestead exemption; clarify definition of disabled veteran*By: Rep. David Knight (130th)**Through the Ways & Means Committee*

Final Bill Summary: This legislation allows eligible disabled veterans to qualify for the homestead exemption by meeting either, rather than both, of the standards required by law, which are: permanent loss of one or both feet, hands, or sight in one or both eyes; or honorably discharged and 100 percent disabled or compensated at the 100 percent level as unemployable. The bill also provides that eligible veterans shall be issued a free motor vehicle license plate, and that the vehicle on which said license plate is affixed shall be exempted from all ad valorem taxes for state, county, municipal, and school purposes. An eligible disabled veteran must be a citizen and resident of Georgia with a service-related disability.

- HB 866 Insurance; multiple employer self-insured health plans; exempt from premium taxes**
By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 866 exempts multiple employer self-insured health plans from premium taxes.
- HB 867 Thomasville, City of; levy an excise tax**
By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the City of Thomasville to levy a hotel/motel tax.
- HB 869 Professions and businesses; responsibilities of brokers and qualifying brokers to review certain documents; change certain provisions**
By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) Through the Regulated Industries Committee
Final Bill Summary: To bring state law into compliance with federal regulations, HB 869 adjusts a provision to require real estate brokers to review only accepted offers, in lieu of all offers, which included offers immediately rejected. HB 869 eliminates the duty of a real estate broker to deliver a copy of the closing statement and requires licensees to ensure their clients receive a copy of the closing statement and to retain a copy for three years if it was provided at closing.
- HB 871 "Georgia Lemon Law"; consumer fees forwarded to the Department of Law for deposit in the new motor vehicle arbitration account; require**
By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th) Through the Judiciary Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 871 moves the quarterly deposits associated with the collection of Georgia's 'Lemon Law' consumer fees from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to the Department of Law.
- HB 874 Courts; ability to prosecute street gang terrorism; improve**
By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 874 changes access to evidence of gang activity, adjusts criminal rules of evidence for trials involving gang activity and makes other changes to improve the ability to prosecute street gang terrorism.
- The bill changes the terroristic threat statute by creating a felony conviction for threats which suggest the death of the threatened individual. When the intent of a terroristic threat is for the purpose to retaliate or intimidate a witness or other court officials, the punishment is a felony punished with a fine of not less than \$50,000 and imprisonment for not less than five nor more than 20 years.
- HB 874 enables evidence of gang activity, including witness testimony, to be admitted into trial and considered at trial whenever it is relevant. Use of such evidence must be disclosed to the defendant 10 days prior to trial. The bill prohibits the exclusion of convictions for gang activity, including juvenile convictions, under the hearsay rules.
- HB 874 increases criminal penalties for gang involvement where any person convicted of participation in gang-related activities are guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment from five to 20 years or a fine of \$10,000 to \$100,000, or both. Individuals who are convicted of participation in gang activities while in possession of telecommunication devices while incarcerated are guilty of a felony and subjected to mandatory imprisonment of two but no more than 20 years, which is to be served consecutively to any other sentence imposed. In addition, no portion of the mandatory minimum sentence can be suspended, probated, or withheld.
- HB 879 Elementary and secondary education; seal of biliteracy for high school graduates with a high level of proficiency in one or more foreign languages in addition to English; provide**
By: Rep. Tom Taylor (79th) Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 879 establishes the "Georgia Seal of Biliteracy" to recognize high school graduates who attain a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English. The bill also provides criteria for proving biliteracy and record-keeping requirements for school systems participating in the program. The Department of Education will prepare and deliver an appropriate insignia to participating local school systems to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the pupil indicating the pupil earned the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy.

- HB 880 St. Marys, City of; manner of election of mayor and council; provide**
By: Rep. Jason Spencer (180th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of St. Mary's, so as to provide for the manner of election of the mayor and council.
- HB 883 Insurance; insurers rehabilitation and liquidation; change certain provisions**
By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 883 updates provisions on insurer rehabilitation and liquidations in accordance with National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) accreditation standards and changes claims procedures for ancillary receiverships. Further, it updates Georgia's Principal Based Reserve standard in order to maintain its accreditation with the NAIC's requirements.
- HB 884 Insurance; company action level event to include a health organization with certain total adjusted capital levels; revise definition**
By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 884 revises the definition of "company action level event" to include a health organization with certain total adjusted capital levels and applies risk-based capital computations of a company action level event to health organizations, primarily health insurer and health plans. Further, House Bill 884 eliminates the Code requirement for each foreign and alien insurer to deposit a specific amount (not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$25,000) for securities eligible for capital investment and allows the amount to be determined by the commissioner which aligns with a National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) accreditation requirement.
- HB 885 Health; certain counties to create a county board of health and wellness; repeal statute**
By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 885 repeals Code Section 31-3-2.1, which provided the option for certain counties to create a board of health and wellness by ordinance; any affected county board of health will come under the jurisdiction of the state system.
- HB 886 Pharmacy licenses; employing mails or common carriers to sell, distribute, and deliver prescription drugs; revise a provision**
By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 886 requires any pharmacy, including specialty pharmacies, to utilize a shipping method that is in accordance with recognized standards when shipping medication to a patient.
- HB 887 Courts; parental rights; prioritize placement of a child with an adult or fictive kin qualified to care for such child**
By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 889 provides that a legal custodian of a child, through the use of a properly executed power of attorney, may delegate caregiving authority regarding that child for a period not to exceed one year, unless that legal custodian is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States. The delegation of the power of attorney shall not operate to change, modify, or deprive any parental right, legal right, or authority of the legal custodian. The delegation can be made without a court order through a signed affidavit, confirmed by a notary public, acknowledging the power of attorney. The attorney-in-fact under the power of attorney for the care and custody of a child shall act in the best interest of the child. The attorney-in-fact shall have the right to enroll the child in a public school serving the area where the individual resides, as well as seek emergency medical treatment or other services for the child. This execution in the change of power-of-attorney shall not be for the purpose of enrolling the child in a school to participate in the academic or interscholastic athletic programs or for the purposes of subverting an investigation into the child's welfare. The legal custodian of a child shall have the authority to revoke or withdraw the power of attorney.

HB 887 prioritizes the placement of a child in a dependency hearing with a relative who is a qualified adult or fictive kin, not related by blood or marriage, when it is in the best interest of the child.

- HB 888 Upson County; Juvenile Court; transfer probation and intake services to the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice**
By: Rep. Johnnie Caldwell (131st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to transfer probation and intake services of the Juvenile Court of Upson County to the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.
- HB 890 Tattnall County; terms of the members of the board of education; stagger**
By: Rep. William Werkheiser (157th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the election of the members of the board of education of Tattnall County, so as to stagger the terms of the members of the board of education.
- HB 895 Elementary and secondary education; finance directors of charter schools participate in initial and annual training; require**
By: Rep. Rahn Mayo (84th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: House Bill 895 requires governing boards of approved charter schools to participate in two or three hours of training regarding sound fiscal management. The State Board of Education shall establish a charter school financial management certification program for charter school leaders. The bill further provides that a principal or equivalent administrator shall not serve simultaneously as the chief financial officer.
- HB 897 Health; care and protection of indigent and elderly patients; provide for the establishment and operation of a drug repository program to accept and dispense unused prescription drugs**
By: Rep. Betty Price (48th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 897 establishes a drug repository program to accept and dispense over-the-counter and prescription drugs donated for the purpose of being dispensed to an eligible patient. "Eligible patient" is defined as an individual who is indigent, uninsured, underinsured, or enrolled in a public assistance health benefits program. A donating facility can be a drug manufacturer, wholesaler, reverse distributor pharmacy, government entity, hospital, or health care facility. Donating facilities can voluntarily donate drugs to an "eligible recipient facility," which is defined as a pharmacy, hospital, federally-qualified health center, or non-profit clinic. Drugs may only be donated to the program if they are not expired and in unopened tamper-evident packaging.
- HB 899 Commerce and trade; tobacco product manufacturers; revise and add certain definitions**
By: Rep. Jay Powell (171st) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: This legislation makes certain changes to Georgia's escrow laws relating to tobacco product manufacturers to satisfy state commitments related to the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.
- HB 900 Crimes and offenses; electronic data base of prescription information; authorize the retention of data base information for 2 years**
By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) Through the Health & Human Services Committee
Final Bill Summary: HB 900 amends O.C.G.A 16-13-59 to allow the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency ("agency") to retain aggregated prescription information for two years, instead of one year, from the date the information is received.

Additionally, HB 900 amends O.C.G.A 16-13-60 to allow the agency to provide requested prescription information to delegates of such persons authorized to prescribe or dispense control substances. These delegates must be members of the prescriber's or dispenser's staff and the delegates must retrieve and review information for the purposes of determining misuse, abuse, or underutilization of prescribed medicine. The agency can provide requested prescription information to state and local law enforcement upon the issuance of a search warrant from an appropriate court or official in the county in which the office of such law enforcement officials are located. Finally, the agency can provide requested prescription information to the Department of Community Health for the state Medicaid program.

HB 902 Hospitals and related institutions; educational information on influenza disease to residents of assisted living communities; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 902 requires assisted living communities to annually provide educational information on influenza to their residents. Such information should include the risks associated with influenza; the availability, effectiveness, and known contraindications of the influenza immunization; causes and symptoms of influenza, and the means by which it is spread. The assisting living community is not required to provide or pay for any vaccinations.

HB 904 Labor and industrial relations; employment security; change certain contribution rates and credits

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 904 revises the repeal dates for the Code sections addressing employers' contributions to the Unemployment Trust Fund and modifies the division of the employer's contribution between the Unemployment Trust Fund and the Administrative Assessment.

Further, HB 904 allows cross-referencing information across state departments to enhance the financial accountability of the Unemployment Trust Fund. The commissioner of the Department of Labor, or his or her duly-authorized representative, may submit to the state revenue commissioner the names, earnings and social security numbers of any individuals who are required to report earnings to the department. The state revenue commissioner shall compare the submitted earnings with the income reported by the individuals to verify and report back to the Labor Department that the submitted earnings are equal to, greater than, or less than the amount of income reported by the individual to the Department of Revenue. Furthermore, the Department of Labor may submit to the state revenue commissioner the name of any employer, along with the number of employees they report, during specified time periods. The state revenue commissioner shall compare those records with the number of employees reported by that employer to the Department of Revenue to verify and report back to the Department of Labor that the number of employees reported to the department is equal to, greater than, or less than the number of employees reported to the Department of Revenue for state income tax withholding purposes for the specified time period.

HB 905 Courts; child abuse; change provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 905 provides criminal immunity for an individual who is in good faith possession of child pornography for the purpose of promptly reporting such violation to law enforcement or mandatory reporters.

The bill changes the definition for sexual abuse to exclude consensual relationships between adults and children who are not more than four years apart in age. "Child Advocacy Center" is defined to include only entities operated for investigating reported child abuse and partnered with one of the enumerated governmental entities.

In addition, the Code section requiring the establishment of local child abuse protocol committees is amended to require and include representatives from certain local law enforcement agencies and other entities concerned with public health. HB 905 allows multi-county judicial circuits to determine whether each county in the circuit should establish a protocol committee. Every committee must file an updated protocol with the Department of Family and Children's Services each September.

HB 905 also strikes provisions requiring county prosecuting offices to notify the division of convictions for child abuse offenses. HB 905 removes the actions required by the division to follow those notifications, including the addition of the individual to the registry and the procedural recourse for removing a person's name from such a list.

The bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS), in conjunction with other affected agencies and representatives of child welfare agencies, to establish a child welfare agency public scorecard to score child welfare agencies. This scorecard will be published in a single location on a website for public review. The score must be posted within 30 days of the completion of an inspection. The scores will be based on an established published formula with weight appropriately given for each agency's compliance or noncompliance

with all applicable rules and policies. DHS must give agencies an advanced written notice of their score before the score is posted.

Finally, DHS is to perform an annual inspection of all child welfare agencies in a singular coordinated manner. Annual inspections are conducted to ensure compliance with contract and licensure requirements.

HB 910 Health records; provisions relating to costs of copying and mailing patient records apply to psychiatric, psychological, and other mental health records; provide

By: Rep. Spencer Frye (118th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 910 amends O.C.G.A 31-33-3, relating to costs of copying and mailing health records and patient's rights as to records, by expanding this Code section to apply to psychiatric, psychological, and other mental health records of a patient.

HB 916 "The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights"; certain audits conducted by the Department of Community Health; remove exception; provisions
(Vetoed)

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 916 prevents the Department of Community Health from recouping full payment for medical assistance if the provider makes a clerical or record-keeping error in their reimbursement documentation; however, if such error results in an overpayment, the department can recoup the amount overpaid. Further, no state agency that provides recoupment or reimbursement to another entity can establish rules that require full recoupment for any clerical or record-keeping error.

HB 920 Health; hospitals and related institutions; restrict civil actions against passive investors in nursing homes and intermediate care homes

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 920 amends the Code relating to the regulation of hospitals and related institutions to restrict civil actions against excluded parties in nursing homes and intermediate care homes. "Excluded party" is defined as a person or entity that does not perform or have a duty to control the performance of management, hire or fire, set or control the budget, and make decisions regarding care and treatment, among others. The person or entity alleging to be an excluded party shall only be added as a party to a civil action or arbitration proceeding upon a determination by a court or arbitrator that the person or entity is in fact a licensee or management or consulting company. The plaintiff shall bear the burden of proof of such proceedings. In the event that the plaintiff prevails and the arbitrator determines that there was not a good faith basis in law and fact for the defendant's claim to be an excluded party, the defendant's claim may be deemed frivolous and the plaintiff may be awarded attorney's fees and litigation expenses. When a defendant claims to be an excluded party and files a motion to dismiss or for summary judgment, then all discovery, whether relating to the passive investor issue or other defendants, shall be automatically stayed until the court or arbitrator rules on the motion. The court or arbitrator shall not permit discovery relating to the motion to dismiss or for summary judgment and shall order a continuance.

A defendant that is a licensee, management or consulting company is precluded from identifying a non-party passive investor as a potentially at-fault nonparty for purposes of apportionment, unless that passive-investor nonparty has entered into a settlement agreement with the plaintiff or claimant.

HB 922 Income tax credit; creating quality jobs; add definition of taxpayer

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation provides that a taxpayer may elect to include disregarded entities, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, as part of the taxpayer for purposes of calculating the number of new quality jobs created under a jobs tax credit.

HB 925 Atkinson County; Board of Education; change compensation of members

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act reconstituting the Board of Education of Atkinson County, so as to change the compensation of the members.

HB 926 Pharmacists and pharmacies; regulation of certain facilities and entities involved in the wholesale, manufacture, and distribution of drugs; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 926 requires a "third-party logistics provider", defined in the bill as an entity that provides or coordinates warehousing, distribution, or other services on behalf of a manufacturer, wholesale distributor, or chain pharmacy, but does not take title to a drug or have general responsibility to direct the sale or other disposition of the drug, to be licensed by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy ("board"). This bill allows the board to issue temporary licenses in emergency situations that will expire at the end of the month following the third board meeting conducted after the issuance of the license. Additionally, temporary licenses may also be issued to a service member for a period of six months.

HB 927 "Appellate Jurisdiction Reform Act of 2016"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 927 enables the Court of Appeals to create by court rule the manner in which it is composed, divided, hears cases, and creates precedent. Further, the Court of Appeals is granted appellate jurisdiction over cases involving titles to land, non-death-penalty equity cases, wills, extraordinary remedies not involving the death penalty, divorce, alimony, and all other cases not reserved to the Supreme Court or conferred on other courts.

