



Georgia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday
February 28,
2018

DAILY REPORT

28th
Legislative
Day

House Budget & Research Office
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- The House will reconvene for its 29th Legislative Day on Thursday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m.
- The Rules committee will meet at 11:00 a.m.
- 4 bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

Today on the Floor

Rules Calendar

HB 81 Income tax; certain health care facilities to receive tax refund setoffs for collection of medical debts; allow

Bill Summary: House Bill 81 amends Article 7 of Chapter 7 of Title 48, relating to setoff debt collection, by allowing hospital authorities to collect on debts owed by the use of an income tax refund setoff collection. The hospital authorities must submit claims to and work through the Department of Community Health to collect debt through an income tax refund setoff. No claims may exceed the amount owed by the debtor under the hospital authority's applicable financial assistance policy.

Authored By: Rep. Tom McCall (33rd)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 94 Nays: 71

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 332 Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 332 creates the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund and dedicates .40 percent of all revenues from the state sales and use tax to the fund. In the event that state sales and use tax revenue decreases by at least 10 percent from the preceding year, the amount credited to the trust fund shall be reduced by 20 percent. Funds in the trust shall be made available as grants and loans to cities, counties, departments, agencies, or non-governmental entities of the state for the acquisition of land for the purposes of maintenance or restoration projects of the Department of Natural Resources at protected conservation land and to acquire land for the provision or protection of clean water, wildlife, hunting, fishing, military installation buffering, or for natural resource-based outdoor recreation. The trust fund shall also make money available for loans to any city, county, or non-governmental entity to aid with the costs of conservation land or conservation easements. The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority will manage and administer the fund.

HB 332 is the enabling legislation for HR 238.

Authored By: Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)
House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 374 Ad valorem tax; property; allow electronic filing of returns in certain cases

Bill Summary: House Bill 374 lowers the valuation requirement for an appeal of a property tax bill of a non-homestead property to be before a hearing officer with appeal to the superior court from a fair market value of \$750,000 to a fair market value of \$500,000. When hearing an appeal, the county boards of equalization must notify the taxpayer whether there are any corrections or changes within 180 days.

In any county where the number of appeals exceeds three percent of the total number of parcels or the sum of the current assessed value of properties under appeal exceeds three percent of the gross tax digest of the county, the board of tax assessors may be granted an additional 180 days to decide appeals and notify the taxpayer. When taking such an extension or an extension due to unforeseen circumstances, the board of tax assessors must notify each affected taxpayer at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the previous review period. The bill also allows for all documentation provided to the appeals administrator to be in either paper or electronic format. If the county board of tax assessors fails to respond to a taxpayer's notice of appeal within 180 days, the property valuation asserted by the taxpayer shall become the assessed fair market value for the property. The bill also allows for parties involved in an appeal hearing to agree to pay compensation exceeding the stated \$100 for the first hour and \$25 per hour thereafter.

Authoring By: Rep. David Knight (130th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 173 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 410 Condominiums; certain fees imposed on purchasers; provide for limits

Bill Summary: HB 410 amends the Code sections relating to fees for information required in a statement of account and statements of amounts owed to a condominium association, property owners' association, and all other planned subdivisions with 15 or more individual lots that are subject to covenants restricting land to certain uses and requiring mandatory assessment payments. The bill provides that these associations may no longer impose various fees or reserves on individuals who need to obtain disclosure documents necessary for real estate transactions to ensure clear title. The fee these associations may impose to respond to a request for a statement of amounts due is raised from \$10 to \$250, but that amount includes all administrative costs associated with preparing the statement. A statement must include: a copy of the current covenants and bylaws of the association; a statement of any encumbrances regarding the property; a copy of the association's certificate of insurance for any insurance provided; and other information needed to ensure clear title for real estate transactions.

All fees and reserves due to an association will constitute a lien in favor of the association, unless the association fails to properly respond, in which case the buyer's responsibility to pay the lien and statement fees are extinguished. The association must respond within 10, rather than five, business days from receipt of the request for a statement of amounts due from a lot owner, lot owner's designee, mortgage lender, mortgagee of a lot or mortgagee's designee (requestor). If an association fails to properly respond within 10 business days, the association shall not charge the requestor for the statement and the lien(s) is extinguished. All properly reported liens are the responsibility of the buyer. Further, an association waives the right to collect any moneys owed in excess of the amounts specified in the statement from any person or person's successors who in good faith relies upon the statement of account. A statement of account is effective for 30 days from the date of issuance if hand delivered or sent by electronic means, or 35 days if sent by regular mail or overnight delivery. If the requestor would like an expedited statement made and delivered within three business days of the request, the association may impose an additional \$50 expedited fee and may charge an additional \$50 fee for reprinting.

Authoring By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)
House Judiciary
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 153 Nays: 18

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-08-2018 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 482 Georgia Educational Scholarship Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 482 amends Title 20 by adding the 'Georgia Educational Scholarship Act.' The Act establishes a fund within the Office of the State Treasurer to be used for tuition and other eligible expenses incurred for an eligible student enrolled in a private school. The program is capped at one quarter of one percent of all state-wide total public school enrollment.

To be eligible, the student must be one of the following: a member of a family with income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level; adopted from foster care; the child of a parent who is an active duty military service member; disabled with an Individualized Education Program; or the subject of a documented case of being bullied. If the program is not at capacity with students meeting one of these requirements, it is opened to students who spent the prior school year in attendance at a Georgia public school.

