• The House will reconvene for its 38th Legislative Day on Thursday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m.
• The Rules Committee will meet at 3:00 p.m.
• Six bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

**Today on the Floor**

**Motions to Agree**

**HB 591**  
**Tybee Island, City of; levy an excise tax**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 591 authorizes the governing authority of Tybee Island to levy an excise tax.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th)  
**Rule Applied:**  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)

**Rules Calendar**

**SB 9**  
**Invasion of Privacy; sexual extortion; prohibit; definitions; elements of the crime; provide**

**Bill Summary:** SB 9 prohibits sexual extortion. The bill outlaws the conduct of intentionally coercing orally, in writing, or electronically another individual, more than 18 years of age, to distribute any photograph, video, or image that depicts any individual in a state of nudity or engaged in sexually-explicit conduct. The punishment upon the first offense is a misdemeanor of high and aggravated nature. The punishment upon the second or subsequent offense is punished as a felony with imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years. Each violation is considered a separate offense and does not merge with any other offense.

SB 9 also updates and revises the crime of sexual assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority. An individual commits the offense of improper sexual contact by an employee or agent in the first degree when such individual knowingly engages in sexually-explicit conduct with another person, whom such employee or agent knows or reasonably should have known is contemporaneously: enrolled as a student at a school where he or she is an employee or agent; under probation, parole, accountability court, or pretrial diversion supervision, of the office or court in which he or she is an employee or agent; a patient in or at a hospital in which he or she is an employee or agent; in the custody of a correctional or juvenile detention facility, facility providing services to a person with a disability or child welfare, in which he or she is an employee or agent; the subject of a psychotherapy or counseling of such employee or agent; or admitted for care at a sensitive care facility in which he or she is an employee or agent. The punishment is imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 25 years, a fine not to exceed $50,000, and the offender must be placed on the Sexual Offender Registry.

An individual commits the offense of improper sexual contact by an employee or agent in the second degree when such individual knowingly engages in sexual contact, excluding sexually-explicit conduct, with another person, whom such employee or agent knows or reasonably should have known is contemporaneously: enrolled as a student at a school which he or she is an employee or agent; under probation, parole, accountability court, or pretrial diversion supervision, of the office or
court in which he or she is an employee or agent; a patient in or at a hospital in which he or she is an employee or agent; in the custody of a correctional or juvenile detention facility, facility providing services to a person with a disability or child welfare, in which he or she is an employee or agent; the subject of a psychotherapy or counseling of such employee or agent; or admitted for care at a sensitive care facility in which he or she is an employee or agent. The punishment is a misdemeanor of high and aggravated nature. Upon a second or subsequent conviction of the offense of improper sexual contact by an employee or agent in the second degree, the person is guilty of a felony with imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years and must be placed on the Sexual Offender Registry.

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### SB 29 Waiver of Immunity for Motor Vehicle Claims; definition to clarify sheriff, deputy sheriff, other agent, servant, or employee of sheriff's office; include

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 29 revises the definition of "officer", as it relates to waiving sovereign immunity for local government entities, to expressly include sheriff, deputy sheriff, or other agent, servant, or employee of a sheriff's office, so that these individuals are protected from liability for official acts particularly in torts involving use of a covered motor vehicle in performance of his or her official duties.

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### SB 65 Alternative Ad Valorem Tax on Motor Vehicles; transfer of a title between legal entities owned by the same person; not constitute a taxable event; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 65 amends Code Section 48-5C-1, relating to alternative ad valorem tax on motor vehicles, by allowing an exemption from the title ad valorem tax when a title is transferred from one legal entity to another legal entity in which the same individual owns at least 50 percent of each entity and the title ad valorem tax has been levied on the vehicle and paid by the transferring entity or individual. The bill also amends the definition of "fair market value" as it relates to used motor vehicles and kit cars, lowers the tax rate from 7 percent to 6.6 percent for January 1, 2020 through July 1, 2023, and extends the range for model year vehicles receiving a reduced rate of 0.5 percent from 1963 to 1985 model years to 1963 to 1989 model years.

The definition of "fair market value" of a new and used vehicle is amended to equal the retail selling price of the vehicle less any reduction for a trade-in when purchased from a new or used car dealer and the "fair market value" for kit cars is amended to equal the retail selling price of the kit.

The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2020.

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### SB 75 State Board of Veterinary Medicine; professional health program for impaired veterinarians; provide

Bill Summary: SB 75 authorizes the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to operate a professional health program to provide monitoring and rehabilitation services to impaired veterinarians in the state. A veterinarian is considered "impaired" if the individual is unable to practice due to illness, use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics or chemicals, or any mental or physical condition. The bill allows for the office of the Secretary of State, on behalf of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, to enter into a contract to provide the services. Any impaired veterinarian who chooses to participate in the program
must pay all associated costs. Information provided to the board regarding the monitoring or rehabilitation of veterinarians is to be considered privileged and confidential.