The superior courts are empowered to grant immediate effect to judgments rendered by the Court of Appeals. Additionally, receivership powers and procedures are amended to include appellate courts having appellate review for mandamus cases, contest petitions, review of decrees in will or contract matters, recordation and registration of deeds and other instruments; this change is also applied when a judge recommits the record to the examiner to reflect the changes made in the preceding provisions.

The bill increases the number of Supreme Court justices from seven to nine. The bill empowers the governor to appoint the additional justices created in 2016 for a term beginning January 1, 2017 and continuing through December 31, 2018 and until their successors are elected. Their successors shall be elected in 2018 for a term of six years beginning on January 1, 2019, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Future successors shall be elected every sixth year for terms of six years. They shall take office on the first day of January following the date of the election. The bill also adjusts the session term dates of the Supreme Court.

Finally, the Georgia Supreme Court and the Georgia Court of Appeals may hire law students as full-time clerks, provided those clerks pass the bar within one year of their hiring.

HB 930 Blairsville, City of; provide new charter

By: Rep. Stephen Allison (8th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

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

HB 932 Thomas County; levy an excise tax

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

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

HB 935 Ad valorem tax; properties eligible for a freeport exemption; add certain fulfillment centers

By: Rep. Brett Harrell (106th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation adds certain fulfillment centers to properties eligible for a freeport exemption for inventory retained in Georgia until such inventory can be transported out of the state.

HB 936 Income tax; wages necessary to qualify for a job tax credit; clarify certain terms

By: Rep. Brett Harrell (106th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation clarifies terms in respect to the wages necessary to qualify for a jobs tax credit. It provides that the average wage of each new job created must be above the average of the county with the lowest average wage. It also provides that a "new full-time employee job" means a newly-created position requiring a minimum of 35 hours per week paying at or above the lowest average county wage.

HB 936 provides an income tax credit of \$2,500 per parolee per year to employers who hire individuals who have been granted parole within the preceding 12 months. The job must be full-time (more than 30 hours per week) without a predetermined end date, involve work in the state for a minimum of 40 weeks per taxable year, and compensate at or above the average wage for the county in which the job is based. The credit cannot exceed the employer's income tax liability or be applied retroactively, and any unused credit can carry forward for three subsequent years. It also contains reporting requirements so that the General Assembly can ascertain the effectiveness of the credit.

HB 937 Sales and use tax; exemption for projects of regional significance; change sunset provision

By: Rep. Brett Harrell (106th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 937 extends the sales and use tax exemption for the construction of a competitive project of regional significance until June 30, 2019, and extends the excise tax on rental car charges until December 31, 2047.

HB 940 Forsyth County; position of IT/special projects administrator of the Clerk of Superior Court; exempt application of the civil service system

By: Rep. Sheri Gilligan (24th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the 'Forsyth County Civil Service System Act' to exempt the position of IT/special projects administrator of the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Forsyth County from the application of the Forsyth County civil service system.

HB 941 Courts; review of incidents involving a peace officer's use of deadly force that results in death or serious bodily injury; provide for procedure

By: Rep. Rich Golick (40th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 941 changes the process for pre-trial inquiries and indictments for the review of incidents involving the use of deadly force by a peace officer which results in death or serious bodily injury. The bill allows an inquiry into use of deadly force by a police officer to be initiated either by vote of eight members of a standing grand jury or by the county district attorney. The bill also enables district attorneys in all counties to empanel a special grand jury for the investigation of these incidents. The proceedings exclude charges for non-serious traffic offenses.

Review by a civil grand jury must begin within one year of the incident but cannot begin until after the law enforcement agency investigating the incident has submitted their investigative report. The civil grand jury may not initiate an investigation if the district attorney has moved to indict the officer. At least 20 days prior to beginning the inquiry, the peace officer involved and the chief executive officer of the officer's agency must receive notice of the proceeding.

During the proceeding, the district attorney is required to advise the grand jury of laws which apply to the use of deadly force, including: justification for the use of force, use of force in the defense of others, and the statutory authorization for the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers to effect an arrest.

All proceedings shall be recorded by a court reporter provided by the county. In the event that the grand jury elects not to recommend further action, the grand jury must prepare a report containing a summary of the evidence considered and the reasoning and findings of the grand jury. The transcript of the proceeding, the presented evidence, and the grand jury report will be made available to the public by the district attorney within six months or by the end of the next term of the court, whichever is later. Portions of the report or evidence that are subject to statutory privilege may be redacted only on motion by the district attorney and approval of a superior court judge.

For criminal grand jury proceedings, a court reporter is required who will be appointed by the district attorney and paid for by the county. The transcript will be furnished to the district attorney, who will retain recordings, notes, and the transcript of the recording. For testimony of a witness who has been granted immunity, the original transcript will be filed with the court clerk under seal and a copy will be given to the district attorney.

At least 20 days prior to beginning the indictment, the peace officer involved and the CEO of the officer's agency must receive, in writing, a copy of the indictment, notice of the grand jury hearing, as well as the time and location of the hearing. The officer must also be notified of his right to testify before the grand jury after

the district attorney has presented the case and that their testimony will be subject to cross examination and/or rebuttal witnesses.

The district attorney must inform the grand jury of the officer's right to testify or refuse testimony and the inapplicability of that decision to their decision. During the proceeding, the district attorney is required to advise the grand jury of laws which apply to the use of deadly force, including: justification for the use of force, use of force in the defense of others, and the statutory authorization for the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers to effect an arrest.

At any time during the proceedings, the grand jury may instruct the district attorney to create a new bill of indictment, which must be subsequently provided to the officer. During deliberation, no individual other than grand jury members or needed interpreters may be present.

HB 943 Contracts; additional limitations on indemnification and duty to defeat clauses which are void and enforceable in contracts for engineering or architectural services; provide

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 943 addresses the use of indemnification clauses in contracts that force architects, engineers, or land surveyors to indemnify other parties when there is no fault by the engineer, architect, or land surveyor. It codifies case law and prohibits parties in construction contracts from having to indemnify another party within the contract for that third parties' negligence.

HB 945 Schley County Utilities Authority; appointment of members; modify provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the Schley County Utilities Authority, so as to modify provisions related to the appointment of authority members.

HB 947 Echols County; assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court; authorize

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to sunset the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Echols County. The court's authority to assess a technology fee shall terminate on July 1, 2020, and any residual funds remaining in the fund established shall remain dedicated to general Echols County technology uses.

HB 949 Crimes and offenses; illegal use of financial transaction cards; revise provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 949 adds locally-elected constitutional officials to the list of individuals regulated in the Code regarding the illegal use of financial transaction cards.

HB 951 Sales and use tax; admissions to major sporting events; create exemption

By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation provides a sales and use tax exemption for admission to major sporting events determined by the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to generate at least \$50 million in state revenue, to include: the National Football League championship; any semifinal or championship of a national collegiate tournament; Major League Baseball; Major League Soccer; or National Basketball Association all-star game. The House and Senate have oversight and can overturn any decision to apply the exemption by the Department of Economic Development.

The bill also provides a "back-to-school" sales tax holiday to take place July 30 - July 31, 2016 and a tax exemption period for energy efficient products to take place from September 30 - October 2, 2016.

HB 952 "Georgia Professional Regulation Reform Act"; enact

By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th) Through the Small Business Development Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 952 creates the 'Georgia Professional Regulation Reform Act' to provide for executive oversight of licensing boards and to establish state policy for the regulation of certain professions and

businesses. The governor shall have the responsibility to actively supervise the professional licensing boards of this state to ensure that their actions are consistent with clearly articulated state policy.

The bill states that it is the policy of the State of Georgia to increase economic opportunities for all of its citizens by promoting competition and encouraging innovation and job growth. It is also the policy of the state to displace competition only when necessary to protect consumers from present, significant, and substantiated harms that threaten public health and safety. By establishing the policies and procedures of this chapter, the General Assembly intends to ensure that the state's professional licensing boards and board members are entitled to antitrust immunity and that state laws relating to professions and businesses are interpreted and enforced in a manner consistent with clearly articulated state policy.

HB 954 "Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act"; enact

By: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (104th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 954 establishes the 'Uniform Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship Proceedings Jurisdiction Act.' Under the provisions of this bill, when an individual is involved in guardianship proceedings and conservatorship proceedings, courts in Georgia can compel courts in other states to facilitate the process of transferring guardianship or conservatorship. Additionally, this bill enhances interstate recognition and enforcement of guardianship orders. Finally, this bill enables courts in Georgia and courts in other states to communicate, maintain records, and respond to requests for assistance.

HB 955 Fayette County; election of members of the board of commissioners; revise districts

By: Rep. John Yates (73rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

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

HB 958 Fulton County; term of the member appointed by the mayor; provide

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, so as to provide for the term of the member appointed.

HB 959 Education; K-12; update and clarify certain provisions

(Vetoed)

By: Rep. Beth Beskin (54th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 959 revises sections of Title 20.

Section 1 clarifies local board of education members' ability to speak with constituents, conduct town hall meetings, or discuss non-confidential matters with the media.

Section 2 amends Code Section 20-2-149.2 to allow for any industry and job-related skills designated by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to count as a completion credit towards attainment of a high school diploma.

Section 3 revises Code Section 20-2-157 stating a diploma received under Code Section 20-2-149.2 meets all the rigor requirements to be eligible for the HOPE scholarship.

Section 4 revises Code Section 20-2-161.2 by striking "and its charter" from language concerning a college and career academy under work-based learning programs.

Section 5 updates Move on When Ready provisions by striking "ninth and tenth grade level" and simply requires high school courses to meet the course requirements. This section also amends Code Section 20-2-161.3 to allow for any industry and job-related skills designated by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia within a Move on When Ready program to receive credit towards attainment of a high school diploma.

Section 6 revises Code Section 20-2-210 relating to annual performance evaluation data. The data may be collected in a state-wide, comprehensive educational information system for the purpose of evaluating education programs and improving educator preparation, as long as no personally identifiable information is disseminated.

Section 7 amends Code Section 20-2-281 relating to end-of-course assessments. A student who receives an A, B, or C in a dual credit course, earns a three or above on advanced placement examinations, or earns a four or above on international baccalaureate exams may exempt their end-of-course assessment. If a student exempts their end-of-course assessment under this provision, the student's score will not be included in the student's final grade.

Section 8 creates a new Code section titled the 'Educating Children of Military Families Act'. This section allows the Department of Education to establish a unique identifier for each student whose parent or guardian is an active duty military member or reservist in order to disaggregate data relating to military students.

Section 9 updates the 'BRIDGE Act' definitions relative to a college and career academy. In addition to being established by a charter school, a college and career academy can be created through a strategic waivers school system or a charter system.

Section 10 amends Code Section 20-4-37 requiring training for the governing board of a college and career academy, including, but not limited to, best practices, constitutional and statutory requirements, and applicable statutes, rules, and regulations. This section also updates terminology relating to strategic waivers school systems or charter systems.

Section 11 revises provisions relating to the Office of Student Achievement regarding a non-profit corporation's prohibition from purchasing, condemning, or exchanging real property; however, it specifies that those corporations may receive and accept real property as a gift, devise, or court order. This section requires such gift, devise, or court order of property to be liquidated within a reasonable time and not held, used, or maintained.

HB 960 Tax and revenue; confidentiality of certain tax information; provisions

By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th)

Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation provides a mechanism by which political subdivisions, such as local governments and school boards, can satisfy refunds owed to taxpayers as a result of sales and use tax overpayments.

The bill changes the 12 percent annual interest rate to the prime rate plus three percent. It provides for an automatic, confidential notification with the limited provision of relevant information to affected political subdivisions if a refund has been requested equal to 10 percent of the aggregate sales and use tax collections based on an average of the three previous calendar years. It requires that the taxpayer electronically submit refund information to the Department of Revenue at the time of the filing of the refund. HB 960 provides for an examination of the methodology used by the Department of Revenue in any audit by the Department of Audits and Accounts to ensure that the refund audit was satisfactory.

The legislation changes penalties for failing to repay from 10 percent to an initial five percent within 120 days, and an additional five percent penalty assessed every 120 days thereafter with a cap of 20 percent on aggregate. It provides for the automatic transfer of any refund to the Georgia Tax Tribunal if the refund has been pending with the Department of Revenue for over two years for an interlocutory order to determine if the taxpayer, the department, or no party was at fault for the delay. If one of the parties is found to be at fault, that party is required to pay the interest accrued, and in all cases the matter is remanded back to the department for completion.

This legislation also adds to the confidentiality language in O.C.G.A. Section 48-2-15, relating to the disclosure of confidential information, to allow the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees to access non-taxpayer identifying information.

HB 962 Human Services, Department of; creation, appointment, removal, and duties of a kinship care enforcement administrator; provide

By: Rep. Stacey Abrams (89th)

Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 962 creates a Kinship Care Enforcement Administrator position within the Department of Human Services which is approved and removed by the board, and subject to the approval of the governor. The purpose of the position is to coordinate and ensure compliance with federal regulations regarding children being raised by family members or close family friends.

In addition, the bill authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide a separate link or portal on its

website specifically for kinship caregivers in order to provide information on public assistance benefits.

The bill also provides that a qualified dependent of an active duty military service member, maintaining their legal residence in Georgia, has the right to apply for and retain earned priority for medical assistance or developmental disability services despite a temporary change of residence outside of the state due to military service.

HB 965 "The Honorable Jimmy Carter Cancer Treatment Access Act"; enact

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 965 creates 'The Honorable Jimmy Carter Cancer Treatment Access Act.' It provides that no health benefit plan issued, delivered, or renewed in this state that directly or indirectly covers the treatment of stage four advanced, metastatic cancer as a provision of hospital, medical, or surgical services, shall limit or exclude coverage for a drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. It prohibits a plan from requiring that a patient prove a history of failure of such drug or drugs before administering an alternative drug used in best practices and supported by peer reviewed literature.

HB 967 "Macon Water Commissioners - Pension Plan"; termination of employment before retirement; modify provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the "Macon Water Commissioners Pension Plan," so as to modify provisions related to termination of employment before retirement.

HB 968 Pike County Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees as part of court cost

By: Rep. Johnnie Caldwell (131st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

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

HB 976 State records management; minimum retention periods for video recordings from law enforcement devices on or inside a vehicle; provide

By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 976 establishes retention periods for video recordings captured by law enforcement through surveillance devices, body-worn devices, or devices on or inside a law enforcement vehicle. Recordings from surveillance devices shall be retained for 180 days from the date of such recording. Recordings from body-worn devices or devices located on or inside law enforcement vehicles shall be retained for 180 days from the date of such recording.

If the recordings are part of a criminal investigation, show a vehicular accident, relate to the arrest or detainment of an individual, or show the officer's use of force, the recording shall be retained for 30 months. If the recording contains evidence anticipated to be necessary in pending litigation, it will be retained for 30 months. This new Code section does not require the destruction of such video recordings after the retention period. Any open records request for such videos is subject to a \$10 fee.

HB 979 Crimes and offenses; assault and battery; increase the punishment committed upon hospital emergency department and medical services personnel

By: Rep. Johnnie Caldwell (131st) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 979 increases the penalty for the offense of aggravated assault on hospital emergency and medical services personnel when those individuals are in the performance of their duty. The penalty is a felony punishable with imprisonment from five to 20 years.