Each local school system must provide quarterly reports on the number of students utilizing this program and transfer funding for the student to the Office of the State Treasurer to fund the program. For students with an Individualized Education Program, the amount sent to the State Treasury equals the cost of the educational program that would have been provided and, for all other students, an amount of money that equals 100 percent of the system-wide average per student.

The bill also establishes the Parent Review Committee, which is tasked with determining whether certain expenses meet the requirements of a qualified expenses.

Authored By: Rep. Wesley Cantrell (22nd)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 60 Nays: 102
Floor Action: Failed

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-15-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 489 Local government; use Georgia Procurement Registry in addition to official legal organ to advertise certain bid opportunities; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 489 requires the use of the Georgia Procurement Registry for advertisement of bid opportunities for goods and services and public works construction contracts by a county, city, or local board of education.

Authored By: Rep. Tom McCall (33rd)
House Committee: Governmental Affairs
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-14-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 494 Early care and learning; safety of children in early care and education programs; revise certain provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 494 amends Code Section 20-1A-13 relating to early care and learning programs to allow hearsay evidence during preliminary hearings when determining if emergency placement of monitors and emergency closures are appropriate or needed at a program. HB 494 replaces the current requirement for fingerprint background checks for employees of early care and education programs by requiring a comprehensive records check in addition to a fingerprint background check. A comprehensive records check is defined in this legislation as a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check, a search of the National Crime Information Center's National Sex Offender Registry and requires the search of other state level criminal and sex offender registries or repositories. This legislation also provides that comprehensive record checks are no longer valid after an individual has been separated from employment for more than 180 consecutive days at an early care and education program.

Authored By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)
House Committee: Education
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 1

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 513 Domestic relations; signs to be posted at certain medical facilities where a newborn child may be left; provide

Bill Summary: This bill allows the Department of Community Health to promulgate rules for a sign to be developed and posted at any medical facility to inform the general public that the facility is an authorized safe place to leave a newborn child. This is to prevent injuries and deaths of newborn children who are abandoned.

Authored By: Rep. Pam Dickerson (113th)
House Committee: Health & Human Services
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Open
Committee Action: 02-20-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 519 Insurance; health benefit plans; utilize certain clinical review criteria to establish step therapy protocols; require

Bill Summary: House Bill 519 requires health benefit plans to utilize certain clinical review criteria to establish step therapy protocols, and it provides for a determination process for patients and their doctors to petition for an override of these protocols.

Authored By: Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd)
House Committee: Insurance
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-23-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 605 Hidden Predator Act of 2018; enact

Bill Summary: HB 605 is the 'Hidden Predator Act of 2018'. The bill increases the statute of limitations for an action relating to childhood sexual abuse from two to four years from the point that a plaintiff knew or had reason to know that such abuse resulted in injury. Moreover, childhood sexual abuse committed on or after July 1, 2018 by a plaintiff who is between the age of 23 and 38 years may bring action for the recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse. HB 605 also provides for a one-year window for a victim of childhood sexual abuse to file civil actions, which have technically lapsed, against an entity, which: had the responsibility of care for the plaintiff; knew or should have known of the conduct giving rise to the civil action and intentionally or with conscious indifference concealed evidence of such conduct. After July 1, 2019, when an entity has a responsibility of care of the plaintiff, any civil action for the recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse shall be commenced within one year from the date that the plaintiff discovered evidence that such entity, intentionally or with conscious indifference, concealed evidence of such abuse.

Authored By: Rep. Jason Spencer (180th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-26-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments: AM 29 2777

HB 623 Georgia Crime Information Center; retain fingerprints of certain individuals under certain circumstances and submit to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; allow

Bill Summary: HB 623 allows for state agencies that, as a condition of employment, require fingerprint criminal background checks to opt-in to a program where the Federal Bureau of Investigation retains the fingerprints for the duration of the individual's employment. Violations of law in other states can be transmitted to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and then to the applicable state agency. Moreover, the bill provides that the individual's fingerprints be purged from the database within 10 days when that person is no longer employed by the state agency. Participation in this program requires an annual fee not to exceed \$500.

Authored By: Rep. Andrew Welch (110th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 84 Nays: 85
Floor Action: Failed

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-26-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 624 Georgia Legislative Retirement System; define certain terms; change certain provisions

Bill Summary: HB 624 increases the contribution rate for members of the Legislative Retirement System (LRS) to 9.5 percent. The bill also defines "term of office" under LRS as the period of time beginning when an individual receives his or her commission as a member of the General Assembly until the second Monday in January of the next odd numbered year. Also, the legislation increases the benefit multiplier to \$50 per year of creditable service. The method for calculating retirement benefits allows the member to receive a retirement allowance equal to the greater of 38 percent of the member's average monthly salary, or the monthly retirement allowance provided by Code. The actuary has determined that a state appropriation of \$616,972 per year for the next 20 years is required to implement the changes set forth in this bill. It is recommended that the employer contribution rate be adjusted to \$2,754.34 per active member.

Authored By: Rep. Paul Battles (15th)
House Committee: Retirement
Floor Vote: Yeas: 117 Nays: 42

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-14-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 642 Local government; provide definitions; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 642 creates a process to establish a Special Improvement District for the Atlanta BeltLine. It allows commercial and multi-family residential property owners to petition the local governing authority to levy up to 3.5 mills on property located within the BeltLine district. The revenue generated must be invested in design and construction of trail along the BeltLine. The term of the district is limited to 30 years. If the project costs and debt are paid off or provided for sooner, the district is then terminated.