The bill adds a seventh member to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. The member must be a registered veterinary technician and have practiced for at least five years.

**SB 79**  
**Outdoor Advertising; references to the term "mechanical" in relation to multiple message signs; remove**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 79 removes the references to the term "mechanical" in relation to the multiple message sign restrictions in the outdoor advertising Code section.

**Authored By:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
**House Committee:** Transportation  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0  
**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**SB 83**  
**Quality Basic Education; elective courses in History and Literature of the Old and New Testament Eras; provisions; revise**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 83 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-148 by expanding curriculum provisions to allow high schools to provide elective courses on the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

Senate Bill 83 codifies the 'Realizing Education Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship Act'. The REACH scholarship is a needs-based mentoring and scholarship program established to provide support to students to ensure graduation from high-school and postsecondary educational success. The legislation further defines the student's eligibility, school requirements, and commitment requirements by all parties to the REACH Scholarship program.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
**House Committee:** Education  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 122 Nays: 44  
**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**SB 118**  
**Insurance; Georgia Telemedicine Act; modernize; Telemedicine Act the Telehealth Act; rename**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 188 modernizes the 'Georgia Telemedicine Act' by renaming it to the 'Georgia Telehealth Act'. The bill requires that each insurer that issues a health benefit policy provides coverage for the cost of healthcare services provided through telehealth or telemedicine services.

The bill requires that insurers not exclude a service for coverage solely because the service is provided through telemedicine services and is not provided through in-person consultation or contact between a provider and a patient for services appropriately provided through telemedicine services. A health care provider or telemedicine company is not required to accept more reimbursement than they are willing to charge and payment for telemedicine interactions will include reasonable compensation to the originating or distant site for the transmission cost incurred during the delivery of healthcare services.

Senate Bill 118 also requires insurers to reimburse the provider for the diagnosis, consultation, or treatment of the insured delivered through telemedicine services on the same basis and at least at the rate that the insurer is responsible for coverage for the provision of the same service through in-person consultation or contact.
Furthermore, no insurer will impose any annual or lifetime dollar maximum on coverage for telemedicine services other than an annual or lifetime dollar maximum that applies in the aggregate of all items and services covered under the policy. The bill adds that no insurer will require its insureds to use telemedicine services in lieu of in-person consultation or contact.

A new definition of "telehealth" and a revision of "telemedicine" are also included. Senate Bill 118 becomes effective January 1, 2020.

**SB 127**  
**Motor Fuel Tax; electronic filing of certain reports; require**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 694 amends O.C.G.A. 48-9-8, relating to reports from distributors regarding the motor fuel tax, by requiring that the monthly reports be submitted electronically.

**SB 149**  
**Motor Vehicles; retain custody of the vehicle under certain conditions; valid number license plate without required revalidation decal affixed; permit**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 149 provides for the issuance, regulation, and usage of digital license plates for motor vehicles. When a driver applies for a digital license plate, their registration information will be submitted to the state revenue commissioner so that the commissioner can transmit the license plate information to the digital license plate provider. The digital license plate must be renewed annually. If the commissioner sends notice of a cancelled or revoked registration, the digital license plate provider must terminate the transmission of data to the cancelled or revoked license plate.

The bill provides that if a motor vehicle is operated without a revalidation decal on the license plate, the vehicle will not be towed at the time of the issuance of the citation; however, the vehicle will be towed if proof of the revalidation decal is not provided at the court date.

The bill changes the description of the type of three-wheeled motor vehicle that a driver with a Class C driver's license is permitted to drive. The description is changed from a three-wheeled vehicle that is equipped with a steering wheel to a three-wheeled vehicle that has seat belts and a frame to partially or fully enclose the driver. The bill exempts drivers of three-wheeled vehicles from headgear and eye-protective requirements.

The bill permits the use of windshield mounts for wireless phones or electronic devices.

**SB 153**  
**Trauma Scene Cleanup Services; comprehensive regulation; provide**

**Bill Summary:** SB 153 regulates for-hire trauma scene cleanup companies through a registration process. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) is directed to oversee the registration process, promulgate rules and regulations, provide the proper forms, and maintain a current list of all registered trauma scene waste management practitioners on the GBI website. A trauma scene waste management practitioner must apply with the GBI and: pay a $100 registration fee; submit to a fingerprint-based criminal background check conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); submit a surety bond in the amount of $25,000; and provide proof of insurance coverage in the amount of at least $100,000. The registration is valid
for three years and may be renewed every three years thereafter with a $100 renewal fee and completed application. It is unlawful to perform or engage in the cleanup of a trauma scene unless properly registered with the GBI. Moreover, trauma scene waste management practitioners must provide a good faith estimate of expected cost of services to clients.