HB 987 Ad valorem tax; property; change certain definitions

By: Rep. Tom McCall (33rd) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation allows all or part of a property that is subject to conservation use restrictions to be used to host a non-profit rodeo event to which admission is charged in an amount that, on aggregate, does not exceed the cost of hosting the event.

The bill also provides that a property subject to a covenant for bona fide conservation use, if transferred and used as a single-family residence, must be occupied within 24 months from the move-in date by a relative within the fourth degree of civil reckoning.

HB 991 Ad valorem tax; property; change certain definitions

By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st) Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation provides that a tax commissioner shall waive the collection of penalties and interest resulting from a default on ad valorem taxes when the commissioner determines that the default was due to a taxpayer's active duty military service in a combat zone, provided that the taxpayer makes full payment within 60 days of returning from active duty.

HB 1003 Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority; membership and terms of office of members; change provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, so as to change provisions relating to the membership and terms of office of the members of the authority.

HB 1004 Courts; maps, plats, and plans to be filed for record; provide requirements

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 1004 provides requirements for maps, plats, and plans to be filed for record with the clerk of the court. Each map or plat page image shall have a caption providing information, such as: the county where the property lies; the names of all property owners; a subdivision name; the contact information for the land surveyor; a certificate from the land surveyor that the plan meets the current specifications for filing with the clerk of the court, and other information. The image attached in the filing information box has been changed from not less than an eight and one-half inch square to not less than a three-inch square. Further, the bill provides that all the images shall be an electronic image, which is certified and presented to the clerk in conformance with all specifications set forth in any rules and regulations promulgated by the Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority. The clerk shall electronically note information, such as the filing date, book, and pages numbers on the image, as well as transmit a copy of the map, plat, or plan with such filing information to the e-mail address of the person filing. The bill also provides a form for surveyor certification.

HB 1007 Pelham, City of; provide new charter

By: Rep. Jay Powell (171st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

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

HB 1008 Cobb County State Court; change salary of the chief deputy clerk and the clerk

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to change the salary of the clerk, the chief deputy clerk and the chief assistant solicitor of the State Court of Cobb County.

HB 1009 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 office 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 1010 Cobb County; Board of Commissioners; compensation of the 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 provisions relating to the compensation of the chairperson and other commissioners of the board.

- HB 1011 Cobb County; chief deputy, assistant chief deputy, and executive assistant to the sheriff; change compensation**
By: Rep. John Carson (46th) 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, so as to change the compensation of the chief deputy, the assistant chief deputy, and the executive assistant to the sheriff.
- HB 1012 Cobb County; clerk of the superior court, deputy clerk, and executive assistant; change salary**
By: Rep. John Carson (46th) 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, so as to change the salary of the clerk of superior court, the deputy clerk, the executive assistant, and the executive secretary.
- HB 1014 Income tax; exemption for donation of real property for conservation use; extend sunset date**
By: Rep. Jay Powell (171st) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: This bill extends the exemption on the donation of real property for conservation use to 2021, and it creates reporting requirements to provide the Georgia General Assembly with information on the effectiveness of the exemption.
- HB 1018 Candler County; Board of Commissioners; provide nonbinding, advisory referendum**
By: Rep. Butch Parrish (158th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for a non-binding, advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Candler County Board of Commissioners should levy an additional ad valorem tax to provide additional payment for the Candler County Hospital Authority's services and facilities.
- HB 1019 Upson County Magistrate Court; collect and impose county law library fees as part of court cost; provide**
By: Rep. Johnnie Caldwell (131st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the Magistrate Court of Upson County to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.
- HB 1020 Hogansville, City of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Robert Trammell (132nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Hogansville.
- HB 1021 Spalding County State Court; election of county solicitor; provide**
By: Rep. John Yates (73rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act establishing the State Court of Spalding County, so as to provide for the election of the county solicitor.
- HB 1023 Ware County; Board of Education; change compensation of members**
By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act reconstituting the Board of Education of Ware County, so as to change the compensation of the members of the board.
- HB 1024 Lake Park, City of; election and terms of office of mayor and councilmembers; provide**
By: Rep. John Corbett (174th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create a new charter for the City of Lake Park, so as to provide for the election and terms of office of the mayor and councilmembers.

HB 1025 Courts; service of accusations of or citations for violations of ordinances under certain circumstances; change provisions*By: Rep. Tom Taylor (79th)**Through the Judiciary Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1025 amends provisions relating to violations of county and state ordinances. Notice requirements have been added to current law for serving these violations. Service requirements consist of leaving a copy of the citation at the premises where the alleged violation occurred, mailing a copy to the owner, and filing a copy with the magistrate court; if the accused fails to appear for the court hearing after these notices are given, a judgment will be issued against the accused and a penalty will be assessed.

HB 1028 Natural Resources, Department of; Environmental Protection Division; provide notice to affected localities upon certain events relating to permitted solid or hazardous waste facilities*By: Rep. William Werkheiser (157th) Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 1028 requires the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste landfill to notify the local governing authorities of any release of a contaminant which is likely to pose a danger to human health within 14 days of confirmation of the release by the Environmental Protection Division. Notification of the release must also be published in the legal organ in which the landfill is located.

HB 1029 Whitfield County; appointment of a county surveyor by the governing authority of the county; provide*By: Rep. Bruce Broadrick (4th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to abolish the office of elected county surveyor of Whitfield County, but to provide for the appointment of a county surveyor by the governing authority of the county.

HB 1030 Georgia Seed Development Commission; change certain provisions*By: Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)**Through the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 1030 refines the Georgia Seed Development Commission Board by updating the definition of a "licensee" member to a member who is "the holder of a license authorizing the propagation and marketing of seed, turfgrass, or horticultural plants developed by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Science of the University of Georgia." In addition, it makes the associate dean for research of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia a non-voting participant and adds another licensee as a non-voting member.

HB 1033 Cobb County Probate Court; change compensation of judge and clerk*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.

HB 1036 Eminent domain; construction of petroleum pipelines and the environmental permitting requirements; change certain provisions*By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st)**Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 1036 changes certain provisions relating to the exercise of power of eminent domain for the construction and environmental permitting requirements for petroleum pipelines, as well the suspension of the receipt of certain applications and the issuance of certain approvals.

The bill creates the State Commission on Petroleum Pipelines to be composed of three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; three members of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate; the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources; the commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs; and five members appointed by the governor, including one member who represents the petroleum industry and four members who represent a cross section of interests of local government, business, agriculture, and conservation.

No state officer, official, or employee or any state agency, department, commission, or committee shall issue any approval, permit, or document necessary for the construction of a pipeline, including, but not limited to, the granting of any easement, deed, license or permission to cross over, under, or through any: body of water, state

wildlife management areas, heritage or historic preserve areas, or historical sites; any area of particular concern as set out in the State of Georgia Coastal Management Program as existed on January 1, 2016; or public road of the state highway system.

The temporary suspension of the power of eminent domain and the issuance of approvals, permits, or documents provided in this Code section shall not apply to acquisitions, approvals, permits, or documents for the purposes of: maintaining an existing pipeline facility; replacing lines within 200 feet of an existing pipeline facility, or relocating temporary work space for repairs of an existing pipeline facility. For purposes of this subsection, the term "existing pipeline facility" means a pipeline facility constructed and in use prior to January 1, 2016.

HB 1037 Community Health, Department of; certified nurse aide registry to nurse aides who provide services in private residences; expand

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 1037 amends the nurse aide registry, established and maintained by the Department of Community Health, to include nurse aides who provide services in temporary or permanent private residences. Additionally, the registry provides a method by which the public can submit inquiries or complaints about these nurse aides.

HB 1038 Eatonton, City of; levy an excise tax

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

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

HB 1042 Polk County; Board of Commissioners; change provisions relating to the filling of vacancies of members

By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to create a Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues, so as to change provisions relating to the filling of vacancies in the offices of members of the governing authority.

HB 1043 Vaccine protocol agreements; influenza; exempt activities conducted by a hospital or health system from certain requirements

By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 1043 requires physicians to state the full name of their certifying board in any public advertisements, provided that such certifying board requires successful completion of a postgraduate training program and any examination required for accreditation. Further, under the provisions of this bill, the Medical Composite Board of Georgia is authorized to take disciplinary action against any physician who violates this Code section.

HB 1043 also requires a pharmacist or nurse to take an appropriate case history, as opposed to a complete case history, before administering the influenza vaccine. Additionally, hospitals and health systems that administer the influenza vaccine are exempt from certain requirements under O.C.G.A 43-34-26.1, as long as the following conditions are met: the vaccine recipient signs and dates a consent form; the vaccine recipient is a patient within the hospital or health system and the administration of the influenza is noted in the patient's health record; the vaccine recipient is not a patient within the hospital system, but the hospital or health system issues a personal immunization card to the patient, and the influenza vaccine is administered behind a portable screen at the patient's request.

HB 1044 Lowndes County; election of the Board of Tax Assessors; repeal

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal the amendment to the Constitution of Georgia providing the election of the Board of Tax Assessors of Lowndes County and thereby end the elective terms of members of the Board of Tax Assessors of Lowndes County on December 31, 2020.

HB 1047 Coweta County; State Court; revise terms*By: Rep. Lynn Smith (70th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act continuing the State Court of Coweta County, so as to revise the terms of the court.

HB 1048 Houston County; Commission on Children and Youth; repeal an Act*By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating the Houston County Commission on Children and Youth.

HB 1049 Savannah, City of; Board of Public Education; authorize to censure its members*By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to provide for the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and Chatham County, so as to authorize the board to censure its members.

HB 1050 Savannah, City of; mayor and aldermen; authorize to censure its members*By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend several Acts relating to and incorporating the mayor and aldermen of the City of Savannah, so as to authorize members of the governing body to censure its members.

HB 1051 Chatham County; governing authority; provide additional power of the board to censure members*By: Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill revising the laws relative to the governing authority of Chatham County, so as to provide for an additional power of the board to censure its members.

HB 1053 Grady County; board of education; provide that members shall be elected on a nonpartisan basis*By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide nonpartisan elections of the Grady County Board of Education.

HB 1056 Pickens County; Airport Authority; reduce number of members*By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Pickens County Airport Authority, so as to reduce the number of members.

HB 1058 Health; HIV and AIDS; revise various statutes*By: Rep. Betty Price (48th)**Through the Health & Human Services Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 1058 allows women to have the opportunity to refuse a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) test during a pregnancy screening. This bill removes the requirement for the Department of Public Health to develop brochures or other documents relating to HIV tests.

HB 1060 Crimes and offenses; carrying and possession of firearms; confirm that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed
*(Vetoed)**By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)**Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee*

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1060 amends Titles 10 and 16 of Georgia Code. The amendment to Title 10 is the 'Georgia Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act', which prohibits any person, unless otherwise precluded by law or regulation, to refuse to provide, continue to provide, terminate or discriminate in the provision of financial services of any kind against a person or trade association because the person or association is engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms or ammunition products.

The bill also includes several other "house-keeping" provisions in the firearms Code in Title 16. The bill provides for new Georgia residents, who have a carry license issued by a state which recognizes Georgia licenses, to have 90 days to secure a valid Georgia license. The bill states that persons who have a valid hunting or fishing license are not required to have that license on their person when they are engaged in legal hunting, fishing, or sport shooting on recreational or wildlife management areas owned by the state. This legislation allows a person who leaves a place of worship upon notification that firearms are prohibited to avoid being cited as violating the Code. The bill also allows probate judges receiving applications for permits to issue printed information on firearms safety courses. The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide on their principal website, information on state hunter education classes that render gun safety instruction. Another provision of the bill expands the exemption for retired law enforcement carry privileges to include those officers who: are citizens of this state and have an aggregate of 10 years in law enforcement with arrest powers; separated from service in good standing, and have an identification card for retired law enforcement. The bill clarifies the definitions for "commercial service airport" and "major airline carrier" as they apply to those who carry a weapon into a commercial airport. Finally, the legislation provides immunity from civil liability for injuries caused by the failure of a person to use a firearm properly or lawfully to those instructors who provide safety training.

HB 1067 Greene County; board of elections and registration; provide election supervisor

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to create a Board of Elections and Registration for Greene County, so as to provide for an election supervisor.

HB 1070 Domestic relations; adoption; permit the department to use certain information in the records concerning the adopted child's biological parents

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 1070 permits the Department of Human Services or the department's designee, such as the Office of Adoptions, to use information contained in the department's records concerning an adopted child and the adopted child's biological parents when the information is utilized in connection with the placement of another child in the adoptive parents' home or in an investigation of abuse or neglect concerning the adoptive child's biological parents.

HB 1072 Education; service cancelable loan fund; remove ineligibility for such loans for members of the Georgia National Guard also receiving HOPE

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

Final Bill Summary: House Bill 1072 relating to service cancelable education loans for Georgia National Guard members repeals a provision which would make students ineligible for the loan if they were also receiving HOPE scholarship or HOPE grant funds.

HB 1074 Cobb County; judges of the state court; change compensation

By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) 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 change the compensation of the judges of the state court.

HB 1080 Fayette County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees as part of court cost

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

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

HB 1081 Jersey, City of; terms of the members of the governing authority; change

By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the charter for the City of Jersey, so as to change the terms of the members of the governing authority.

HB 1082 Blakely, City of; provide new charter

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

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

HB 1083 Tift County; State Court; change the office of the solicitor to a full-time position

By: Rep. Penny Houston (170th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating and establishing the State Court of Tift County, so as to change the office of the solicitor of the state court to a full-time position.

HB 1085 Social services; aging; transfer oversight of such services to the Department of Community Health

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

Final Bill Summary: HB 1085 shifts the responsibility for implementing community-based services for the elderly from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Community Health. As a result of HB 1085, the Division of Medical Assistance within the Department of Community Health will establish a community care unit. Additionally, the division must prepare an annual community care service plan to be incorporated into the State Plan for Medical Assistance.

HB 1092 Habersham County; Airport Authority; provide for the assets and encumbrances

By: Rep. Terry Rogers (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating the Habersham County Airport Authority.

HB 1093 Carroll County; tax commissioner; increase the percentage of educational funds retained and remitted

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide that the tax commissioner of Carroll County shall retain one percent of educational funds collected and remit those funds to the governing authority of Carroll County to reimburse the county for the cost of collecting school taxes.

HB 1097 Fayette County; Board of Education; increase compensation of the chairperson and members

By: Rep. John Yates (73rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the compensation and expenses of the chairperson and members of the Board of Education of Fayette County, so as to increase the compensation of the chairperson and members.

HB 1101 Jenkins County; Board of Commissioners; levy an excise tax

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the Board of Commissioners of Jenkins County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 1102 Forsyth County; school district; revise the eligibility of residents for homestead exemption

By: Rep. Mike Dudgeon (25th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from all Forsyth County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes, and revise the eligibility of residents for the homestead exemption.

HB 1104 Muscogee County; homestead exemption; revise

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to revise the homestead exemption for Muscogee County formerly provided for by a local constitutional amendment which provides for the valuation of certain homestead property of Muscogee County for purposes of ad valorem taxation for school and consolidated city-county government purposes.

HB 1105 Cherokee County; levy an excise tax*By: Rep. John Carson (46th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

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

HB 1106 Sugar Hill, City of; municipal property ownership; change provisions*By: Rep. David Clark (98th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create a new charter for the City of Sugar Hill, so as to change provisions relating to municipal property ownership.

HB 1108 Waycross and Ware County Development Authority; provisions*By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority, so as to provide for the composition, qualifications, appointment, filling of vacancies, terms and limits thereon, officers, and compensation.