Authored By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)
House Committee: Governmental Affairs
Floor Vote: Yeas: 163 Nays: 7

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-21-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 696 Sales and use tax; certain computer equipment sold or leased to certain entities for use in high-technology data centers; create exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 696 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3, relating to exemptions from state sales and use tax, by adding an exemption for the sale or lease of computer equipment or high-technology data center equipment to be incorporated or used in high-technology data centers. "High-technology data center" is defined as a facility, campus of facilities, or array of interconnected facilities in the state that powers, cools, secures, and connects its own computer equipment or the computer equipment of customers of the data center owner.

In order to receive the exemption, the high-technology data center must plan to spend \$250 million over 10 years and post a valid bond of \$20 million with the commissioner. The bond shall be forfeited in full and paid into the general fund if the high-technology data center does not meet the \$250 million minimum investment threshold over 10 years, files for bankruptcy, or receives an abatement of property tax by a county or municipality on tangible personal property exempted from sales tax. High-technology data centers utilizing the exemption must submit an annual report to the commissioner of the Department of Revenue including the number of jobs and total payroll resulting from construction, maintenance, and operation in and on its facility during the prior year. This exemption expires June 30, 2028.

Authored By: Rep. Trey Kelley (16th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 120 Nays: 48

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 713 Postsecondary education; HOPE and Zell Miller eligibility requirements relative to students who graduated from an ineligible high school; provide

Bill Summary: HB 713 reduces the home school student eligibility percentile threshold on the ACT and the combined reading and math of a single administration of the SAT for the Zell Miller Scholarship from the 93rd percentile to the 91st percentile.

Authored By: Rep. Joyce Chandler (105th)
House Committee: Higher Education
Floor Vote: Yeas: 146 Nays: 25

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-07-2018 Do Pass
Amendments: AM 33 1732

HB 718 Education; certain absences of students with parents in service of the armed forces of the United States; excuse

Bill Summary: House Bill 718 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-692.1 relating to the compulsory attendance of students whose parent or guardian currently or previously served in the armed forces or reserves by allowing schools to grant excused absences, up to five per year for a maximum of two years, for students who attend a military affairs sponsored event. Students who wish to attend a military affairs sponsored event and receive excused absence for such attendance must provide documentation to the school system prior to the absence from a provider of care at or sponsored by a medical facility of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or an event sponsored by a corporation exempt from taxation.

Authored By: Rep. Sandra Scott (76th)
House Committee: Education
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 754 Insurance; division of a domestic insurer into two or more resulting domestic insurers; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 754 allows a Georgia domestic insurer to divide into two or more insurers and allocate assets and obligations, including insurance or reinsurance policies, to the new company. It does so by creating a process that is distinct from a merger, consolidation, dissolution, or formation.

Authored By: Rep. Jason Shaw (176th)
House Committee: Insurance
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-21-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 759 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program; prior school year requirement; revise

Bill Summary: House Bill 759 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2114 relating to the qualifications for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program by adding an exception to the prior school year attendance requirement for students who have previously qualified for a scholarship.

Authored By: Rep. Scot Turner (21st)
House Committee: Education
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Open
Committee Action: 02-08-2018 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 764 Crimes and offenses; lawful possession of certain quantities of low THC oil and marijuana; provide

Bill Summary: HB 764 adds to the list of conditions that can be treated with low THC oil to include post-traumatic stress disorder, where the individual was physically present or directly witnessed the trauma, and intractable pain, where other forms of medical treatment have been ineffective.

Authored By: Rep. David Clark (98th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 145 Nays: 17

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-26-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 765 C.J.'s Law; enact

Bill Summary: HB 765, titled C.J.'s Law, refines the Code regarding the crime of serious injury by vehicle. The bill adds those who, without malice aforethought, leave the scene of a vehicular accident that results in serious bodily injury. This crime is punished as a felony, with a term of imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than 10 years.

Authored By: Rep. Mable Thomas (56th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 166 Nays: 3

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-21-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 775 Professions and businesses; real estate management companies; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 775 authorizes the Georgia Real Estate Appraisers Board to establish rules to provide for the regulation and maintenance of real estate appraisal management companies.

Authored By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)
House Committee: Regulated Industries
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-20-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 779 Emergency management; homeland security division; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 779 defines "emergency operations command" as the unified command group responsible for coordinating the public safety response to natural disasters, homeland security activities, and other emergencies within this state. Emergency operations command is comprised of: the director of emergency management and homeland security; the director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; the commissioner of public safety; the commissioner of natural resources; the commissioner of transportation; and the adjutant general. The bill gives authority relevant to imminent or current terrorist activity within the state for leading the actions of the Homeland Security Task Force and the Emergency Operations Command. The director of emergency management and homeland security will also serve as the state's security manager for the purpose of identifying state personnel for security clearances through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Further, the bill establishes in Code that the Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center is a distinct division within the GBI. The bill allows the director of emergency management and homeland security to maintain GEMA analysts in the fusion center as determined by the director. The focus of these analysts will be homeland security.

Authored By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)
House Committee: Public Safety & Homeland Security
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 1

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-23-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 791 State government; limited waiver of the state's sovereign immunity for declaratory or injunctive relief under certain circumstance; provide

Bill Summary: This bill provides a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for declaratory and injunctive relief against the state in Part 1 and against all other political subdivisions, including counties and municipalities, in Part 2. Part 3 address the limited waiver for quiet title claims (the process used to clear any "cloud" on the plaintiff's title to property and confirm the status of who owns the property brought in a court having jurisdiction over that property) against the state or its political subdivisions thereof. Part 4 addresses judgments and rulings deemed directly appealable with regard to sovereign immunity.