**SB 157** Public Funds; when funds shall be considered to held by a depository; specify; State Depository Board certain policies and procedures related to deposit placement programs; establish

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 157 amends the requirements for depositories of county and school funds to allow for their participation in deposit placement programs, so long as: the full amount of principal and accrued interest of each financial deposit instrument is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; each institution in which the funds are deposited is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and any third-party service provider facilitating the placement of the deposits is approved by the State Depository Board. The bill also requires that the State Depository Board establish policies and procedures for providing this approval, as well as for monitoring these deposit placement programs, by December 31, 2019.

**SB 158** "Anti-Human Trafficking Protective Response Act"

**Bill Summary:** SB 158 is the 'Anti-Human Trafficking Protective Response Act'. The bill authorizes the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to provide emergency care and supervision of any child who is the victim of human trafficking for labor or sexual servitude without a court order or the consent of the parents or legal guardian. Moreover, SB 158 directs DFCS and law enforcement to take the child to an available victim services organization, which is certified by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, to provide comprehensive trauma-informed services.

SB 158 limits the prosecution of prostitution to individuals who are 18 years of age or older. In addition, the occurrence of either of the following shall be prima-facie evidence of the existence of a nuisance when: the owner or operator of any building for any sexually-related charges based on conduct in or on the premises of such buildings; or when the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the building is located notifies the owner in writing that two or more separate sexually-related charges or indictments have occurred on the premises within a 24-month period prior to the notice, and another sexually-related charge occurs within the next 24-month period after said notice. The bill provides a defense to nuisance claims if the owner or operator aids law enforcement in the investigation of criminal sexual-related conduct.

**SB 168** Nurses; certain definitions; revise

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 168 clarifies the requirements of granting authorization for holders of multi-state licenses to engage in advanced nursing practice in Georgia.
SB 207  Georgia Board for Physician Workforce; change name; board's membership; revise

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 207 changes the name of the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce effective July 1, 2019. The board is composed of 15 members: four primary care physicians; four non-primary care physicians; three members who represent hospitals, two of whom are physicians; one dentist; one physician assistant; one nurse practitioner; and one member with no connection to the practice of medicine or the provision of health care. All current board members in office on July 1, 2019 will continue to serve as a member until the expiration of his or her term of office.

Authored By: Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  Rule Applied: Modified-Open
House Committee: Health & Human Services  Committee Action: 03-19-2019 Do Pass by Committee
Floor Vote: Yeas: 167  Nays: 0  Amendments:

Postponed Until Next Legislative Day

SB 95  Local Government; terms for contracts for utility services; change

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 95 revises Code Sections 36-1-26, 36-30-3, and 36-80-17, by stating no contract for solar utility services or wind utility services shall be for a term in excess of 20 years.

Authored By: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)  Rule Applied: Modified-Structured

SB 144  Taxes on Tobacco Products; issuance of special event tobacco permits; authorizing off-premise sales of certain tobacco products; provide

Bill Summary: SB 144 allows for a licensed dealer engaged in the tobacco business to apply for a special event tobacco permit for the off-premise sale of cigars, cigarettes, or smokeless tobacco at a temporary location offsite from the licensed location for a period of no more than 10 days. All such permits will be issued by the commissioner of the Department of Revenue, who will also make rules and regulations regarding the application and issuance of such permits. SB 144 does not affect local ordinances regarding tobacco.

Authored By: Sen. Lee Anderson (24th)  Rule Applied: Structured

SB 161  Education; weighted scores for certain coursework for purposes of determining HOPE scholarship and Zell Miller scholarship eligibility; provide

Bill Summary: SB 161 provides that a high school student who achieves an A, B, C, or D in an advanced placement, dual credit, or international baccalaureate course will receive an increase of 0.5 points per relevant course for the purpose of calculating the student's grade point average for the consideration of HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships. The change applies to students graduating during or after the 2018-2019 school year.

Authored By: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)  Rule Applied: Modified-Structured

Local Calendar

HB 534  Upson County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Upson County Probate Court.

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  Committee Action: 03-25-2019 Do Pass
Floor Vote: Yeas: 156  Nays: 1  Amendments:
HB 623 Joint Board of Elections and Registration of Pike County; create

Bill Summary: House Bill 623 creates the Joint Board of Elections and Registration of Pike County, which shall conduct primaries and elections for Pike County, the town of Concord, the city of Meansville, the city of Molena, the town of Williamson, and the city of Zebulon.