HB 1109 Acworth, City of; adopt by reference a certain map*By: Rep. Ed Setzler (35th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to reincorporate and provide a new charter for the City of Acworth," so as to annex certain property.

HB 1110 Roberta-Crawford County; unified government; provide*By: Rep. Robert Dickey (140th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the unified government of Roberta-Crawford County.

HB 1111 Kennesaw, City of; powers and duties of the mayor; revise*By: Rep. Ed Setzler (35th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Kennesaw, so as to revise the powers and duties of the mayor.

HB 1113 Greene County; certain officials; clarify the qualifications for participating in health insurance*By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: HB 1113 provides that certain officials of Greene County, who have served at least 15 years in office, may participate in the county health insurance program for themselves and their dependents after their active service by paying the total cost of such participation.

HB 1114 Brunswick-Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission; provide immunity and exemption from liability*By: Rep. J. B. Jones (167th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Brunswick-Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission, so as to provide immunity from liability for the commission, to change provisions relating to the terms of office for the commission's members, to provide for budgeting and accounting matters, and to change the procedures regarding the setting of customer rates.

HB 1115 DeKalb County; Magistrate Court; provisions*By: Rep. Michelle Henson (86th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to make provisions for the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County, so as to allow for service of a citation for or accusation of a violation of an ordinance concerning the condition of real property.

HB 1116 DeKalb County; State Court; provide for the payment of costs*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 provide for the payment of costs in such court.

HB 1118 Washington County Hospital Authority; filling of vacancies; provide*By: Rep. Mack Jackson (128th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the filling of vacancies on the Washington County Hospital Authority.

HB 1119 Chatham County; elected county surveyor; abolish the office*By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to abolish the office of elected county surveyor of Chatham County.

HB 1120 Screven County; Board of Commissioners; levy an excise tax*By: Rep. Jon Burns (159th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the Board of Commissioners of Screven County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 1121 Hamilton, City of; resident of the city to being domiciled in such city; change provisions*By: Rep. John Pezold (133rd)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the charter of the City of Hamilton, so as to clarify the conditions for residency within the city, to eliminate the position of the city manager, and to clarify the duties of the mayor.

HB 1122 Oglethorpe County; board of elections and registration; create*By: Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create a Board of Elections and Registration for Oglethorpe County, to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 1123 Warner Robins, City of; levy an excise tax*By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

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

HB 1124 Ocilla-Irwin County Industrial Development Authority; reconstitute*By: Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th)**Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reconstitute the Ocilla-Irwin County Industrial Development Authority, and to provide for the authority's powers, authority, funds, purposes, and procedures.

HB 1125 Surrency, City of; provide 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 Surrency.

HB 1126 Graham, City of; provide 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 Graham.

- HB 1127 City of Vidalia Convention and Visitor's Bureau Authority; create**
By: Rep. Greg Morris (156th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create the City of Vidalia Convention and Visitor's Bureau Authority as a public body corporate and politic, a political subdivision of the state, and a public corporation.
- HB 1128 Chattahoochee County; Board of Education; reconstitute**
By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reconstitute the Chattahoochee County Board of Education with staggered terms and nonpartisan election for members.
- HB 1129 "McPherson Implementing Local Redevelopment Authority Act"; enact**
By: Rep. Pat Gardner (57th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to create the McPherson Implementing Local Redevelopment Authority, so as to continue such authority.
- HB 1130 Houston County; State Court; office of the clerk; change to an appointed position**
By: Rep. Buddy Harden (148th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create and establish the State Court of Houston County, so as to change the office of the clerk of the state court to an appointed position.
- HB 1133 Lumpkin, City of; provide new charter**
By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Lumpkin.
- HB 1134 Powder Springs, City of; annexation of certain property; provide**
By: Rep. David Wilkerson (38th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the charter for the City of Powder Springs, so as to change the corporate limits by annexing and deannexing certain property.
- HB 1135 Kennesaw, City of; corporate limits; change provisions**
By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the charter for the City of Kennesaw, so as to deannex certain property.
- HB 1136 Rome, City of; residency qualifications for members of the governing authority; change**
By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Rome.
- HB 1137 Haralson County; tax commissioner; modify compensation**
By: Rep. Kevin Cooke (18th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act consolidating the office of Tax Receiver and Tax Collector of Haralson County into the office of Tax Commissioner, so as to modify the compensation of the tax commissioner.
- HB 1138 Haralson County; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption**
By: Rep. Kevin Cooke (18th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from Haralson County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in the amount of \$4,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that county who are 65 years of age or older and whose income, together with the income of the spouse of such resident who resides within the homestead and excluding certain retirement income, does not exceed \$10,000.

HB 1139 Fairmount, City of; corporate limits; change

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal and replace the Charter of the City of Fairmount, so as to change the corporate limits of the city by annexing certain territory to the city.

HB 1145 Troup County; State Court; judge and solicitor-general; change salaries

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of Troup County, so as to change the salaries of the judge of the state court and the solicitor-general of the state court.

HB 1146 DeKalb County; provide regulation of land use; provisions

By: Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick (93rd) 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 of said county, so as to provide for the regulation of land use.

HB 1147 Byron Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority; staff; revise provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to create the Byron Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority, so as to revise the provisions regarding the hiring of staff for the authority.

HB 1149 Liberty County; Board of Education; reimbursement of expenses for chairperson and members; provide

By: Rep. Al Williams (168th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the Board of Education of Liberty County, so as to provide for reimbursement of expenses for the chairperson and members of the board.

HB 1152 Seminole County; Board of Commissioners; compensation of chairperson and commissioners; change provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the Board of Commissioners of Seminole County, so as to change the provisions relating to the compensation of the chairperson and the other commissioners of the board.

HB 1153 Greene County; certain officials; clarify the qualifications for participation in health insurance program

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to provide that certain officials of Greene County who have served at least 15 years in office may, upon leaving, continue to participate in the county health insurance program for themselves and their dependents by paying the total cost of such participation.

HR 1052 Thomas William Poole Memorial Bridge; Schley County; dedicate

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

Final Bill Summary: House Resolution 1052 is the annual House road and bridge dedication package. The substitute includes these House resolutions:

House Resolution 1052 dedicates the bridge on U.S. Highway 19 North over Buck Creek in Schley County is dedicated as the Thomas William Poole Memorial Bridge.

Senate Resolution 926 dedicates the intersection of SR 53 and McEver Road in Hall County as the Corporal Matthew Brittin Phillips Memorial Intersection.

Senate Resolution 929 dedicates the intersection of Highway 20 and Market Place Boulevard in Forsyth County as the Sergeant David Paul "Bubba" Land Memorial Intersection.

Senate Resolution 941 dedicates the bridge on State Route 42/Briarcliff Road over the south fork of Peachtree Creek in DeKalb County as the Ambassador David Adelman Bridge.

Senate Resolution 952 dedicates the intersection of State Route 306 and State Route 369 in Forsyth County as Hammond's Crossing.

Senate Resolution 953 dedicates the intersection of Highway 9 and Highway 369 in Forsyth County as the Coal Mountain Intersection.

Senate Resolution 961 dedicates the bridge on Interstate 85 over Cleveland Avenue in Fulton County as the Spencer Pass Memorial Bridge.

Senate Resolution 989 dedicates the bridge on Interstate 20 over Snapfinger Creek in DeKalb County as the Robert Shane Wilson Memorial Bridge.

Senate Resolution 1036 dedicates the bridge on Highway 17/State Route 75 over Cynth Creek in Towns County as the Dyer Bridge.

Senate Resolution 1041 dedicates State Route 140 in Bartow County as the Reverend Kenneth H. Coomer, Jr., Highway.

Senate Resolution 1057 dedicates the portion of Interstate 575 from Bells Ferry Road to the Cherokee County line in Cobb as the Lance Corporal Skip Wells Memorial Highway.

Senate Resolution 1062 dedicates the portion of U.S. Highway 22/State Route 31 from the intersection of State Route 11 and State Route 31 in Lakeland to the intersection of State Route 7 and State Route 31 in Valdosta in Lowndes County as the James Slaton "Jay" Shaw Memorial Highway.

Senate Resolution 1086 dedicates the portion of State Route 141/Medlock Bridge Road from the southern limit of Johns Creek at the Chattahoochee River to the intersection with State Route 120/Abbotts Bridge Road in Fulton County as the Mark Burkhalter Highway.

House Resolution 1052 dedicates the bridge on U.S. Highway 19 North over Buck Creek in Schley County is dedicated as the Thomas William Poole Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 650 dedicates the bridge on US 441/SR 15 over Interstate 85 in Banks County as the Richard Chambers Bridge.

House Resolution 853 dedicates the bridge on State Route 127 over the Flint River Overflow, 3 miles west of Marshallville in Macon County, is dedicated as the Dr. Delores Felder Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 854 dedicates the bridge on State Route 26 over the Flint River Overflow in Macon County is dedicated as the William Brown Bridge.

House Resolution 970 dedicates the bridge over Raccoon Creek on Georgia Highway 133 west of Cartersville in Bartow County is dedicated as the Solomon T. "Sol" Dover Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 977 dedicates the bridge on U.S. 29 over the Savannah River in Hart County is dedicated as the Louie Morris Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 1032 dedicates the bridge on Highway 92 North over the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County as the Robert and Ardena Beasley Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 1249 dedicates the intersection of State Route 125/Bemiss Road/Valdosta Ray City Highway and State Route 122 at the meeting point of Lowndes, Berrien, and Lanier counties as Walker's Crossing in memory of Mr. William "Mr. Bill" and Ruby Herndon Walker.

House Resolution 1250 dedicates the portion of State Route 125 from the intersection of CR 354/Alapaha Lenox Road to the intersection at West Marion Avenue and Tifton Road at State Route 122 in Berrien County as the Veterans Memorial Parkway.

House Resolution 1251 dedicates the bridge on State Route 37/76 over Bear Creek in Cook County as the Joel Jackson Parrish Bridge.

House Resolution 1327 dedicates State Route 520 from Chattahoochee County through Dougherty County, including Stewart, Webster, Terrell, and Lee counties, as the Purple Heart Highway.

House Resolution 1431 dedicates the bridge over the Norfolk Southern rail lines/North and South Berry Streets on State Route 42 in Henry County as the Martin Luther King, Sr., Memorial Bridge. (Andy Welch);

House Resolution 1457 dedicates the bridge on Highway 129 over Lake Lanier is dedicated as the Longstreet Bridge.

House Resolution 1461 dedicates the intersection of Highway 257 and the Highway 441 Bypass in Laurens County as the TSGT Mack Fitzgerald Intersection.

House Resolution 1462 dedicates the intersection of State Route 20/Canton Highway and Roving Road/Smith Cline Road in Bartow County as the Reverend Joe E. Edwards Intersection.

House Resolution 1459 dedicates the bridge on Riverside Drive over Interstate 75 in Bibb County as the Mayor Lee Robinson Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 1400 dedicates the bridge on Highway 112 over Interstate 16 in Wilkinson County is dedicated as the Steven Charles Brack Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 1508 dedicates the portion of State Route 93 from State Route 112 in the community of Lester to State Route 300 in Baconton in Mitchell County as the Harvey J. Morey Memorial Highway.

House Resolution 1512 dedicates the interchange at Georgia 400 and U.S. 19 in Sandy Springs as the Mayor Eva Cohn Galambos Memorial Interchange.

House Resolution 1523 honoring the life of Sergeant First Class Ray F. Lents and dedicating an intersection in his memory; and for other purposes.

House Resolution 1524 honoring the life of Mayor Barbara Stephens and dedicating a road in her memory; and for other purposes.

House Resolution 1525 honoring the life of Mr. Roy L. Chapman and dedicating an intersection in his memory; and for other purposes.

House Resolution 1429 dedicates the portion of State Route 59 from the intersection with State Route 17 to Highway 164/Bold Springs Road in Franklin County as the Billy Dilworth Memorial Highway.

HR 1113 Judicial Qualifications Commission; create - CA

By: Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)

Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 1113 amends Georgia Constitution Paragraph VI Section VII of Article VI by abolishing the existing Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) as of December 31, 2016, in order for the General Assembly to create and provide by general law for the composition, manner of appointment, and governance of a new Judicial Qualifications Commission. The new commission would still have the power to discipline, remove, and cause involuntary retirement of judges, those provisions would not change. This bill would also provide that the JQC will be required to comport with due process requirements and its decisions be subject to review. This Amendment would take effect January 1, 2017. The JQC in existence on June 30, 2017 will be abolished. JQC nominations will be subject to confirmation by the Senate as provided for by general law.

This amendment will be published for ballot approval as provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution.

HR 1312 Houston County; certain property currently dedicated as a heritage preserve; authorize the change of use

By: Rep. Barbara Sims (123rd) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: HR 1312 authorizes the Department of Transportation to use approximately three acres of a heritage preserve in Houston County belonging to the Department of Natural Resources for the widening of State Route 96.

SB 18 Technical College System of Georgia; establish policies for granting academic credit for college level learning from military service, work experience

By: Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) Through the Higher Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 18 requires the Technical College System of Georgia to establish policies for granting academic credit to active-duty military or veteran students for college-level learning acquired during their military service and prior to their enrollment. Training and experience from military service must be substantially related to the coursework credit given by the Technical College System of Georgia.

SB 64 Juvenile Code, Domestic Relations, and Vital Records; repeal voluntary acknowledgments of legitimation

By: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) Through the Juvenile Justice Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 64 revises the definition of "legal father" and makes grammatical corrections to provide consistency within the Juvenile Code. The administrative legitimation as a means of defining legal father is removed. The bill also clarifies the language whereby only a biological father may legitimize his child and also what is required in that petition. For the best interests of the child, the bill adds a provision allowing the court to ensure that the petitioning alleged biological father is, in fact, the biological father and may order genetic testing. The Code is further refined so that the hospital in which a child is born must provide paternity acknowledgement forms prior to the birth of the child rather than after. The bill adds a requirement that the hospital provide the mother and the alleged father with the opportunity to execute a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity within 30 days of birth. Acknowledgement of paternity shall constitute a legal determination of paternity if sworn to and signed in the presence of a notary public.

SB 105 Chatham County Magistrate Court; provide for two full-time magistrates for Chatham County

By: Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act making provisions for the Magistrate Court of Chatham County and abolishing the Municipal Court of Savannah.

SB 128 Corporations; directors and officers; enact reforms consistent with the Model Act; functions of a board of directors; change provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 128 amends Title 14 to make it consistent with the 'Model Business Corporation Act' by simplifying and modernizing the corporate Code. The bill provides definitions and recognizes who can serve as a registered agent for foreign and domestic corporations. It eliminates the requirement for corporations to implement staggered terms for its directors by dividing the directors equally among term groups. The bill provides that a director's consent to take action without a meeting may be withdrawn by a revocation in certain circumstances, and it allows a director to specify the time at which the action taken without a meeting is to be effective. The bill allows board committees to approve merger plans and permits directors to appoint alternate committee members to replace absent or disqualified members.