Part 1 - The waiver in Part 1 is limited to claims against the state, a state governmental entity, officer, or employee in his or her official capacity to remedy, through declaratory of injunctive relief, injuries

caused or that may be caused from enforcement of a state statute because such enforcement violates or could violate the Constitution of Georgia or the Constitution of the United States, but only if that person provides the court with proof of service upon the attorney general or his or her designee and the state governmental entity that is charged with enforcing the state statute being challenged. This bill neither alters nor amends any other waiver or prohibited waiver of sovereign immunity provided by state law nor applies to any claim for violations of federal law or brought in federal court for monetary relief, attorney's fees, or expenses of litigation except as provided for abuses of litigation, contract claims, or brought by or on behalf of an individual in a penal institution or a state mental health facility.

Moreover, this portion of the bill clarifies official immunity for state officers and employees. State officers and employees shall not be subject to a suit in his or her individual capacity for performance or non-performance of his or her official duties. When a suit names a state officer or employee in his or her individual capacity, the court shall substitute as the party defendant such officer or employee in his or her official capacity with the proposer motion, unless the suit is expressly authorized by state statute or federal law or the suit alleges the officer's or employee's conduct was outside his or her scope of authority, unconstitutional, or illegal.

Part 2 - Sovereign immunity waiver in Part 2 is limited to claims against a county, municipal corporation, consolidated government, or school district of this state ("political subdivision"), but not the state, to remedy, through declaratory of injunctive relief, injuries caused to an aggrieved person or that may be caused by such political subdivisions acting without lawful authority, beyond the scope of its official power, or in violation of the Constitution of Georgia, the Constitution of the United States, a state statute, local ordinance, or state agency rule.

Similar to Part 1, this bill neither alters nor amends any other waiver or prohibited waiver of sovereign immunity provided by state law nor applies to any claim for violations of federal law or brought in federal court, for monetary relief, attorney's fees, or expenses of litigation except as provided for abuses of litigation or contract claims. Exempt from the list are claims brought by or on behalf of an individual in a penal institution or a state mental health facility. Official immunity of political subdivision officers is not addressed. The bill clarifies that sovereign immunity is waived for claims against political subdivisions for breach of contract.

Part 3 - Additionally, the state and its political subdivision's defense of sovereign immunity, including municipal corporations, is waived in quiet title proceedings. Where title to property or an instrument is held by the state or any state entity then in in such proceedings to clear title, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the pleadings shall be served on the attorney general and the state or any department, agency, commission, board, authority, or entity thereof allegedly holding such title. If the attorney general does not file a responsive pleading in such actions, the court shall accept the state's acquiescence to the petitioner's filed claim for relief.

Part 4 - Lastly, all judgments, orders, or rulings denying or refusing to grant immunity to one or more parties based upon sovereign, official, or qualified immunity are directly appealable to the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals.

Authored By:	Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Judiciary	Committee Action:	02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 177 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 793 Sales and use tax; certain aquarium construction; provide exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 793 amends 48-8-3, relating to exemptions from sales tax, by reinstating the exemption for tangible personal property used in renovating or expanding 501(c)(3) aquariums that charge for admission for the period of July 1, 2018 until January 1, 2022, or until the tax refund exceeds \$4.5 million. The bill also requires taxpayers seeking this exemption to electronically file the following information with the department the total number of visitors admitted, average monthly number of full-time employees, and total amount of exempt purchases made by the taxpayer in the preceding calendar year. The department is required to submit a report to the chairpersons of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee containing the information

collected from taxpayers applying for this exemption.

The bill also adds an exemption for state and local sales tax for tangible personal property used for the construction of a museum. Museum is defined as a 501(c)(3) designated facility, having a primary mission of celebrating the diverse heritage of automobiles, that contains a main building with a permanent gallery of at least 57,000 square feet, three temporary galleries, a theatre, a garage for restoration or storage of at least 26,500 square feet, and an outdoor pavilion. All tangible personal property that will remain at the museum after completion of construction are eligible for the exemption. The exemption applies from July 1, 2018 until December 31, 2020 and is capped at \$960,000. Sales tax must be paid at the time of purchase by either the qualifying organization or a contractor working for the organization and a refund will be issued after the organization files a claim with the department. An organization claiming the exemption must annually submit a report to the department which includes the total number of visitors admitted, the average monthly number of full-time employees, and the total amount of exempt purchases made in the preceding year. The department must then submit the report to chairpersons of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee.

Authored By:	Rep. Dominic LaRiccica (169th)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House Committee:	Ways & Means	Committee Action:	02-15-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 107 Nays: 62	Amendments:	

HB 803 Crimes and offenses; trafficking a disabled adult, elder person, or resident; prohibit

Bill Summary: HB 803 creates the offense of trafficking a disabled adult or elder person when a person uses deception, coercion, exploitation, or isolation and knowingly recruits, harbors, or transports a victim for the purpose of appropriating the resources of that victim for one's own or another person's benefit. The crime of trafficking a disabled adult or elder person is punished as a felony with a term of imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 20 years and a fine not to exceed \$100,000. Each violation constitutes a separate offense. Physicians or any person acting under the direction of a physician, who is acting in good faith within the scope of their practice, shall not be punished under this Code section.