Author By: Rep. Ken Pullin (131st)

Floor Vote: Yeas: 156   Nays: 1

HB 642 Zebulon, City of; provide new charter

Bill Summary: House Bill 642 provides a new charter for the city of Zebulon.

Author By: Rep. Ken Pullin (131st)

Floor Vote: Yeas: 156   Nays: 1

HB 644 Pooler, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee

Bill Summary: House Bill 644 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the city of Pooler Municipal Court.

Author By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st)

Floor Vote: Yeas: 156   Nays: 1

HB 645 Brookhaven, City of; existing general homestead exemption; increase

Bill Summary: House Bill 645 increases the existing general homestead for the city of Brookhaven to $40,000 through five annual increases.

Author By: Rep. Matthew Wilson (80th)

Floor Vote: Yeas: 156   Nays: 1

HB 646 Covington, City of; change corporate limits

Bill Summary: House Bill 646 changes the corporate limits of the city of Covington.

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

Floor Vote: Yeas: 156   Nays: 1

HB 647 Brookhaven, City of; existing homestead exemption for senior citizens and disabled persons; increase

Bill Summary: House Bill 647 increases the existing senior and disabled person homestead exemption for the city of Brookhaven to $160,000 through five annual increases.

Author By: Rep. Matthew Wilson (80th)

Floor Vote: Yeas: 156   Nays: 1
HB 648  White, City of; provide new charter
Bill Summary: House Bill 648 provides a new charter for the city of White.

HB 649  Gainesville, City of; levy an excise tax
Bill Summary: House Bill 649 authorizes the city of Gainesville to levy an excise tax.

HB 651  Gainesville Redevelopment Authority; provide for reappointment
Bill Summary: House Bill 651 provides for reappointment of the Gainesville Redevelopment Authority.

HB 653  Joint Liberty County, City of Gum Branch, City of Midway, City of Riceboro, and City of Walthourville Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment Authority; repeal act
Bill Summary: House Bill 653 repeals the act creating the Joint Liberty County, city of Gum Branch, city of Midway, city of Riceboro, and city of Walthourville Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment Authority.

HB 654  Jonesboro, City of; change corporate limits
Bill Summary: House Bill 654 changes the corporate limits of the city of Jonesboro.

HB 655  Bartow County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption
Bill Summary: House Bill 655 provides a homestead exemption from Bartow County school taxes in the amount of 50 percent of the assessed value of a homestead that does not exceed $500,000 for those who are at least 65 but not yet 70 years of age. Each resident at least 70 but not yet 80 years of age receives a 75 percent exemption of the assessed value of a homestead that does not exceed $500,000. Each resident 80 and older shall receive a 100 percent exemption of the assessed value of a homestead that does not exceed $500,000.
HB 656  Fulton County; board of elections and registration; revise manner of appointment of chairperson

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 656 revises the manner of appointment of the chairperson of the Fulton County Board of Elections and Registration.

**Authored By:** Rep. Derrick Jackson (64th)
**Rule Applied:**
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
**Floor Vote:** Yea: 156  Nay: 1

HB 657  Richmond Hill, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 657 authorizes the city of Richmond Hill to exercise all redevelopment and other powers under Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VII(b) of the Constitution and Chapter 44 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A.

**Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)
**Rule Applied:**
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
**Floor Vote:** Yea: 156  Nay: 1

HB 661  Norcross, City of; change corporate limits

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 661 changes the corporate limits of the city of Norcross.

**Authored By:** Rep. Pedro Marin (96th)
**Rule Applied:**
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
**Floor Vote:** Yea: 156  Nay: 1

HB 668  Macon-Bibb County; levy an excise tax

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 668 authorizes the governing authority of Macon-Bibb County to levy an excise tax.

**Authored By:** Rep. Miriam Paris (142nd)
**Rule Applied:**
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
**Floor Vote:** Yea: 156  Nay: 1

SB 116  Lanier County; board of elections and registration; create

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 116 creates the Lanier County Board of Elections and Registration.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ellis Black (8th)
**Rule Applied:**
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
**Floor Vote:** Yea: 156  Nay: 1

SB 141  City of Acworth; reference a certain map; adopt

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 141 adopts by reference a certain map for the city of Acworth.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
**Rule Applied:**
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
**Floor Vote:** Yea: 156  Nay: 1
SB 234  Judge of Probate Court; shall also serve as chief magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of Atkinson County on and after January 1, 2021; provide

Bill Summary:  Senate Bill 234 provides that the judge of the Atkinson County Probate Court shall also serve as the chief magistrate judge of the Atkinson County Magistrate Court.

SB 241  Lumpkin County Water And Sewerage Authority; composition; change

Bill Summary:  Senate Bill 241 changes the composition of the Lumpkin County Water and Sewer Authority.