SB 128 also creates safe harbor and approval procedures for directors and officers seeking to engage in corporate business opportunities. The bill allows corporations to disclaim an interest in taking advantage of specific business opportunities in the articles of incorporation, bylaws, or by shareholder or board action. The bill limits director and officer liability for engaging in corporate business opportunities if a corporation has disclaimed an interest in the opportunity. Approval of a disclaimer is effective if the director or officer brings the business opportunity to the attention of the corporation and the transaction is approved by the shareholders or directors. The bill eliminates director and officer disclosure requirements if the officer or director believes that disclosure would violate a duty of confidentiality imposed by law, contract, or professional ethical rules; however, a director claiming confidentiality under this subsection must disclose all information that does not violate these duties and the nature of the duty not to disclose. A director or officer who does not employ the

enumerated procedures does not create an inference that the corporation was interested in the opportunity or that the director or officer violated his or her duties by taking advantage of the opportunity. Additionally, failure to employ these procedures does not alter the burden of proof in establishing breach of duty to the corporation.

The bill defines "foreign limited liability company" and "limited liability company" within the list of corporate entities in Title 14. Lastly, companies, partnerships, foreign businesses, and related entities shall leave one copy with the Secretary of the State when serving any process, notice, or demand, instead of two.

SB 137 Property Insurance; expand the ownership restriction; value of the property covered against loss by fire

By: Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) Through the Insurance Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 137 amends provisions for policies only covering fire loss so that a "policy owner" includes any legal entity owned by one or more individuals and not just individuals themselves.

SB 158 "Consumer and Provider Protection Act"; provide certain consumer and provider protections regarding health insurance

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 158 provides a regulatory framework for rental preferred provider networks, to include: registration requirements, contract provisions and exemptions.

SB 168 State Symbols; designate the Old Governor's Mansion as the official state historic house

By: Sen. Burt Jones (25th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 168 designates "the adoptable dog" as the official state dog of Georgia.

SB 184 Dogs; provide breed-specific regulation shall be limited to enactment by general law

By: Sen. Ellis Black (8th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 184 prohibits local governments from adopting ordinances that require registered American Kennel Club (AKC) or United Kennel Club (UKC) hunting or show dogs to be spayed or neutered, nor may a local government charge a fee for those registered dogs that are not spayed or neutered.

SB 191 Blasting and Excavating Near Utility Facilities; prohibit local governing authorities from adopting ordinances

By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 191, relating to blasting or excavating near utility facilities, prohibits local governing authorities from adopting or enforcing ordinances which mandate marking requirements or standards which are different from those contained in state law or the rules and regulations of certain departments of this state.

SB 193 Crimes and Offenses; family violence battery; change penalty provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 193 changes provisions of the Georgia Code relating to battery in the context of family violence. When a battery is committed between household members, and the perpetrator has previously been convicted of a separate forcible felony between household members in Georgia, or any other state, he or she will be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than five years.

SB 199 Elections; provide for a definition; prohibit certain activities within close proximity to polling places

By: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 199 establishes a definition for "campaign material" and prevents it from being distributed or displayed within the area of a voting precinct restricted from campaigning activities. Campaign material is defined as any newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign, paraphernalia, or any other

written or printed matter referring to: a candidate whose name appears on the ballot; a referendum which appears on the ballot; or a political party or body which has at least one nominee on the ballot in a primary or election.

Further, SB 199 provides for the reopening of qualifications in municipal elections if someone fails to qualify during the regular qualifying period, in lieu of calling a special election under current law. It allows local governments, by a local act of the General Assembly, to establish residency requirements for qualification purposes of local elections.

The bill provides that if the required second Saturday early voting date falls on a holiday, the voting will occur on the following Saturday.

Finally, SB 199 provides that state employees who testify before committees of the General Assembly are not to be considered lobbyists.

SB 206 Counties and Municipal Corporations; revise provisions relating to water liens; procedures

By: Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: The legislation revises provisions relating to the prohibition of a water supplier's option to disconnect water service to premises because of the indebtedness of a prior owner, occupant, or lessee. The bill provides a procedure to obtain information regarding any money owed for water supplied to certain real property under certain circumstances. SB 206 exempts any property from a refusal to supply water because of the indebtedness of the prior occupant. A new section is added to current law so that that any property owner or tenant, person executing a contract for the purchase or occupancy of property, attorney closing a real estate transaction, or lender considering the loan of funds to be secured by real property shall have the right to request a statement from the water supplier with the amount of any outstanding water charges, late fees, and interest. Such a request must be: made in writing, state the address of the property, and be delivered to the billing address of the water supplier by certified mail, return receipt, courier service, or electronic means if supported by the provider, as well as provide a return address for the payment of money owed. Requests made via electronic communication are presumed to be received the following business day. The water supplier must furnish back to the entity making the request a statement using the same mailing methods and may charge a fee, not to exceed \$10, for the requested information. Failure of the water supplier to provide the statement within 10 business days after receipt will extinguish any liens or unpaid charges and prevent the water supplier from denying water services to the new property owner or tenant. The statement furnished by the water supplier will be binding upon the supplier for 30 days; and, if full payment is tendered within the 30-day period, any lien will be extinguished. Additionally, there is a provision that exempts associations that supply water under certain conditions.

SB 208 Stonecrest, City of; provide for a charter

By: Sen. Ronald Ramsey, Sr. (43rd) Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 208 authorizes a referendum to create the city of Stonecrest and establishes its charter.

SB 225 DeKalb County; community improvement districts created within municipalities; change certain provisions

By: Sen. Steve Henson (41st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating one or more community improvement districts within DeKalb County.

SB 230 'Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act'; enactment

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 230 establishes the 'Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act'. In the event of a natural disaster or when an emergency declaration is in effect, this bill allows the governor to utilize volunteer health practitioners who are not residents of this state but are employed by a disaster relief organization providing services in this state. The governor has discretion to define the length, scope, and geographical areas in which these volunteer health practitioners may work. The Department of Public Health is required to maintain a registry system that has the ability to accept applications from volunteer health practitioners and monitor and confirm the licensure and good standing of such applicants.

SB 243 Georgia Judicial Retirement System; preservation of rights by certain persons; change certain provisions
*(Vetoed)***By: Sen. Jack Hill (4th)****Through the Retirement Committee**

Final Bill Summary: SB 243 amends O.C.G.A. 47-23-43, 47-23-43.1, and 47-23-100 relating to membership in the Georgia Judicial Retirement System (JRS). This bill allows any full-time employee serving as legislative counsel, with admission into the State Bar of Georgia, to make an irrevocable decision to become a member of JRS. Eligible individuals wishing to become a member of the JRS must notify the board no later than December 31, 2016 or within 90 days of employment, whichever date is later. The Employee's Retirement System (ERS) is then required to transfer all employee and employer contributions, plus interest, to JRS. Also, members receive creditable service for actual years of service as a member of ERS. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill.

SB 255 Garnishment Proceedings; modernize, reorganize, and provide constitutional protections**By: Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)****Through the Judiciary Committee**

Final Bill Summary: SB 255 enacts a new chapter outlining procedures, deadlines and constitutional protections in conducting garnishment proceedings. The bill requires judgment debtors to be notified that there are certain exemptions under state and federal law that the debtor may be entitled to claim with respect to the garnished property, as well as the procedures to claim the exemptions. The bill stipulates that the garnishment period, the time during which the garnishee shall freeze funds to be submitted to the court with the garnishee's answer, begins on the day of service of the summons. The total garnishment period for: a continuing garnishment is 180 days; a financial institution garnishment is six days; a continuing garnishment for support lasts as long as the defendant is employed by the garnishee and the original arrearage is retired; and all other garnishments is 30 days.

In addition, standardized forms are provided for the summons of garnishment, garnishee's answer, defendant's claim, etc. The forms are required to be used unless the party uses its own format which contains the same information.

SB 258 Ad Valorem Tax; provide the assessed value of property shall not be increased beyond the initial assessment value**By: Sen. Fran Millar (40th)****Through the Ways & Means Committee**

Final Bill Summary: SB 258 amends current law whereby a person can lock in a property tax assessment for three years by appealing the tax assessment. This legislation provides that the assessed value following such appeal can be decreased, but not increased. It also provides language to facilitate written agreements between taxpayers and tax assessment boards to resolve assessment issues.

This legislation also provides for tax credits for contributions to "rural hospital organizations," defined as acute care hospitals located in rural counties, participating in both Medicaid and Medicare, providing health care to primarily indigent patients, and receiving at least 10 percent of their gross net revenues from the treatment of indigent patients. The tax credits are also provided for contributions to "critical access hospitals," defined as hospitals meeting the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' designation as critical access hospitals for Medicaid purposes. Aggregate tax credits are capped at \$50 million for 2017, \$60 million for 2018, and \$70 million for 2019, and no more than \$4 million may be contributed to any individual rural hospital organization in any taxable year.

For single individual or head of household contributors, the rural health care organization tax credit shall be for 70 percent of the actual amount expended or \$2,500 per year, whichever is less. For a married couple filing a joint return, the credit shall be for 70 percent of the actual amount expended or \$5,000 per year, whichever is less. Finally, for corporations, the credit shall not exceed 70 percent of the amount expended or 75 percent of the corporation's income tax liability, whichever is less. The tax credit cannot exceed a taxpayer's income tax liability. Credits can carry forward, but cannot be applied retroactively.

This legislation places the tax credit program under the Department of Community Health, with legislative oversight facilitated by reporting requirements designed to determine the effectiveness of the credit program. To apply for a rural health care organization tax credit, the donor must notify the Department of Community Health of the total amount in contributions, and the department will preapprove the donation within 30 days subject to aggregate limits. The donation must then be made by the donor within 60 days of receiving approval from the department.

SB 258 also allows eligible disabled veterans to qualify for the homestead exemption by meeting either of the standards required by law, which are: permanent loss of one or both feet, hands, or sight in one or both eyes; or honorably discharged and 100 percent disabled or compensated at the 100 percent level as unemployable. Eligible disabled veterans may be issued a free motor vehicle license plate, and the motor vehicles owned or leased by such veterans are exempt from all ad valorem taxes for state, county, municipal, and school purposes. An eligible disabled veteran must be a citizen and resident of Georgia with a service-related disability.

SB 262 Courts; when a judge, judicial officer, grand juror; may be disqualified by being related by consanguinity/affinity to a party; provisions

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

Final Bill Summary: This bill amends §15-1-8, §15-12-70, and §15-12-135 to change the disqualification of judges or judicial officers, grand jurors, and trial jurors for being related to an interested party to the third degree as computed according to civil law.

The bill also allows superior and state courts, by court rule, to accept electronic filings and submission of funds or other transfers of money to the courts.

SB 263 Law Enforcement Officers; provide governing authority; employs sworn police officers who are P.O.S.T certified; policies; disability in line of duty

By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 263 allows for the governing authority of each municipality and county in this state, as well as each board of education, which employs sworn police officers who are POST-certified to adopt policies under which an officer may retain their weapon or badge upon retirement or leaving employment as a result of a disability arising in the line of duty.

SB 269 Counties; require local governing bodies; provide certain entities with certification of compliance with Code section; condition of funding

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 269 requires local governments to submit proof of compliance and a certification pursuant to the Annual Immigration Compliance Report before funding is received from state agencies. Furthermore, it makes certification of compliance a requirement of the annual 'Immigration Compliance Act'.

SB 270 Firearms; authorize qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry handgun anywhere within this state

By: Sen. P. K. Martin (9th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 270 provides a penalty for a person who commits the offense of knowingly transmitting a false public alarm report when the report relates to a destructive device, hazardous substance, or an individual who has threatened or caused physical harm to himself or someone else. The penalty for this violation is a misdemeanor on the first offense and a felony upon the second, unless the location of the violation is critical infrastructure in which case the person is guilty of a felony.

The legislation allows the chief of staff to the commissioner of the Department of Corrections to issue a warrant for the arrest of an offender who has escaped from the custody of the department.

Under this legislation, an employee leaving the service of the Parole Board under honorable conditions who has accumulated 20 years or more of service with board, or 20 or more years of combined service as a parole officer, a probation officer or supervisor with the Department of Corrections, or a community supervision officer with the department may retain his or her board issued weapon and badge. When a parole officer leaves the employment of the board as a result of disability arising in the line of duty, he is entitled as part of his compensation to retain his weapon and badge in accordance with the board's rules and regulations. Should a parole officer be killed in the line of duty, his board-issued badge is eligible to be given to a surviving family member.

The application fee for an adult offender applying to transfer his or her supervision from Georgia to any other state or territory is increased from \$25 to \$100.

This legislation also makes it unlawful for any individual, with the intent to secure a tangible benefit for him or

herself, to make a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation that such individual is a military veteran or the recipient of a military decoration. Moreover, it is unlawful for any individual, with the intent to deceive, to appear in court while wearing a military uniform or military decoration. The penalty for this offense is punished as a misdemeanor, but if a military decoration is involved in the violation, the punishment is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

SB 271 Mental Health; provide reasonable standards for providing patients notice; admission to an emergency receiving facility

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 271 improves the administrative processes occurring within certain mental health facilities. The bill allows additional time during which an emergency receiving facility must notify a person of his right to petition for a writ of habeas corpus, or file for a protective order in the event the person's condition or mental state renders him incapable of fully understanding his right at the time of arrival. Additionally, current law allows courts to order up to six months of involuntary treatment for certain individuals. In the event that continued involuntary treatment is recommended, the recommendation must be reviewed by the Committee for Continued Involuntary Treatment Review. Finally, the bill proposes a process that if within 40 days of the expiration of the authorized treatment period a person is deemed unsafe for discharge, the chief medical officer of a facility may execute a certificate to be filed with a petition for continued involuntary treatment.

SB 273 Clinical Laboratories; provide certain nondiagnostic laboratories not subject to state licensure as clinical laboratory

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 273 excludes laboratories, which are non-diagnostic only and regulated pursuant to the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, from the definition of "clinical laboratory". These non-diagnostic labs examine human blood or blood components intended for use as a source material for the manufacture of biological products, whereas diagnostic labs examine blood for medical purposes such as recommendation of treatment of any disease.

SB 274 Budget in Certain Counties; repeal Act approved March 2, 1953

By: Sen. John Albers (56th) Through the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 274 repeals Act No. 350, approved March 2, 1953, that provided for a budget in all counties with a population of 200,000 or more as indicated by the United States census of 1930 or by any future census. Additionally, this bill removes the requirement for the publication of such county's proposed budget and final budget as adopted.

SB 275 Local Government; governing body shall not adopt policy that has effect of preventing free exercise of the right of freedom of speech by the members

By: Sen. Michael Williams (27th) Through the Judiciary Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 275 provides that a local board of education shall not prevent the board members from discussing the policies and actions of the board outside of a board meeting unless it is an "executive session", which as defined in statute is lawfully closed to the public.

SB 277 "Protecting Georgia Small Business Act"; neither a franchisee/franchisee's employee shall be deemed employee of franchisor

By: Sen. John Albers (56th) Through the Industry and Labor Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 277 is titled the 'Protecting Georgia Small Business Act'. It provides that neither a franchisee nor a franchisee's employee is an employee of the franchisor for any purpose.

SB 279 Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council; include Commissioners of Juvenile Justice/Natural Resources as voting members

By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 279 adds two voting members to the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council, which brings the number of voting members to 22. The two additional members are the

commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice, or his designee, and the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, or his designee.

SB 283 Accounting for Public Funds; provide multibank pooling of depositories for acceptance of deposits of public funds from public bodies

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) Through the Banks & Banking Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 283 defines "covered depository" as any depository where assets exceed \$50 billion or the total assets are less than \$50 billion and participate in the multi-bank pooled method. The bill also provides for multi-bank pooling of depositories for the acceptance of deposits of public funds from public bodies and provides for covered depositories to secure public funds from public bodies. The bill sets conditions and limitations on the establishment of such pools.

SB 290 Insurance; clarify those individuals not required to be licensed as insurance agent

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 290 clarifies that real estate attorneys do not have to be licensed as insurance agents.