Authored By:	Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Judiciary Non-Civil	Committee Action:	02-21-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 165 Nays: 1	Amendments:	

HB 808 Courts; term of court in certain counties in the Waycross Circuit; change

Bill Summary: This bill amends the calendar terms for the superior courts in the Waycross Circuit. Additionally, the circuit is given discretion to schedule impaneling a grand jury, in lieu of requiring one to be impaneled on the first day of each new term.

Authored By:	Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Judiciary	Committee Action:	02-22-2018 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 173 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 811 Revenue, Department of; authorized to share tax information that assists in the identification of noncompliant taxpayers; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 811 amends O.C.G.A. 48-2-15 to allow confidential taxpayer information to be shared with data service contractors to assist the Department of Revenue in the identification of taxpayers who are non-compliant with the Georgia income tax. No contract shall exceed a period of three years, and all services performed must be per North American Industry Classification System as designated by the commissioner. Compensation for such contractors may be based on attributable collections and all billings, assessments, and audits must be made by the department. Contractors assisting the department may not store, retain, or disseminate taxpayer information or utilize taxpayer information in any manner not specifically authorized by the department.

Authored By: Rep. Jay Powell (171st)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 818 Insurance; health care provider shall choose the method of reimbursement by insurer; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 818 allows healthcare providers to choose the method of reimbursement from insurers.

Authored By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)
House Committee: Insurance
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-26-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 820 Revenue and taxation; procedure for counties following a rejection of a tax digest; establish

Bill Summary: House Bill 820 amends Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 48, relating to property tax exemptions and deferral, by adding a new section which allows a homestead exemption from the ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value exceeds the adjusted base year value of the homestead.

The adjusted base year value is defined as either the lowest base year value or, if available, the previous base year value adjusted annually by 2.6 percent plus any change in value. Lowest base year value for exemptions first granted in the 2019 tax year is defined as the lowest among the 2016, 2017, and 2018 valuations multiplied by 1.0423, the inflation rate for December 2015 to December 2017.

The homestead exemption is available to residents of municipal corporations that are located in more than one county, that levy a sales tax for the purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation, and has within its boundaries an independent school system. Municipal corporations meeting this description are also exempted from the requirements placed on municipal authorities for notification of millage rate changes in subsections (c) and (e) of O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.

Authored By: Rep. Beth Beskin (54th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 164 Nays: 5

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 831 Georgia's Employment First Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 831 moves the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to the Department of Labor as the Vocational Rehabilitation Division. Further, it establishes the Employment First Georgia Council and provides for the membership, duties, terms of office, meeting requirements, committee appointments, compensation, and expense allowances therein.

Authored By: Rep. Terry Rogers (10th)
House Committee: Industry and Labor
Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 1

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-21-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 834 Landlord and tenant; termination of a rental or lease agreement under circumstances involving family violence; provide

Bill Summary: This bill allows a tenant to terminate a residential rental agreement without being subject to penalties when the tenant or the tenant's minor child is a victim of family violence (generally any felony, stalking, trespass, etc.). The tenant must present a written notice of termination and either a copy of a temporary or permanent protective order due to family violence, or a pre-trial release or order of probation due to an act of family violence. If the temporary order was issued ex parte, which is a decision by a judge without requiring all parties in the controversy to be present, then the tenant must also have a police report. The termination is effective 30 days after presentation, even if that victim has no obligation to pay rent (ex. tenant's minor child). The tenant may occupy the premises until the termination effective date and remains liable for the rent due, prorated to the

effective date and including any delinquent or unpaid amounts. If the tenant terminates a rental or lease agreement under these circumstances 14 or more days prior to occupancy, no damages or penalties of any kind will be assessed. This code section shall only apply to rental or lease agreements entered into, renewed, modified, or extended on or after July 1, 2018.

Additionally, the bill amends code sections relating to a landlord obtaining fees for damage done to the property, by clarifying that the premises are to be inspected by the landlord and a list is to be compiled and provided to the tenant either upon: termination of the residential lease and the premises are vacated; the surrender and acceptance of the premises; or when the tenant has abandoned or surrendered the premises.

Also, if a court issues an order of temporary relief ex parte then the order will be in effect until the court issues an order dismissing the previous order or until a hearing occurs. Now, within ten days or no later than 45 days of filing a petition for past or future family violence a hearing shall be held in which the petitioner must prove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence, whereas previously the hearing had to be heard within ten to 30 days of the filing of the petition. Additionally, if the hearing cannot be held within 45 days of filing in the county in which it was filed, a hearing must be held in another county of the circuit. Further, if the hearing is not held within 45 days of filing, the petition will be dismissed unless the parties agree otherwise.

Authored By:	Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Judiciary	Committee	02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 166 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 843 Revenue and taxation; tax credits; include any census tract in a county that contains a federal military installation and industrial park

Bill Summary: HB 843 allows for counties containing a federal military installation, with at least 5,000 federal or military personnel, and a government owned and operated industrial park to qualify for tax credits that apply to business enterprises in less developed areas.

Authored By:	Rep. Jason Shaw (176th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Economic Development & Tourism	Committee	02-20-2018 Do Pass
Committee:		Action:	
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 173 Nays: 1	Amendments:	

HB 844 Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons; revise provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 844 renames the "Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons" to "The Georgia Commission for Deaf or Hard of Hearing". This legislation expands the commission from seven to 10 members and requires: one member be deaf or hard of hearing whose primary language is American Sign Language; one member be deaf or hard of hearing whose primary languages are Spoken English and American Sign Language; one member who is deaf-blind; and one member who is deaf or hard of hearing whose primary language is Spoken English.