SB 234

Authored By:  Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
House Committee:  Intrigovernmental Coordination - Local
Floor Vote:  Yeas: 156  Nays: 1

Rule Applied:  Committee 03-25-2019 Do Pass

SB 241

Authored By:  Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
House Committee:  Intrigovernmental Coordination - Local
Floor Vote:  Yeas: 156  Nays: 1

Rule Applied:  Committee 03-25-2019 Do Pass
Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules

The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 38th Legislative Day, Thursday, March 28, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Thursday, March 28, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 39th Legislative Day.

HR 228  President of the United States and United States Congress; enact legislation securing the citizenship of internationally adopted adult individuals; urge

Bill Summary: HR 228 urges the United States Congress to enact legislation that secures the citizenship of internationally adopted children who were born before February 27, 1982; were legally adopted by United States citizens; and legally entered the United States in the custody of their adopted citizen-parents, but are not American citizens themselves because their adopted parents did not complete all of the necessary processes to provide them with valid citizenship; however, they are subject to a criminal background check regarding conviction for use of physical force.

Internationally-adopted children who were born after February 27, 1982, and who otherwise meet this standard, have already been granted automatic citizenship by federal law. The resolution further establishes Georgia's disapproval for the deportation of individuals who were legally adopted as children by parents with United Stated citizenship. The legislation called for in this resolution does not affect individuals brought into the United States outside the legal adoption process.

Authored By: Rep. Mike Glanton (75th) Rule Applied: Modified-Open
House Committee: Judiciary Committee Action: 03-21-2019 Do Pass by Committee

SB 2  Public Utilities and Public Transportation; electric membership corporations and their affiliates; authorize; broadband services; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 2 allows electric membership corporations (EMCs) to provide and operate broadband facilities used for wholesale purposes in unserved areas of the state or broadband affiliates to provide retail broadband services in unserved areas of the state. An "unserved area", as designated by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), is defined as a census block where 20 percent or more of the locations do not have access to broadband services with minimum speeds of 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) in the downstream direction and 3 Mbps in the upstream direction. The bill also restricts the EMC or affiliate to the EMC's assigned service area unless it has a written agreement to serve outside its area.

The bill also states that no EMC or an affiliate shall permit cross-subsidization between its electricity services, broadband services, and gas activities. Furthermore, an affiliate providing retail broadband service may not condition the receipt of electricity service upon receipt of broadband services, nor provide more favorable terms for electricity services in exchange for the purchase of retail broadband service.

A communications service provider or an EMC member is authorized to bring an action for a declaratory judgment before the superior court of the county in which the EMC's principal office is located in order to determine if the EMC has failed to comply with the cross-subsidy provisions. The bill provides for the selection of a judge who is not from the circuit in which the proceeding was instituted.

The bill states that an EMC that terminates, without cause, a pole attachment agreement with a provider shall not be permitted to form or utilize a broadband affiliate for one year from the date of termination if the number of poles with attachments under the terminated agreement constitutes one-half or more of all EMC's poles containing an attachment by a provider.

SB 2 also contains a grandfather clause from the unserved and service area restrictions for any EMC or broadband affiliate that was providing broadband services or facilities prior to January 1, 2019, so they may continue operating in areas they are currently offering services.
Lastly, the bill states the General Assembly finds a person providing broadband services should be permitted to use existing electric easements to provide or expand access to broadband services.

**SB 6**  
**Correctional Institutions of the State and Counties; use of unmanned aircraft systems to deliver or attempt to deliver contraband to a place of incarceration; prohibit**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 6 makes it unlawful for any person to intentionally use an unmanned aircraft system to deliver to an inmate weapons, liquor, drugs, telecommunications devices, or tobacco products without the authorization of the warden or superintendent or his or her designee.

The bill also prohibits the intentional photographing or otherwise recorded images of a place of incarceration through the use of the unmanned aircraft system. There is a provision that allows a person to obtain the warden's or superintendent's authorization for photographing or recording as evidence of a noncriminal intent; however, the failure to receive the prior authorization does not suffice as evidence of a criminal intent.

Persons who commit or attempt to commit a violation of this provision are guilty of a felony. Upon a conviction for attempting to deliver or for delivering contraband, the person is sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 10 years. A conviction of a violation of the photography provision results in a sentence of imprisonment for not less than one but no more than five years.

**SB 72**  
**Game and Fish; hunting on wildlife management areas; prohibition; remove**

**Bill Summary:** SB 72 removes county-specific restrictions on maximum open hunting seasons for opossums and raccoons, subsequently setting a statewide maximum open season of October 15 to February 29 for both animals. An archery extension to the maximum open season concerning deer for specific counties is removed, and the Department of Natural Resources may extend the season for archery by rule to January 31 for any region, county, or locale. The bill sets a maximum deer bag limit of 12, except by rule of the department for deer taken on department-managed lands. The department may exempt a bear taken on department-managed lands from the maximum bag limit.