SB 302 Insurance; require health carriers to maintain accurate provider directories

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 302 requires health insurance providers to maintain an accurate directory of service providers within their networks. It specifies the contents of directory listings, the frequency of updates and the forms of directories to be supplied.

SB 304 Criminal Records; allow for the preservation of a person's involuntary hospitalization information received by Georgia Crime Information

By: Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 304 outlines requirements for recording and reporting evidence collected during a forensic medical evaluation for investigations of rape or aggravated sodomy. Law enforcement officers collecting such evidence are required to provide notification to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's division of forensic sciences (the "division"). The bill also requires law enforcement to submit the evidence within 30 days and follow the procedures of the division, regardless of whether the evidence will be tested.

In addition, every law enforcement agency in the state is required to create a list of evidence resulting from any forensic medical evaluation during an investigation of rape or aggravated sodomy in the agency's possession on July 1, 2016. The list must be submitted to the division by September 16, 2016 and must identify whether the listed evidence should be tested or stored. Evidence on the list must be transferred to the division no later than November 16, 2016.

SB 304 requires the division to issue an annual report detailing the number of rape and aggravated sodomy cases for which the division has tested or stored in evidence. The division is required to submit this annual report to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the lieutenant governor, the House Committee on Judiciary, the House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil, and the Senate Judiciary Non-civil Committee.

SB 305 Health; Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment form; require department to provide certain notification prior to modification

By: Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 305 requires the Department of Public Health to notify the chairpersons and members of the House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees at least 60 days before implementing changes to the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form.

SB 307 Public Roads; provide for definitions relative to advertising

By: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 307 allows for multimedia messages at bus shelters. These messages are authorized as long as they comply with existing operational standards for multiple message signs; however, these messages will not be required to comply with spacing standards set in the same Code section.

SB 308 Positive Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Grant Program; establish; definitions; administration and duties

By: Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) Through the Health & Human Services Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 308 creates the Positive Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Grant Program within the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). The purpose of this grant program is to promote healthy pregnancies and childbirth by awarding grants to non-profit organizations that provide pregnancy support services. DPH will oversee the program and execute a legal contract with a contract management agency ("agency") to administer the program. The agency will be responsible for creating a grant application process, monitoring compliance, and coordinating correspondence between DPH and direct client service providers ("providers").

The grant program will fund these eight services: (1) medical care and information (such as pregnancy tests, STI tests, health screenings, ultrasounds, prenatal care, and birth classes); (2) nutritional services and education; (3) housing, education, and employment assistance; (4) adoption education, planning, and services; (5) child care assistance; (6) parenting education and support services for up to one year after the birth of the child; (7) material items such as cribs, car seats, formula, etc.; and (8) information regarding health care benefits. Grants will be awarded annually on a competitive basis to providers that display competent experience in providing the eight grant-funded services. DPH will determine the maximum grant amount awarded to each provider. Grants cannot exceed 85 percent of such provider's annual revenue for the prior year.

Further, the bill requires each provider to maintain accurate records and report data to the agency on an annual basis. Reports must include the number of clients who: utilized pregnancy support services; are pregnant; chose childbirth after receiving pregnancy support services; chose adoption after receiving pregnancy support services; and chose abortion after receiving pregnancy support services.

All information collected under the grant program must remain confidential by DPH, the agency, and providers in accordance with federal and state laws on privacy and medical records (including HIPAA). Annual audits of each provider must be conducted by an independent certified public accountant within 120 days of completing a fiscal year.

SB 309 Education; high school that receive state funding cannot participate in athletic association which prohibits religious expression on clothing of student athletes

By: Sen. Burt Jones (25th) Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 309 requires that high schools which receive state funding cannot participate in an athletic association which prohibits religious expression on athletic clothing. This bill also de facto prevents the high school athletic association from prohibiting member schools from participating in scrimmage games with non-member schools.

SB 315 Forsyth County Public Facilities Authority; revise a definition; provide a monetary limitation

By: Sen. Michael Williams (27th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to revise the Forsyth County Public Facilities Authority, so as to change a definition and provide a monetary limitation.

SB 316 Bingo; remove the daily permissible prize limitation while preserving the weekly permissible prize limitation

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 316 removes the daily \$1,500 maximum amount of cash and prizes for bingo play, but retains the \$3,000 maximum cash and prize award cap for a calendar week. Moreover, the bill prohibits free-standing electronic bingo machines from being used for bingo play and requires the individual operating the bingo game to be physically present at the venue where the game is being played.

SB 319 Professional Counseling; revise the definition

By: Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 319 clarifies and allows for professional counselors, clinical social workers, or

marriage and family therapists to diagnose emotional and mental problems or conditions. In addition, the bill requires the board which governs those groups to develop curriculum of continuing education for licensed practitioners relating to diagnosing individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse, and the board shall retain its full authority to determine education, experience, and training required of its licensees. Moreover, SB 319 clarifies psychological testing, and that performing such psychological testing is only within the scope of practice of psychologists.

SB 320 Driver's License; revise exemptions afforded to nonresidents issued to them in in home state/country

By: Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 320 revises the existing exemptions afforded to nonresidents possessing a valid driver's license issued by their home state or country. This bill also provides alternative options and exceptions for accepting validity of a driver's license issued by a foreign country. Drivers with a license issued by a foreign country are not be required to have an international driver's license to drive through Georgia and law enforcement may use the person's passport or visa to verify validity.

The legislation also amends Title 40 relating to regulation of carriers to require taxi services operating in this state to register with the Department of Public Safety and renew a license for operation annually. They must maintain a current list of all drivers utilized by the service, and the lists will not be subject to an open records request. Taxi services are responsible for making sure each driver has proper permits or licenses required federally or by this state, as well as their for-hire license endorsement. They must also employ a zero tolerance drug and alcohol policy and maintain personal injury and property damage liability insurance. SB 320 removes the requirement for the individual driver to provide proof of liability coverage in order to be eligible for a for-hire license endorsement.

The legislation also states that anyone found to have violated the gratuities prohibition relating to DUI schools or programs a second time will have his or her license revoked as provided for in existing Code.

Finally, the bill allows any county, municipality, or consolidated government to require proof of insurance or proof of payment of such insurance and to verify such insurance when issuing or renewing a certificate of public necessity and convenience or medallion.

SB 323 State Printing and Documents; public disclosure not be required for any documents pertaining to economic development project

By: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th)

Through the Governmental Affairs Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 323 establishes the time period for a response to an open records request of a college sports program or athletic association as 90 business days from the date the request is received. The salary information of non-clerical staff is not included in the provisions of this bill.

Further, it expands the provisions for non-disclosure on economic development projects for the Department of Economic Development to all state agencies.

SB 327 State Purchasing; prohibit the state from entering into certain contracts unless such contracts contain a certification; does not presently conduct a boycott of Israel

By: Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)

Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 327 states that any entity of the state of Georgia may not enter into a contract regarding construction or the provision of services, supplies, or information technology with an individual or company without including written certification that the individual is not currently, nor will during the duration of the contract, engage in a boycott of Israel. This applies to contracts valued over \$1,000.

SB 329 Education; expand provisions relating to awarding of high school diplomas based on certain dual credit coursework

(Vetoed)

By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)

Through the Education Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 329 provides that students who have earned certification to work in an "in-need" industry, as determined by the Technical College System of Georgia, and have completed college dual-credit coursework are to be awarded a high school diploma. Additionally, SB 329 expands HOPE scholarship eligibility to students meeting these requirements.

SB 331 Courts; causing a child to be conceived; violating certain prohibitions relating certain offenses; additional ground for terminating parental rights

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 331 allows the termination of a father's parental rights when, by clear and convincing evidence, the father caused his child to be conceived as a result of non-consensual sexual contact or when the mother is less than ten years of age. For purposes of legitimation proceedings, there shall be a presumption against legitimation where the court finds that the father caused his child to be conceived in such a manner. If there is a pending criminal proceeding in connection with such an allegation, the court shall stay discovery in the legitimation action until the completion of the criminal proceeding.

Under these parameters, a father shall also be barred from inheriting the child, even if during the lifetime of the child, the father executes a sworn statement attesting to the parent-child relationship; however, a child conceived as a result on non-consensual sex may still inherit from the father.

SB 332 Public Order and Safety; clarify the judges and justices who are exempt; various weapon carry laws and prohibitions

By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 332 clarifies which judges are exempt from weapon carry prohibitions in Georgia Code, to include: federal judges; justices of the Supreme Court; judges of the Court of Appeals; judges of superior, state, probate, juvenile, and magistrate courts; full-time judges of municipal and city courts; permanent part-time judges of municipal and city courts, and administrative law judges.

Additionally, the legislation requires the judge of the probate court to issue personal identification cards to any judge or justice given exemption to carry prohibitions when applying to the judge of the probate court. The Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia will set a fee for the probate judge to collect from the judge or justice applying for an identification card.

SB 335 Retirement; permissible investments in commingled funds and collective investment funds; revise provisions

By: Sen. Ellis Black (8th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: HB 335 amends O.C.G.A. 47-20-83 relating to Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority law. This bill allows retirement systems to invest in commingled and collective investment funds maintained by state chartered banks or trust companies. Currently, retirement systems can only invest in commingled and collective investment funds that are regulated by the Office of Comptroller of the Currency of the United States Department of the Treasury. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

SB 336 Retirement; permit governing bodies of municipal corporations to enact plans by resolution in addition to ordinance

By: Sen. Ellis Black (8th) Through the Retirement Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 336 amends O.C.G.A. 47-5-40 relating to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System. This bill allows each employer to establish a retirement plan or plans by resolution of the municipal corporation. Currently, a retirement plan or plans can only be enacted by ordinance of the governing body of a municipal corporation. This bill also adds that an employee's contribution under a defined benefit plan shall not exceed 50 percent of the value of such employee's benefit payable from the plan, except with respect to any employee contribution made to purchase additional creditable service. SB 336 also amends O.C.G.A. 47-5-41 relating to the establishment and use of master plans under the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System. It allows the board of trustees to establish one or more master plans for retirement plans with greater than 16 employees. Current law only allows master plans be developed for retirement plans with fewer than 16 employees. Also, this bill adds that an employee's contribution into a master plan shall not exceed 50 percent of the value of such employee's benefit payable from the plan, except with respect to any employee contribution made to purchase additional creditable service. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

- SB 339 Decatur, City ; modify the amount of homestead exemption; municipal purposes**
By: Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend a homestead exemption from certain City of Decatur ad valorem taxes, so as to modify the amount for municipal purposes except for ad valorem taxes levied to pay interest on and to retire municipal bonded indebtedness in the amount of \$25,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents.
- SB 340 Decatur, City of; provide for homestead exemption; municipal purposes**
By: Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing an additional \$2,000 homestead exemption from the City of Decatur ad valorem taxes for certain residents.
- SB 341 Decatur, City of; repeal a former local constitutional amendment; homestead exemption**
By: Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal a former local constitutional amendment which provides for a homestead exemption from certain city ad valorem taxes for residents of the City of Decatur in an amount to be fixed by the governing authority of the city at not more than \$2,000 for the first year, and which may be increased periodically, but shall not exceed \$10,000.
- SB 342 Decatur, City of; provide for homestead exemption; municipal purposes; specify terms and conditions**
By: Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Decatur ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes except for ad valorem taxes levied to pay interest on and to retire municipal bonded indebtedness in the amount of \$15,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are 62 years of age or older and whose income does not exceed \$50,000.
- SB 343 Decatur, City of; provide for homestead exemption; independent school district; educational purposes**
By: Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption from City of Decatur independent school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes for five years in the full amount of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are 65 years of age or older.
- SB 346 "Environmental Policy Act"; exempt projects for construction/improvement of public roads from environmental effects reports**
By: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) Through the Transportation Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 346 amends the 'Environmental Policy Act' so that a project of a department, municipality, county, or authority to construct or improve a public road or airport that does not exceed \$100 million in costs shall not constitute a proposed governmental action which may significantly or adversely affect the quality of the environment. These projects are not required to file formal reports with the Environmental Protection Division if an environmental evaluation shows that there will be no significant adverse impact on historical sites or buildings and cultural resources.
- SB 347 'Georgia Captive Insurance Company Act'; provide extensive changes; provisions**
By: Sen. Charlie Bethel (54th) Through the Insurance Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 347 allows an insurance agency as a re-insurer on policies written by that agency. This is part of the ongoing modernization process by the Department of Insurance for Georgia's captive insurance statutes.

SB 348 Education; provide for colleges and career academies as charter school or schools within a strategic waivers school system*By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Education Committee*

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 348 amends the 'BRIDGE Act' to allow local school systems to create a college and career academy as part of a contract to act as a strategic waivers school system or charter school. This bill also provides training requirements for the governing board of a college and career academy, including, but not limited to, best practices, constitutional and statutory requirements, and applicable statutes, rules, and regulations.

SB 350 Taxation on Consumer Fireworks; dedicate moneys collected; trauma care, fire services, and local public safety purposes*By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Ways & Means Committee*

Final Bill Summary: This is the enabling legislation for SR 558, which is a constitutional amendment to provide that the existing excise tax on fireworks shall be specifically dedicated to the provision of trauma care, fire services, and local public safety purposes. SB 350 provides that 55 percent of revenues collected from the excise tax shall go to the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission; 40 percent shall go to the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council for the purposes of implementing a grant program for the equipment and training of firefighters and to improve the rating of fire departments by the Insurance Services Office; and 5 percent shall be provided to local governments to be used solely for public safety purposes consisting of the operation of 9-1-1 systems. The 9-1-1 revenues shall be distributed as a part of the existing 9-1-1 distribution made on or before October 15 of each year to local governments.

SB 355 "Student/Teacher Protection Act"; enact; end punitive testing consequences; related to federal, state, and locally mandated standardized assessments*(Vetoed)**By: Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) Through the Education Committee*

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 355, the 'Student Protection Act,' allows students with a doctor's note for illness, life-threatening sickness, or a therapist's order to be excused from standardized testing. This legislation also allows the State Board of Education or the local school system to provide standardized tests in paper and pencil format if requested. The bill directs the State School Superintendent to develop policies for how non-participating students will be evaluated.

SB 356 Animals; provide definition of term "owner"; impoundment of animals for any violation; caring for an impounded animal*By: Sen. Michael Williams (27th) Through the Judiciary Committee*

Final Bill Summary: SB 356 amends Title 4, relating to animals, to: provide a definition for the term "owner"; provide for impoundment and care of an impounded animal; modify provisions for the return of an impounded animal to the owner; dispose of an impounded animal, and create a process for the recoupment of impoundment expenses.

Additionally, any person providing care for the impounded animal shall have a lien on the animal, which may be foreclosed in magistrate court. Any person impounding the animal shall be authorized to return the animal to the owner once all fees and costs have been paid, unless the owner has been convicted of dog fighting or animal cruelty.

The government agency in custody of an impounded animal may dispose of the animal when the animal is not permitted to be returned to the owner or when the owner relinquishes ownership. An agency impounding one or more animals for cruelty to animals or dogfighting may petition the court to hear civil cases requesting that the owner of the animal pay the costs of keeping the animal(s) to the registry or court. Further, this bill provides a schedule and process for notifying the owner and the court of the proceedings and associated costs associated with impounding the animal.

SB 358 City of Stockbridge; provide for an oath of office and its administration*By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee*

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Stockbridge, so as to provide for an oath of office and its administration.