HB 844 also creates a multi-agency task force within the commission to make recommendations to the General Assembly and the governor for improvements to the state-wide system of developmental and educational services for children from birth to third grade who are deaf or hard of hearing. This legislation requires the taskforce to work with stakeholders at the Department of Public Health, the Department of Early Care and Learning, and the Department of Education to ensure a seamless, integrated system of care from birth to literacy for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Authored By:	Rep. Penny Houston (170th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Education	Committee	02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 171 Nays: 1	Amendments:	

HB 852 Quality Basic Education Act; student's continued enrollment in a public school under certain circumstances; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 852 creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-296, which gives local boards of education the option to allow students to continue attending the public school in which the student spent more than half a school year if the student moves into a different attendance zone within the same school system. This legislation does not apply to students with chronic disciplinary problems and requires the parents or guardians to provide transportation.

Authored By: Rep. Michael Smith (41st)
House Committee: Education
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-15-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 877 Revenue and taxation; tax rate on modified risk tobacco products; lessen

Bill Summary: House Bill 877 amends O.C.G.A. 48-11-2, relating to the excise tax rate on tobacco products, by adding a reduction of the excise tax on cigarettes for modified risk tobacco products of 50 percent as determined by the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The bill also provides a reduction of 25 percent for tobacco products that the secretary determines do not meet the requirements for a 50 percent reduction because scientific evidence is not available and, using the best available scientific methods, cannot be made available without conducting long-term epidemiological studies and the scientific evidence that is available demonstrates that a measurable and substantial reduction in morbidity or mortality among individual tobacco users is reasonably likely in subsequent studies.

Authored By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 59 Nays: 109
Floor Action: Failed

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 878 Insurance; cancellation of an insurance policy by an insured; change certain provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 878 allows insurers and/or insurance agencies to let their insureds cancel their policy over the telephone.

Authored By: Rep. Heath Clark (147th)
House Committee: Insurance
Floor Vote: Yeas: 127 Nays: 44

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-23-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 879 Water resources; notice to local governing authorities prior to the dewatering of coal combustion residual surface impoundments; provide

Bill Summary: HB 879 requires that the owner or operator of a coal combustion residual (CCR) surface impoundment provide written notice to the director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the local governing authority within three days of the commencement of a dewatering operation. The director of EPD must post a public notice on the division's website within seven days of receiving said notice. The owner or operator of the CCR surface impoundment must also post CCR rule compliance data in a public notice on their website as well as publish such notice in the legal organ of the affected county within 14 days.

Authored By: Rep. J. B. Jones (167th)
House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 3

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 887 Georgia Communications Services Tax Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 887 implements several recommendations from the Georgia House Rural Development Council pertaining to broadband expansion. The bill, which amends Titles 36, 38, 46, and 50, allows municipal corporations and electric membership corporations (EMCs) to provide broadband services. It also establishes the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) as the home of broadband. GEMA is responsible for creating and administering two programs, a broadband ready community certification and a grant program. It also modifies pole attachment rates in rural counties and unserved areas.

Part 1 allows cities to provide "broadband service", which is defined as a wired or wireless terrestrial service with minimum speeds of at least 10/1 megabits per second (Mbps) in unserved areas within the city's corporate limits. An "unserved area" is defined as a county, municipal corporation, census tract, or some other geographic area as determined by the director of GEMA in which 20 percent or more of the locations do not have access to broadband services. A city can also provide broadband services in unserved areas within or outside of the county in which it is located with an intergovernmental agreement.

Part 2 revises Chapter 90 of Title 36, known as the 'Local Government Communication Services Fair Competition Act of 2018', to encompass all communication services. It provides for feasibility analysis, a business plan, public hearings, and other requirements.

Part 3 states a political subdivision can apply to GEMA to be certified as a broadband ready community. GEMA will prescribe the rules and regulations for the certification process and create a model broadband ordinance. A political subdivision shall not be certified as a broadband ready community unless it enacts the model or a similar broadband ordinance. If the ordinance differs from the model, the political subdivision shall provide GEMA with a written statement that describes the differences.

Additionally, Part 3 states a broadband network project that targets industry development or construction of a new building that is seeking financial assistance from the OneGeorgia Authority shall receive priority if it is within a broadband ready community.

Part 4 gives the director of GEMA the authority, responsibilities, and duties described under Parts 3 and 5.

Part 5 creates the "Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative", a grant program that awards projects to the bidding entity that requests the least amount of money to expand in unserved areas. It shall be developed and administered by GEMA on or before July 1, 2019. The goal of the program is to provide broadband infrastructure capital outlay assistance that enables coverage throughout the entire state. The first round of grants shall be awarded once funding is appropriated or grants or other funds are received. There will be at least five rounds of grants, one each year for five years. The director of GEMA is authorized to continue the program if needed.

Providers will receive priority in their bids if they include plans of cooperation with or enhancement of education centers, healthcare facilities, and public safety departments, among others. Providers whose bids include expansion plans in broadband ready communities will also receive priority.

GEMA shall also report to the governor, the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House on the progress of the program, in addition to publishing the report on its website. Furthermore, the state auditor shall conduct a performance audit at least once every three years and provide the report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House.

Part 6 states GEMA shall create a broadband availability map of the state, or determine if a reliable map is already created, on or before January 1, 2019. The director shall publish the map on GEMA's website on or before June 30, 2019.

Part 7 allows EMCs to provide broadband.