SB 72 also defines "air gun" as any pistol, handgun, or shoulder-held device of not less than 0.30 caliber that propels a projectile utilizing unignited compressed air or gas. The bill prohibits the use of an air gun, except for hunting big game during primitive weapon hunts, primitive weapon seasons, and firearm seasons. This portion of the bill shall be reviewed by the General Assembly during the 2024 Legislative Session and stand repealed on July 1, 2024 without action from the General Assembly.

The bill allows for the use of feed or bait to lure feral hogs, so long as the feed or bait is not placed in a manner that prohibits the hunting of any species of wildlife on any adjoining property.

The bill designates the shoal bass as the official riverine sport fish of Georgia and replaces "conservation ranger" with "game warden".

**SB 77**  
**State Flag, Seal, and other Symbols; additional protections for government statues; provide**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 77 provides that any person who damages, destroys, loses, takes, or removes a publicly-owned military service monument is liable for attorney's fees and court costs.
expended by the public entity, as well as triple the amount of the full cost of repair or replacement of
the monument. An agency may relocate a monument if necessary for construction or expansion, but
the monument must be relocated to a site of similar prominence. The bill prohibits the relocation of a
monument to a museum, cemetery, or mausoleum.

**SB 135  Workers' Compensation; certain provisions; change**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 135 provides that any director or administrative law judge of the State
Board of Workers' Compensation in office on June 30, 2019, is eligible to be appointed as director
emeritus or administrative law judge, respectively, of the board under certain conditions. The bill
provides exceptions to the 400-week limitation for the medical treatment of injuries that are not
designated as catastrophic. The compensation maximums are raised for temporarily total injuries,
partial but temporary injuries, and deaths.
Committee Actions

*Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.*

Health & Human Services Committee

HR 448 Joint Study Committee on the Safe Staffing of Nurses in Georgia; create

**Bill Summary:** House Resolution 448 creates the 'House Study Committee on the Safe Staffing of Nurses in Georgia'. Safe staffing plans serve as a vital tool in recruitment and retention of qualified nursing professionals and are vital to eliminating the drastic nursing shortages being experienced in many areas of Georgia. Committee members are charged with studying the various contributing factors that impact staffing levels and safe staffing plans.

This study committee, that will stand abolished on December 1, 2019, is composed of seven members: three members of the House, the president of the Georgia Nurses Association (or his or her designee), the president of the Georgia chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (or his or her designee), and two members from the private sector with experience in healthcare.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd)

**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Committee Action:** 03-26-2019 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HR 589 House Study Committee on Maternal Mortality; create

**Bill Summary:** House Resolution 589 creates the House Study Committee on Maternal Mortality. In addition to identifying, investigating, and disseminating findings regarding maternal deaths, the committee will also develop strategies and institute systematic changes needed to decrease and prevent maternal deaths in Georgia.

This study committee, that will stand abolished on December 1, 2019, is composed of seven members of the House. At a minimum, two of these members are African-American female legislators.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mark Newton (123rd)

**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Committee Action:** 03-26-2019 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HR 646 Georgia Legislature; broaden eligibility and increase funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program; encourage

**Bill Summary:** House Resolution 646 encourages the Georgia legislature to broaden eligibility and increase funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program within the Department of Public Health. This program provides low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women access to breast and cervical cancer screening and early detection services along with patient navigation, case management, and educational information.

**Authored By:** Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)

**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Committee Action:** 03-26-2019 Do Pass

SB 115 "Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia"; telemedicine licenses for physicians in other states; engage in the practice of medicine with patients in this state through telemedicine; provide

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 115 amends the 'Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia' by authorizing the Georgia Composite Medical Board to issue telemedicine licenses to physicians who are licensed in other states but not licensed in Georgia for the specific practice of telemedicine.

**Authored By:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)
Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

HB 639  Kennesaw, City of; corporate limits; change provisions
Bill Summary: House Bill 639 changes provisions relating to the corporate limits of the city of Kennesaw.

Authored By: Rep. Ed Setzler (35th)

HB 650  Gainesville, City of; change corporate boundaries
Bill Summary: House Bill 650 changes the corporate boundaries of the city of Gainesville.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Dubnik (29th)

HB 665  Locust Grove, City of; dissolution and reactivation of districts under certain conditions; provide
Bill Summary: House Bill 665 provides for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in the city of Locust Grove.