- SB 359 City of Stockbridge; terminate the employment of appointed officers upon such persons qualifying to seek public office**
By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Stockbridge, so as to terminate the employment of appointed officers upon such persons qualifying to seek public office.
- SB 360 City of Stockbridge; prohibit the mayor and councilmembers from holding any other elective/appointive office during the term that official was elected**
By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Stockbridge, so as to prohibit the mayor and councilmembers from holding any other elective or appointive office in the city or otherwise be employed by said government or any agency thereof during the term for which that official was elected.
- SB 361 City of Stockbridge; provide for a city manager; selection, appointment, qualifications, compensation, and removal**
By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Stockbridge, so as to provide for a city manager.
- SB 362 City of Stockbridge; filling of vacancies in the offices of members of the governing authority**
By: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Stockbridge, so as to change provisions relating to the filling of vacancies in the offices of members of the governing authority.
- SB 364 "Quality Basic Education Act"; annual teacher, principal, and assistant principal evaluations; revise provisions**
By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) Through the Education Committee
Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 364 revises the annual performance evaluation for public school teachers and leaders. Student growth will account for 30 percent of the evaluation, down from the original 50 percent. A professional growth component will account for 20 percent. The number of in-class observations are reduced for teachers with at least three years of teaching experience who have earned "proficient" or "exemplary" on the previous evaluation.
- Senate Bill 364 also reduces the required amount of state testing. Currently, there are 32 state-mandated tests in grades K-12. This legislation reduces the number of state-mandated tests to 24 by removing social studies and science tests in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7. This bill also adds formative testing in grades 1 and 2 to assess reading and math development.
- SB 367 Georgia Council Justice Reform; provide for comprehensive reform**
By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) Through the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
Final Bill Summary: SB 367 expands accountability courts by authorizing "operating under the influence" court divisions. Any court with jurisdiction over driving under the influence (DUI) or boating under the influence cases may establish a division of their court designated to handle those cases and provide an alternative to the traditional justice system with the goal of reducing recidivism. Each court must establish a planning group, comprised of judges, prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, and other court officials, to establish a "work plan," which will govern the operations of the division based on the state standards and local needs.
- Guidelines for these divisions will be established by the Council of Accountability Court Judges based on the findings of the National Drug Court Institute and other developments in the accountability court field. State funding for local operating under the influence courts is contingent on approval of the court's procedures. The Council of Accountability Court Judges is responsible for assisting, certifying, and monitoring local divisions.
- Using the same structure as operating under the influence courts, juvenile courts are authorized to create a

"family treatment court division" to address dependency issues within families through court intervention and the reduction of dependency.

The adjudicating judge may restrict access to the criminal records of individuals placed into accountability court programs. These records must be preserved and the restriction may be removed at any time.

SB 367 allows for the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice to contract with private entities for the operation of charter schools to provide education for incarcerated children. These schools are subject to the contract authorizing them and are under the control of the State Charter Schools Commission.

The bill establishes standards for school discipline. The State Board of Education will establish minimum qualifications and standards for officials conducting disciplinary hearings. All local boards of education must develop a system of progressive discipline to be imposed on students who are accused of disrupting the operation of a public school prior to filing a "complaint" with the juvenile court. Once the remedies provided by the school board have been exhausted, the local board may file the complaint. The complaint must show that the system sought to handle the case on its own by engaging the child's parents, and evaluating his/her disability status and reviewing his/her individual education plan.

SB 367 also addresses the return of driver's licenses to individuals who have had their license suspended as a result of, or in conjunction with, a criminal conviction. The section provides a paupers' provision to allow those who cannot afford the reinstatement fee to receive their license without paying the suspension penalty. Moreover, the bill allows for time served in prison to count toward the period of revocation for licenses. It also adds court-mandated activities relating to sentences, such as attending programs and treatment and accountability court, to the list of activities allowed for drivers with limited driving permits.

The Department of Community Supervision (DCS) replaces the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Re-entry. The Board of Community Supervision will establish general policy for the DCS. The powers and duties of the probation division of the Department of Corrections, the probationary function of the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles are consolidated into the DCS. The DCS is tasked with coordinating the successful re-entry of criminal offenders in this state in an effort to curb recidivism and enhance public safety.

SB 367 alters provisions of the Georgia First Offender statute by allowing the court to set a date on which the defendant will be exonerated of guilt by successfully complying with the court's sentencing order and allowing the court to restrict access to those criminal records. Violations of the court's conditions, subsequent convictions, or determinations that the individual was not eligible for first offender status allows the court to reinstate the adjudication of guilt and sentence the defendant. Discharges under this section entitle defendants to have their records restricted from dissemination by the Georgia Crime Information Center to law enforcement agencies or other for limited purposes after their conditions are completed. These restrictions do not apply to individuals applying for employment in education, child service organizations, elderly care, or with persons who are mentally ill. It also does not prevent registry on sex offender lists.

The bill adjusts provisions related to the revocation of probation for individuals for failure to pay fines or failure to report for probation. For the failure to pay a fine, an arrest warrant will be issued and the probationer will be scheduled for a hearing on the court's next calendar. Prior to issuing an arrest warrant for failure to report, the probation officer must present an affidavit to the court detailing their efforts to contact the probationer.

In addition, the probation officer must terminate pay-only probation within 30 days of the full payment of the probationer's fines and statutory charges. A court may also determine to discharge probation when it is in the best interests of justice. In misdemeanor probation cases where there are consecutive sentences, the court may terminate probation after 12 months when the probationer has completed all required testing and rehabilitation and paid all fines.

The bill allows for inmates serving sentences of at least six years for certain drug-related offenses, or under the repeat offender statute for non-violent felonies, who meet the qualifications of the statute to be eligible for parole consideration. The main qualifications include: no convictions for violent felonies; completion of at least six years of the total sentence; a low-risk rating for recidivism; achievement of a high school diploma, and no serious disciplinary infractions in the last 12 months of incarceration. Moreover, those who have been convicted of a felony drug conviction will now be allowed to apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits upon their release from imprisonment.

SB 367 provides that no professional licensing board may automatically refuse to grant a license because of an arrest or conviction of a felony unless that felony directly relates to the occupation for which the license exists. The determination for whether the license is related to the occupation must evaluate: the seriousness of the felony; the relationship between the occupation and the felony; the age of the person when they committed the crime; the time elapsed since the commission; circumstances of commission; rehabilitation performed, and present fitness to perform the duties of the profession.

Additionally, the bill requires the State Board of Juvenile Justice to govern the transfer of supervision of individuals who are 17-years old from the Department of Juvenile Justice to the DCS.

SB 369 Fireworks; revise the standard of compliance from explosion to ignition; definitions

By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)

Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 369 modifies the 'Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965'. The bill grants authority for the City of Atlanta to levy a retail sales tax of up to .50 percent, in .05 percent intervals, in addition to any tax which is currently authorized. This tax shall not count toward any local sales tax limitation. Before the additional tax is valid, a majority of qualified voters of the city must approve of the referendum. The city may elect to hold a referendum in 2016 or 2017, but before the referendum is held, the authority must submit a preliminary and then a final list of new rapid transit projects.

All proceeds derived from the additional tax must first be allocated for payment of the cost of rapid transit projects. Any excess proceeds shall be expended solely within and for the benefit of the City of Atlanta. For a metropolitan county special district, the provisions shall only be applicable to special districts in which: a tax is currently being levied and collected pursuant to a local constitutional amendment for the purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation; law is enacted pursuant to such local constitutional amendment; and 80 percent or more of the geographic area of the special district is located in one or more qualified municipalities.

Upon the approval of a resolution, which requires a favorable vote by at least 60 percent of the population outside of the municipality but within the county portion of the metropolitan special district, a transportation special purpose local option sales tax may be imposed for a limited period of time to be used only for transportation services. For a metropolitan municipality special district, the provisions shall only be applicable to special districts in which: a tax is currently being levied and collected pursuant to a local constitutional amendment for the purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation; laws are enacted pursuant to such local constitutional amendment; and 15 percent or more of the municipality's geographic area is in a metropolitan county special district.

Upon the approval of a resolution by majority vote, a metropolitan municipality special district may, for a limited period of time, impose a transportation special purpose local option sales tax, the proceeds of which shall be used only for transportation purposes. Those resolutions shall describe: the specific transportation purposes to be funded; the approximate cost of the projects; the maximum amount of time, not to exceed five years, that the tax will be levied; and how at least 30 percent of the estimated revenue from the tax on projects consistent will be used in accordance with the State-wide Strategic Transportation Plan. A tax levied pursuant to this part will be exclusively administered and collected by the commissioner for the use and benefit of the county and qualified municipalities within the special district imposing the tax. These taxes shall not apply to the sale or use of any type of fuel used for: off-road heavy-duty equipment, off-road farm or agricultural equipment, or locomotives; jet fuel by a qualifying airline at a qualifying airport; propulsion of motor vehicles on public highways; energy used in the manufacturing or processing of goods primarily for resale; public mass transit, or the purchase or lease of any motor vehicle.

SB 377 "Newton County Community Improvement District Act"; provide for purpose; definitions; board to administer such district or districts

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.

SB 379 Sales and Use Tax; provide for exemption for fire districts which have elected governing bodies and supported by ad valorem taxes

By: Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)

Through the Ways & Means Committee

Final Bill Summary: This legislation exempts a fire district from sales and use taxes if the district has an elected government body and is supported with ad valorem taxes.

SB 379 also provides that if a property sold in a tax sale is redeemed by the original owner, the redemption price must include any payments that were required to be made by the tax sale purchaser to a property owners' association for the purchase of the property.

In addition, the bill includes water and sewage authorities in the allocation and distribution of ad valorem motor vehicle taxes by county tag agents in counties where a sales and use tax is levied to fund a metropolitan area system of public transportation.

The legislation provides a sales and use tax exemption for job training organizations. A qualified organization must be located within the state; exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; specialize in the retail sale of donated items; provide job training and employment services to individuals with workplace disadvantages or disabilities (including re-entry citizens and veterans); and use a majority of its revenues for job training and placement programs. The bill contains reporting requirements to evaluate the benefit rendered to the state by the exemption.

SB 380 White County; Board of Commissioners; compensation increases for members of the board

By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to reconstitute the Board of Commissioners of White County, so as to provide for compensation increases for members of the board.

SB 383 Public Roads; Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council; provide for purpose

(Vetoed) By: Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) Through the Transportation Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 383 removes the five-year waiting period on permits for trimming vegetation around a lawfully erected on-premise sign promoting an agritourism facility as long as the sign comports with local ordinances.

SB 388 Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machine; prohibit the removal of a sticker without authorization

By: Sen. David Lucas (26th) Through the Regulated Industries Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 388 revises the Code regarding bona fide coin-operated amusement machines. The bill allows for a Class A machine to distribute a non-cash redemption award on a per play basis not to exceed \$20. The gift certificate or gift card is an electronic payment device issued for a specific amount which: may not be increased in value or reloaded; is loaded on a prepaid basis; cannot be exchanged for cash, and is available for sale on the premises. The card is also permitted to be used for in-store redemption. A Class A license can be renewed for \$125 and a Class B license for \$1,000. Moreover, the bill provides that when a master licensee receives notice of a potential license revocation, the master licensee is prohibited from selling or transferring that license to any other person. Removing or defacing a permit sticker located upon an amusement machine is a misdemeanor, and a replacement sticker for each Class A machine is \$25 and each Class B machine is \$125. Finally, the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall have jurisdiction relating in any way to coin-operated amusement machines.

SB 390 City of Stockbridge; provide for override of a mayoral veto under certain circumstance

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Stockbridge, so as to provide for the override of a mayoral veto under certain circumstances.

SB 402 Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs; provide for a moratorium on the issuance of new licenses to narcotic treatment programs

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

Final Bill Summary: SB 402 imposes a temporary moratorium on the acceptance of new applications for licensure of narcotic treatment programs in Georgia until June 30, 2017. Moreover, the bill creates the State Commission on Narcotic Treatment Programs, which is comprised of three members of the House appointed by

the speaker of the House, three members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, and five members appointed by the governor. The commission is tasked with studying multiple aspects of current narcotic treatment programs in Georgia to determine if legislative changes need to be made to licensure requirements, or any other laws, to address concerns that arise through the commission's study.

SB 412 Hancock County; board of elections and registration; change the manner of appointment of the board

By: Sen. David Lucas (26th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to create a Board of Elections and Registration for Hancock County and to provide for its powers and duties, so as to change the manner of appointment of the board.

SB 416 GBI; establish Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center; provide fusion center for sharing and analysis of homeland security activity information

By: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) Through the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 416 establishes the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center within the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. This center will serve as a fusion center maintaining a terrorism analytical component. Development, maintenance, and operations of the center are vested in the director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). The director is required to report homeland security activity information to the director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). The center will liaise with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Joint Terrorism Taskforce, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other local, state, and federal intelligence and law enforcement officials. Membership consists of the director of the GBI, the director of GEMA, the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, the commissioner of the Department of Corrections, the state fire marshal, the attorney general, the adjutant general, state and local fire service, law enforcement, homeland security, emergency management, corrections, and other appropriate agencies and disciplines as determined by the director of GEMA in consultation with the director of the GBI.

SB 417 'Georgia Film and Television Trail Act'; create; provide definitions; purpose

By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Economic Development & Tourism Committee

Final Bill Summary: SB 417 creates the 'Georgia Film and Television Trail Act'. This bill enables the Department of Economic Development to plan and develop trails in film site locations throughout the state, which shall be planned, constructed and maintained on a long-term basis. Local government and private entities are allowed and encouraged to provide for the development and maintenance of the trail and trail signs. The bill provides property owners of portions of the trail with immunity for acts of others that occur on the trail, but other forms of premises liability are not immunized. The Department of Economic Development is authorized to adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out this article.

SB 419 State Court of Wayne County; change the salary of the judge and solicitor

By: Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act establishing the State Court of Wayne County, so as to change the salary of the judge and solicitor.

SB 420 Local Government; require referendum approval prior to the expenditure of public funds; establishment of a fixed guideway transit

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

Final Bill Summary: Senate Bill 420 requires a public referendum vote before public funds may be expended on the expansion, maintenance, and operation of a fixed guideway transit in any county that is a mass transit regional system participant.

SB 423 Newton County; reestablish the board of commissioners; supersede the laws pertaining to governing authority of Newton County

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

Final Bill Summary: A Bill to reestablish the Board of Commissioners of Newton County and to supersede the laws pertaining to the governing authority of Newton County.

- SB 425 Ringgold, City of; modify compensation and expenses; selection of mayor; memberships of boards, commissions, and authorities**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Ringgold.
- SB 430 Bartow County; change the cost-of-living adjustment for the commissioner's compensation**
By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the office of commissioner of Bartow County, so as to change the cost-of-living adjustment for the commissioner's compensation.
- SB 431 Cartersville, City of; authorize the governing authority; levy an excise tax; procedures, conditions, and limitations**
By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Cartersville to levy a hotel/motel tax.
- SB 432 Bartow County; authorize the governing authority; levy an excise tax; procedures, conditions, and limitations**
By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of Bartow County to levy a hotel/motel tax.
- SB 433 Emerson, City of; authorize the governing authority; levy an excise tax; procedures, conditions, and limitations**
By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Emerson to levy a hotel/motel tax.
- SB 434 Magistrate Court of Bartow County; cost-of-living adjustments; chief magistrate compensation; change provisions**
By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for the compensation of the chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Bartow County, so as to change provisions relating to the cost-of-living adjustments to the compensation of the chief magistrate.
- SB 435 Adairsville, City of; authorize the governing authority; levy an excise tax; procedures, conditions, and limitations**
By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Adairsville to levy a hotel/motel tax.
- SB 436 Bartow County; cost-living adjustments; clerk of superior court compensation; change provisions**
By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act placing certain of the county officers of Bartow County upon an annual salary, so as to change provisions relating to the cost-of-living adjustments to the compensation of the clerk of the superior court.