Part 8 regulates an authority's pole attachment rate. The pole attachment rates shall not exceed the Federal Communications Commission annual rate in a "rural county", defined as less than 50,000 people, or in an unserved area if the attachment is owned by a provider and used to provide

broadband services. This rate limitation is applicable for 10 years after the commencement of construction.

Authored By: Rep. Jay Powell (171st)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 3

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-26-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments: AM 36 0633

HB 897 Georgia Power of Attorney Act; revise

Bill Summary: This bill amends the 'Uniform Power of Attorney Act' as it relates to applicability, execution and termination of a power of attorney and authority of an agent. It also renames the chapter the 'Georgia Power of Attorney Act'. Under this bill, a power of attorney that is not created as statutorily provided may still constitute a statutory power of attorney if that power of attorney meets the requirements regarding the grant of a power of attorney including limits on the agent's power over a principal and his or her property. This bill does not apply to powers of attorneys regarding single or multiple transactions involving real estate. The bill further states that a finding by a court that a principal is incapacitated does not create a presumption that the principal needs a guardian or conservator.

In regards to execution and termination, a witness attesting a power of attorney cannot also be named as an agent in the power of attorney and also cannot be required to attest to the signature of any person other than the principal. This bill adds that a power of attorney shall terminate if the agent resigns, becomes incapacitated or dies and the power of attorney does not provide for another agent to act. The bill also establishes that an agent can be deemed to have knowledge of a principal's revocation of a power of attorney by notifying the agent of the revocation by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery and filing the receipt of delivery with the clerk of the superior court in the county where the principal is domiciled. However if the principal revokes the power of attorney, the principal is no longer required to file that notice to the agent revoking the power of attorney with the clerk of superior court in the county of the principle's domicile.

Additionally, an agent who has been incapacitated for less than six months is not permanently barred from serving as an agent. In regard to authority of an agent under this bill, an agent has the same fiduciary duties of the principal that are expressly granted to the agent, including funding a trust that the agent created. The agent can also take actions that are consistent with their grant of authority but not expressly enumerated. Currently, where the principal made the intent to care for an individual then the agent must maintain that individual's standard of living provided the individual was a child of the principal or spouse. This bill adds two classes of individuals for whom the agent must maintain the standard of living: 1) individuals who are not the principal's children but who are dependents and 2) persons who are dependents, under 25 years old and pursuing a post-secondary education.

Under this bill a power of attorney cannot authorize an agent to execute or revoke a principal's will, make an affidavit as to the personal knowledge of the principal, or vote in any public election on behalf of the principal. This bill further provides that if someone brings a petition against the agent for misconduct in the best interest of the principal, the court may order the principal to reimburse the person who brought the claim on the principal's behalf against the agent for reasonable attorney fees and expenses of litigation.

Authored By: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (104th)
House Committee: Judiciary
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-15-2018 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 899 Contracts; limitation on disqualification of bidders; change

Bill Summary: House Bill 899 removes the disqualification of bidders based upon lack of previous experience with the construction delivery method when awarding contracts for public works projects based upon sealed competitive bids.

Authored By: Rep. Dominic LaRiccica (169th)

Rule Applied: Modified-Open

House Committee:	Governmental Affairs	Committee Action:	02-21-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 167 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 904 Torts; effect of a landowner charging an admission price or fee; clarify provisions

Bill Summary: This bill amends Code sections related to premises liability. Currently, a person can bring a suit for an injury he or she suffers on an owner's land for recreational use and not leased from the state, or subdivision thereof, whenever a fee is charged to that person. Now, a suit can be brought whenever a fee is charged on the date of injury on that land, regardless if that injured person is specifically charged a fee.

Authored By:	Rep. Meagan Hanson (80th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Judiciary	Committee Action:	02-22-2018 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 170 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 917 Crimes and offenses; restitution; update terminology and change provisions

Bill Summary: HB 917 adds memory cards, flash drives, hard drives, and data story devices to the list of media protected by copyright restrictions.

Authored By:	Rep. Matt Dollar (45th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Judiciary Non-Civil	Committee Action:	02-26-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 165 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 920 Domestic relations; department's information concerning the parties to an adoption under certain circumstances; allow for the use

Bill Summary: This bill expands the Department of Human Services' use of its records regarding adopted children, their biological parents, and adoptive parents when such child dies, suffers a near fatality, or is an alleged victim of child abuse.

Authored By:	Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Judiciary	Committee Action:	02-22-2018 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 167 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 927 Courts; certain information be provided to caregiver upon placement of a child; require

Bill Summary: HB 927 requires additional information to be given to the caregiver of a foster child within 15 days of the placement of said child to include recommendations from the child's most recent physical and dental examinations, recommendations from the most recent developmental assessment, and health insurance information. Immediately at the time of placement, the caregiver is to receive an explanation for the process of school enrollment, financial assistance available, a description of reasonable and prudent parenting, and contact information for a county or district department of family and children services.

Authored By:	Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Juvenile Justice	Committee Action:	02-20-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 170 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 929 Water and sewer projects and costs tax (MOST); additional renewals of tax; allow

Bill Summary: House Bill 929 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-203, relating to the water and sewer projects and costs tax (MOST), by allowing a municipality to reimpose the tax up to six times.