Authored By: Rep. David Knight (130th)

HB 678  Richmond County; Probate Court; change compensation of judge
Bill Summary: House Bill 678 changes the compensation of the judge of the Richmond County Probate Court to $142,000 a year.

Authored By: Rep. Henry "Wayne" Howard (124th)

HB 681  Camden County Public Service Authority; revise a term; provide for composition
Bill Summary: House Bill 681 revises the definition of "project" under an act creating the Camden County Public Service Authority, in addition to providing for the composition of the authority and an annual certified audit of the authority.

Authored By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)

HB 682  Camden County Spaceport Authority Act; enact
Bill Summary: House Bill 682 creates the Camden County Spaceport Authority.

Authored By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)

HB 683  Saint Marys Airport Authority; repeal Act
Bill Summary: House Bill 683 repeals an act creating the Saint Marys Airport Authority.
HB 684  Cartersville, City of; independent school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 684 provides a homestead exemption from city of Cartersville school taxes in the amount of 50 percent of the assessed value of a homestead that does not exceed $500,000 for those aged 65 to 69. Each resident 70 to 79 years of age receives a 75 percent exemption of the assessed value of a homestead that does not exceed $500,000. Each resident 80 and older shall receive a 100 percent exemption of the assessed value of a homestead that does not exceed $500,000.

HB 688  Covington, City of; term limits for the governing authority of such municipality; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 688 provides for term limits for the mayor and councilmembers of the governing authority of the city of Covington.

HB 689  Henry County Governmental Services Authority; purpose of the authority to include providing stormwater facilities and undertakings as defined by the Revenue Bond Law; expand

Bill Summary: House Bill 689 expands the purpose of the Henry County Governmental Services Authority to include providing stormwater facilities and undertakings as defined by the Revenue Bond Law.

HB 694  DeKalb County; clerk of the Superior Court; require that tax parcel identification number information be included on documents recorded in the real property records

Bill Summary: House Bill 694 provides for the clerk of the DeKalb County Superior Court to require that tax parcel identification number information be included on documents recorded in the real property records of the clerk.

HB 695  Brookhaven, City of; increase term limit of mayor

Bill Summary: House Bill 695 increases the term limit of the mayor of the city of Brookhaven and provides for the filling of vacancies in the offices of the mayor and councilmembers.

HB 696  Forsyth County; creation of one or more community improvement districts; create

Bill Summary: House Bill 696 provides for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in Forsyth County.
HB 697  Alamo, City of; provide for incorporation, boundaries, and powers

Bill Summary: House Bill 697 amends an act providing a new charter for the city of Alamo to provide for: general powers and limitations on powers; the powers, duties, authority, election, terms, method of filling vacancies, compensation, expenses, qualifications, and prohibitions relative to the members of the governing authority; and for official positions and duties of those positions.

Authored By: Rep. Jimmy Pruett (149th)

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Committee Action: 03-26-2019 Do Pass

HB 698  Covington, City of; provide new charter

Bill Summary: House Bill 698 provides a new charter for the city of Covington.

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

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Committee Action: 03-26-2019 Do Pass

Judiciary Committee

SB 31  Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; performing any duty at the scene of an emergency; law enforcement officers shall not be liable; clarify

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 31 states law enforcement officers employed by state or local government are immune from liability for actions taken while performing duties at the scene of an emergency, unless the law enforcement officer's actions constitute gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or malfeasance. Emergencies include imminent danger to life or health of a person or pet, such as the rescuing a person or pet from inside a locked motor vehicle.

Authored By: Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)

House Committee: Judiciary

Committee Action: 03-26-2019 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

SB 38  Courts; electronic filing requirements of superior and state courts; certain types of filings; exclude

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 38 amends mandatory e-filing in state and superior courts for civil actions by not requiring individuals who are acting on their own behalf to file at a public access terminal. The e-filing requirements are further amended to provide that the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Secretary of State, Office of Legislative Counsel, district attorneys, and public defenders are not subject to mandatory e-filing fees; nor are filings done on behalf of municipal corporations or county governments. Similarly, leave of absence and conflict notices filed pursuant to the Uniform Rules of the Superior Courts or Uniform State Court Rules are no longer subject to a fee. Additionally, only non-attorneys may reject electronic service of pleadings.

Legislative leave is also addressed. A member of the General Assembly who is a party to a case or lead counsel for a case pending in any trial or appellate court, shall be granted upon request the stay of a case: for seven days prior to the regular or extraordinary session of the General Assembly; the length of any regular or extraordinary session of the General Assembly; or the entirety of the day during which a member serves or is a staff member of a legislative committee and the committee holds a scheduled meeting.