- SB 438 Telfair County; county officers; repeal the amendment of the Constitution of Georgia; ineligible to hold office under certain conditions**
By: Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal the amendment to the Constitution of Georgia providing that the county officers of Telfair County shall be ineligible to hold office under certain conditions.
- SB 439 City of Barwick; provide a new charter; incorporation, boundaries, powers and construction**
By: Sen. Ellis Black (8th) Through the Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee
Final Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Barwick.
- SR 558 General Assembly; proceeds of excise taxes on sale of fireworks; funding of trauma care -CA**
By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Through the Ways & Means Committee
Final Bill Summary: SR 558 is a constitutional amendment to provide that the existing excise tax on fireworks shall be specifically dedicated to the provision of trauma care, fire services, and local public safety purposes. SR 558 is accompanied by SB 350, the enabling legislation, which proportions the collections of this excise tax to these three purposes.
- SR 730 Coastal Regional Commission; encourage to support implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway**
By: Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) Through the Natural Resources & Environment Committee
Final Bill Summary: SR 730 encourages the Coastal Regional Commission to create a comprehensive plan for and oversee the implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway and to create and file an annual report with the General Assembly detailing its progress. The resolution also encourages the General Assembly, state governmental authorities, the Coastal Georgia Commission, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Natural Resources to identify and utilize all available sources of funding.
- SR 863 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge; Union County; dedicate**
By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) Through the Transportation Committee
Final Bill Summary: The annual Senate road/bridge dedication package includes the following dedications from the Senate and the House:
- Senate Resolution 863 dedicates the bridge on Highway 129 over Ivy Log Creek in Blairsville as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge."
- Senate Resolution 756 dedicates Highway 114 from Lyerly, Georgia to the Alabama State Line to Major General William "Bill" Gayler and Brigadier General John "Pete" P. Johnson.
- Senate Resolution 847 dedicates the intersection of U.S. Highway 41 and Georgia Highway 151 in Catoosa County as the "L. Wesley Smith Memorial Intersection."
- Senate Resolution 849 dedicates US 278/Ponce de Leon Avenue from the intersection of Piedmont Avenue to the intersection of State Route 10/Freedom Parkway in Fulton County as the "Walt Frazier Highway."
- Senate Resolution 893 dedicates the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Highway 41 in Catoosa County as the "Private Lonnie S. Rhinehart Memorial Intersection."
- Senate Resolution 984 dedicates the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Lakeshore Drive in Catoosa County as the "U.S. Navy Petty Officer Randall Smith Memorial Intersection."
- Senate Resolution 1039 dedicates the intersection of Cove Road and Camp Road in Walker County as the "PFC Charles W. Bradshaw Memorial Intersection."
- Senate Resolution 925 dedicates the bridge on State Route 8/State Route 10 over Lullwater Creek in DeKalb County as the "Michael Polak Bridge."
- Senate Resolution 956 dedicates the portion of Georgia 255 North from Georgia 17 to Covered Bridge Road, the portion of Georgia 17 from Joe Brown Pike Bridge to Helen Highway, and the portion of Helen Highway

from Dukes Creek Crossing to 7300 Helen Highway in White County as the Sautee Nacoochee Arts and Heritage District.

Senate Resolution 978 dedicates the intersection of U.S. 29/State Route 8/General Daniels Avenue and State Route 98/Comer Road in Madison County as the Sheriff Dewey G. Seagraves Intersection.

House Resolution 1399 dedicates the portion of State Route 17 from the intersection with Interstate 85 to the intersection with Interstate 985 in Stephens, Franklin, and Habersham counties as the Currahee Parkway.

House Resolution 1430 dedicates the intersection of U.S. Highway 80/State Route 22 and Drane Matthews Road/George Smith Road in Talbot County as the Trooper Bobby Mathis Memorial Intersection.

House Resolution 1460 dedicates the portion of State Route 101 from the intersection with State Route 120/Buchanan Highway north to the Paulding County line as the Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church Highway.

House Resolution 1486 dedicates the bridge on Interstate 75 at the University Avenue exit in Fulton County as the Lovett Stovall Bridge.

House Resolution 1487 dedicates the portion of State Route 224 from the intersection with State Route 90/Spalding Road to the intersection with East Railroad Street in Macon County as the Walter M. Mathews, Jr., Memorial Highway.

House Resolution 1526 dedicates the interchange at the State Route 40 and Interstate 95 exit in Camden County as the Colquitt George "C.G." Russell Memorial Interchange.

House Resolution 1528 dedicates the bridge on Highway 79 over Fishing Creek in Lincoln County as the Jesse Rouse Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 1554 dedicates the portion of State Route 10/U.S.78 from the intersection of State Route 383 to the interchange of State Route 415 in Richmond County as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parkway.

House Resolution 1608 dedicates the portion of State Route 38 Connector/General Screven Way from U.S. Highway 84/State Route 38/State Route 196 to the gates of Fort Stewart Military Base in Liberty County as the Carl Dykes Memorial Way.

House Resolution 1655 dedicates the portion of U.S. Highway 84/State Route 38 from mile post 8.30 to mile post 8.55 in Liberty County as McLarry's Curve.

House Resolution 1680 dedicates the portion of U.S. Highway 22/State Route 31 from the intersection of State Route 11 and State Route 31 in Lakeland to the intersection of State Route 7 and State Route 31 in Valdosta in Lowndes County as the James Slaton "Jay" Shaw Memorial Highway.

House Resolution 1683 dedicates the bridge on State Route 135/S. Peterson Street at the Alapaha River Overflow, 3 miles south of Willacoochee, Georgia, at mile 0.27 in Atkinson County is dedicated as the Robert Keith Futch Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 1685 dedicates the portion of U.S. 84/S.R. 38/Victory Drive in Waycross, Georgia, from the intersection with U.S. 1/U.S. 23/U.S. 82/U.S. 84/S.R. 4/S.R. 38/S.R. 52/S. Georgia Parkway to the intersection with Wadley Road and Glenmore Avenue in Ware County as the Dr. Robert T. Bussey Parkway.

House Resolution 1696 dedicates the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Lakeshore Drive in Catoosa County as the U.S. Navy Petty Officer Randall Smith Memorial Intersection.

House Resolution 1720 dedicates the portion of U.S. 441/U.S. 23/S.R. 15 from the southern city limits of Mountain City northward to the boundary line between Georgia and North Carolina as the Frank Cathey Memorial Highway.

SR 876 Joint High-Speed Broadband Communications; create

By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)

Through the Special Rules Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Resolution 876 creates the Joint High-Speed Broadband Communications Study Committee to examine impediments to high-speed broadband access throughout Georgia. The committee is

comprised of five representatives appointed by the speaker of the House and five senators appointed by the president of the Senate, and the committee is authorized to meet for five days.

SR 883 Incentives for Financial Technologies and the Payment Processing Industry; create joint study committee

By: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) Through the Special Rules Committee

Final Bill Summary: SR 883 creates the Incentives for Financial Technologies and the Payment Processing Industry joint study committee to ensure the state's regulations involving the industry are properly balanced and if incentives should be offered to help the industry expand.

The speaker of the House shall appoint three representatives, as follows: the chairperson of the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, the chairperson of the House Committee on Banks and Banking, and one member with expertise in the financial technology industry. The president of the Senate will appoint the corresponding senators. Additional members shall include the commissioner and the chief information officer of the Department of Economic Development, or their respective designees.

SR 892 Governor Sonny Perdue Highway; Dooley County; dedicate

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

Final Bill Summary: SR 892 includes the following dedications:

Senate Resolution 892 dedicates Interstate 75 in Houston County from the Peach County line to the Dooley County line as the Governor Sonny Perdue Highway.

House Resolution 1682 dedicates the bridge on GA 21/GA 421/GA 25/Interstate 516 at the intersection of State Route 25 and State Route 26 Connector/Burnsed Blvd. in Chatham County as the Bob Bryant Memorial Bridge.

House Resolution 1325 dedicates the portion of Highway 19 from Schley County mile marker 0 to Sumter County mile marker 15.7 and continuing to the northern city limits of Americus at mile marker 14 as the SFC Victor A. Anderson Memorial Highway.

SR 954 Public Property; granting of nonexclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads; 16 counties

By: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) Through the State Properties Committee

Final Bill Summary: SR 954 authorizes the granting of non-exclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads, and ingress and egress in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through property owned by the State of Georgia in the counties of Bartow, Bulloch, Carroll, Chatham, Columbia, Coweta, DeKalb, Emanuel, Gordon, Henry, Marion, Murray, Paulding, Sumter, Ware, and Whitfield.

Article 1 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 1.7 acres under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new Natural Resources Building (TCSG-269) at Ogeechee Technical College in Bulloch County for \$10.

Article 2 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 3.256 acres under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve structures at University of Georgia at the Wormsloe Historic Site in Chatham County for \$10.

Article 3 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.1 of an acre under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve an outdoor electronic sign at Augusta Technical College in Columbia County for \$10.

Article 4 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.04 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new facilities at Decatur Armory in DeKalb County for \$10.

Article 5 grants an easement to Excelsior Electrical Membership Corporation and assigns over approximately 0.16 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of distribution lines and associated equipment to serve new Group Shelters at George L. Smith State Park in Emanuel County for \$10.

Article 6 grants an easement to the Georgia Department of Transportation and assigns over approximately 0.12 of an acre over Western and Atlantic Railroad property under the custody of the State Properties Commission for a road widening project and the construction and maintenance of a bridge on the South Calhoun Bypass from SR 53 at CR 13 East to SR 53 at CR 64 in Gordon County for \$10.

Article 7 grants an easement to Snapping Shoals Electrical Membership Corporation and assigns over approximately 1.51 acres under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new Henry County Campus (TCSG-248) of Southern Crescent Technical College for \$10.

Article 8 grants an easement to Flint Electrical Membership Corporation (Flint Energies) and assigns over approximately 0.03 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve a new building at Chattahoochee Fall Line Wildlife Management Area in Marion County for \$10.

Article 9 grants an easement to the Georgia Department of Transportation and assigns over approximately 0.25 of an acre under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction of storm water drainage system and road improvement project at South Georgia Technical College in Sumter County for \$7,000.

Article 10 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.3 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve six new cabins at Laura S. Walker State Park in Ware County for \$10.

Article 11 grants the following easements:

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.69 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Bartow County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.33 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Carroll and Coweta Counties for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.22 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Gordon County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.26 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Murray County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 1.1 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Murray and Whitefield Counties for fair market value but not less than \$650; and

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) or its successors and assigns over approximately 10.47 acres under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Paulding County for fair market value but not less than \$650.

SR 955 Property Conveyance; authorizing 8 counties*By: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)**Through the State Properties Committee*

Final Bill Summary: SR 955 is a conveyance resolution for properties located in 10 counties, conveying property owned by the State of Georgia or amending those conveyances, as follows:

Article 1 conveys approximately 0.26 of an acre in Alma at Okefenokee Technical College under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia in Bacon County to the Bacon County Board of Commissioners for a term of three years with an option to renew for another three years for an annual rent of \$1 per year, for administrative office functions.

Article 2 authorizes a ground lease of approximately 102 acres at Fort Yargo State Park to Barrow County for a term of 25 years and six months commencing on or about July 1, 2016 for the construction, operation, and maintenance of recreational facilities for a consideration of \$10 per year and the retention of any proceeds of any timber sale by the Department of Natural Resources and other consideration as determined by State Properties Commission (SPC).

Article 3 conveys approximately 27.72 acres at Coastal Pines Technical College f/k/a Altamaha Technical College under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia in Camden County, by competitive bid for fair market value, or to a local government or state entity for fair market value; or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of \$10 so long as the property is used for public use.

Article 4 conveys approximately 6.88 acres at Ogeechee Technical College under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia in Evans County, to the Economic Development Authority of Claxton-Evans County, or by competitive bid for fair market value, or to a local government or state entity for fair market value; or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of \$10 so long as the property is used for public use.

Article 5 conveys by exchange a leasehold interest of approximately 10.86103 acres at the Fulton County Airport-Brown Field (aka "Charlie Brown Airport") under the custody of the Georgia Department of Public Safety, as consideration for the conveyance, fair market value or for the consideration of an exchange to the State of Georgia of a like or better leasehold interest at the same airport, and such further consideration, terms and conditions as determined by the State Properties Commission to be in the best interest of the State of Georgia.

Article 6 conveys approximately 1.13 acres, commonly known as the Greene County Unit under the custody of the Georgia Forestry Commission, by competitive bid for fair market value, or to a local government or state entity for fair market value; or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of \$10 so long as the property is used for public use.

Article 7 exchanges a tract of approximately 3.696 acres at the Gwinnett portion of the Chattahoochee River Greenway Park under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, as consideration for the acquisition of a like or better value approximately 3.696 acre tract adjacent to the Park.

Article 8 conveys approximately 9.99 acres and approximately 0.634 of an acre access, previously known as the Gwinnett Regional Youth Detention Center, under the custody of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice in Gwinnett County, by competitive bid for fair market value, or to a local government or state entity for fair market value; or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of \$10 so long as the property is used for public use.

Article 9 authorizes a lease for 5-years with the option to renew another 5-years approximately 0.0055 of an acre (231 square feet) under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources in McIntosh County to the United States Post Office as a mail distribution center for Sapelo Island residents for a consideration of \$10 per year and \$1,600 per year expenses for the first five-year term, and \$10 per year and \$1,756 per year expenses if there is a second term.

Article 10 conveys approximately 2.12 acres, known as the Paulding County Unit under the custody of the Georgia Forestry Commission, by competitive bid for fair market value, or to a local government or state entity for fair market value; or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of \$10 so long as the property is used for public use.

Article 11 conveys approximately 6.21 acres, previously known as the Griffin Probation Office/Day Reporting Center under the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections in Spalding County, by competitive bid for

fair market value, or to a local government or State entity for fair market value; or to a local government or state entity for a consideration of \$10 so long as the property is used for public use.

Article 12 authorizes a ground lease of approximately 0.075 of an acre with additional access appurtenant to the lease at Smithgall Woods State Park under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources in White County to New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (Lessee), from May 19, 2017 to December 31, 2027 as a telecommunications tower. The consideration should be fair market rent per year for the Lessee and for fair market value for each sub-lessee, and other consideration as determined by SPC.

SR 1027 Joint Music Economic Development Study Committee; create

By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)

Through the Special Rules Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Resolution 1027 creates the Joint Music Economic Development Study Committee to examine issues relating to Georgia's music industry and possible ways to develop it in the future. The speaker of the House and the president of the Senate shall appoint three members of their chamber and designate one of the appointees as co-chairperson. The speaker and president shall each appoint an additional three members to the committee from the music business. The commissioner of Department of Economic Development, or his or her designee, shall also be a member of the committee.

SR 1038 Joint Music Economic Development Study Committee; create

By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)

Through the Special Rules Committee

Final Bill Summary: Senate Resolution 1038 creates the Joint Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Study Committee to examine ways infrastructure can be increased to support alternative fuel vehicles around the state. The speaker of the House and the president of the Senate will appoint five members from their respective chambers to serve on the committee.