For all other requests, the member may receive a continuance and stay when the member certifies to the court that his or her presence is required elsewhere due to his or her duties with the General Assembly. The certification must be in writing and state with a degree of specificity the nature of the General Assembly duties that require the continuance or stay. Opposing counsel, any person who is alleged by the state to be a victim in a criminal case, any party in a civil case, or the court itself has 10 days to object to a member’s request by stating with particularity the grounds in which a stay or
continuance will cause significant harm to the rights of the parties or is detrimental to the interest of justice.

The court, upon the receipt of the objection, will consider the following factors in determining whether to grant or deny the continuance or stay: the length of time the case has been pending; the length of the delay that the stay or continuance will cause to the resolution of the case; the nature of the duties of the General Assembly that require the continuance or stay; and other factors relevant in determining the harm to the rights of the parties.

If the court does not make a ruling to deny the continuance or stay, the continuance or stay is deemed to be granted as a matter of law. The continuance or stay will apply to all aspects of the case except for pretrial appearance, arraignment, plea, or motion calendar.

Author: Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)
Committee: Judiciary
Action: 03-26-2019 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HR 553 House Study Committee on Cyberbullying; create

Bill Summary: HR 553 creates the House Study Committee on Cyberbullying regarding the effects on children and whether civil and/or criminal punishment is appropriate. The committee is comprised of seven members of the House appointed by the speaker of the House. The bill allows for up to five meeting days unless additional days are authorized and is abolished on December 1, 2019.

Author: Rep. Michael Wilensky (79th)
Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Action: 03-26-2019 Do Pass

Motor Vehicles Committee

SB 138 Disabled First Responders; certain benefits; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 138 provides for the issuance of a free motor vehicle license plate for disabled first responders. Additionally, the bill creates a specialty license plate supporting the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc.

Author: Sen. P. K. Martin (9th)
Committee: Motor Vehicles
Action: 03-26-2019 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Regulated Industries Committee

SB 214 Barbers and Cosmetologists; the number of apprenticeship hours required; change

Bill Summary: SB 214 redefines tattoo artist and tattoo studio as "body artists" and "body art studios." Body artist permits are issued by the Department of Public Health, and the department is authorized to establish reasonable permit fees. Further, the department may deny, suspend, or revoke a body artist permit with appeals conducted in accordance with the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.' The bill requires body art studios to conspicuously display a warning that any body art can disqualify an individual from military service.

Moreover, the bill refines and updates the Code regarding electrical contractors to allow for continuing education classes, within and outside the state, that meet requirements of the Division of Electrical Contractors. Moreover, the programs must self-sustaining by individual fees set and collected by the provider of the program. In addition, persons not licensed or who do not have a certificate of competency issued by the division are prohibited from advertising in any manner that he or she is in the business or profession of electrical contracting or plumbing unless the work is
performed by a licensed electrical contractor or plumber.

SB 214 also removes outdated language in the Code regarding the Georgia State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers.

**Science and Technology Committee**

**SR 275 Joint Innovation and Emerging Technologies Study Committee; create**

**Bill Summary:** SR 152 creates the Joint Study Committee on Innovation and Emerging Technologies for the purpose of identifying policies which will encourage, facilitate, and promote emerging technologies that foster innovation and growth throughout the state.

The committee is composed of 14 members, with the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House each designating a member as a co-chair. The committee is authorized to meet up to five days, unless additional days are authorized.

**Special Rules Committee**

**HR 38 House Study Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fields; create**

**Bill Summary:** This resolution creates the House Study Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fields.

**HR 329 House Study Committee on Homeowners' Associations, Condominium Owners' Associations, and Property Owners in Community Associations; create**

**Bill Summary:** HR 329 creates the House Study Committee on Homeowners' Associations, Condominium Owners' Associations, and Property Owners in Community Associations.

**HR 680 House Study Committee on School Nutrition Program Funding; create**

**Bill Summary:** HR 680 creates the House Study Committee on School Nutrition Program Funding.
Committee Meeting Schedule

This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change. To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit [www.house.ga.gov](http://www.house.ga.gov) and click on *Meetings Calendar*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>INSURANCE</td>
<td>606 CLOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS</td>
<td>403 CAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>RETIREMENT</td>
<td>515 CLOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>406 CLOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Regulated Industries Alcohol &amp; Tobacco Subcommittee</td>
<td>514 CLOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>JUVENILE JUSTICE</td>
<td>606 CLOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE</td>
<td>341 CAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>WAYS &amp; MEANS</td>
<td>406 CLOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>RULES</td>
<td>341 CAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Governmental Affairs Elections Subcommittee</td>
<td>406 CLOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:40 PM</td>
<td>GOV. AFFAIRS (On Adjournment of Gov. Affairs Special Elections Sub.)</td>
<td>406 CLOB</td>
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