Authored By:	Rep. Chuck Efrstration (104th)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House Committee:	Ways & Means	Committee Action:	02-20-2018 Do Pass
Floor Vote:		Amendments:	

Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 1

Amendments:

HB 930 Georgia Regional Transportation Authority; creation of certain community improvement districts; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 930 creates the Atlanta-region Transit Link "ATL" Authority. This authority assumes the roles of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and the transit planning organization for the 13-county metro Atlanta region. The region is comprised of the counties currently under the jurisdiction of GRTA: Cherokee, Clayton, Coweta, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties. The bill establishes the governance structure of the ATL, as well as funding mechanisms. The ATL oversees all transit planning, funding, and operations within the region.

Authored By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th)
House Committee: Transportation
Floor Vote: Yeas: 162 Nays: 13

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments: AM 39 0216

HB 938 Insurance; limited credit insurance agency license; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 938 provides for a limited credit insurance agency license for the specific purpose of selling credit insurance.

Authored By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)
House Committee: Insurance
Floor Vote: Yeas: 167 Nays: 5

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-23-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 940 Driver Services, Department of; mark and return surrendered licenses and personal identification cards; allow

Bill Summary: House Bill 940 allows persons seeking to obtain or renew a driver's license, learner's permit, or state-issued identification to keep their old card in lieu of a temporary paper certificate. The Department of Driver's Services will note on the old card that it is no longer valid, and it will be returned to the customer. This is necessary because there has been an issue with Homeland Security accepting temporary identification cards at their Transportation Security Administration (TSA) check points.

Authored By: Rep. Geoffrey Cauble (111th)
House Committee: Motor Vehicles
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-20-2018 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 951 Education; establish Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 951 incorporates recommendations from the Georgia House Rural Development Council pertaining to the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation.

The bill creates the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation (CRPI) to be located within an institution of the University System of Georgia which awards Bachelor of Science degrees in rural community development. The director of the CRPI shall be appointed by the president of the college in which it is physically located and approved by a majority vote of the Georgia Rural Development Council. The CRPI shall assume the business and responsibilities of the Centers of Innovation Agribusiness previously administered by the Department of Economic Development.

The bill repeals the Georgia Rural Development Council (RDC) in O.C.G.A. 50-8-150 and reconstitutes it within the CRPI to offer guidance for the center's activities. The RDC shall be composed of 12 members appointed as follows: six by the governor; three by the speaker of the House; and three by the president of the Senate. The RDC shall study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems affecting rural economic development and shall examine related policy areas as it deems necessary. The RDC shall meet at least once per quarter and at different locations within the state.

The CRPI shall provide a central information and research hub for rural leadership training and best practices. The CRPI may establish satellite offices as necessary to accomplish its mission. The CRPI shall annually prepare a 10-year strategic plan that outlines the use of the CRPI's resources for the upcoming fiscal year and submit it to the standing committees on agriculture and economic development of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The committees may approve the plan and submit recommendations to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees for their consideration in developing the budget.

The bill also allows a deputy commissioner for rural Georgia to be designated by the Board of Economic Development within the Department of Economic Development.

Authored By:	Rep. Jason Shaw (176th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Small Business Development	Committee Action:	02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 167 Nays: 3	Amendments:	

HB 956 Georgia Veterinary Practice Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 956 makes changes relating to the practices of veterinarians and veterinary technicians. The bill will allow the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to perform inspections of premises and equipment. It creates a continuing education requirement for veterinary technicians, as well as a waiver of these requirements for veterinarians or veterinary technicians who are active duty in any branch of the United States armed services. Additionally, the bill eliminates a limit on the number of veterinary technicians who can work under a licensed veterinarian while prohibiting the creation of a veterinarian-client-animal relationship via telephone, computer, or other electronic means. HB 956 also brings state law in line with federal law regarding the veterinary feed directive.

Authored By:	Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Agriculture & Consumer Affairs	Committee Action:	02-21-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 162 Nays: 4	Amendments:	

HB 972 Human Services, Department of; Division of Family and Children Services to offer extended care youth services under certain circumstances; allow

Bill Summary: HB 981 authorizes the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to provide extended care youth services for those individuals between the ages of 18 and 21. These individuals must sign a voluntary placement agreement, which can be terminated at any time, in addition to meeting one of the following requirements: be enrolled in a secondary education or program leading to an equivalent credential; be enrolled in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education; be a participant in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment; be employed for at least 120 hours per month; be employed for 80 hours per month and also engaged in the previous approved activities or have a medical condition that prevents more than 80 hours of employment; or be incapable of performing any of the described activities due to a medical condition. A child who is within 12 months of becoming 21 years of age may not enroll in the program. Moreover, within 30 days of the child agreeing to such services, DFCS shall develop a transition plan that is personalized to that child and includes specific options on housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for mentors, and continuing support services. No later than 12 months after the child begins receiving extended care youth services, and every 12 months thereafter, the court shall hold a hearing to determine if the services provided by DFCS are developmentally appropriate, if DFCS has made reasonable efforts to finalize the transition plan into permanent independent living, and if the child is making progress in achieving independence. The court shall then issue an order adopting or modifying the transition order as appropriate.

Authored By:	Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Juvenile Justice	Committee Action:	02-26-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 162 Nays: 3	Amendments:	

HB 973 Ethics in government; lobbyists shall acknowledge and agree to abide by sexual harassment policy of General Assembly; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 973 requires a lobbyist, at time of registration, to sign a statement of receipt, understanding and agreement to abide by the Georgia General Assembly Employee Sexual Harassment Policy as set forth in the Georgia General Assembly Handbook. A violation of the policy can result in the suspension or revocation of the lobbyist's registration and a fine up to \$1,000.

Authored By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th)
House Committee: Rules
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-23-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 978 Motor vehicles; automated traffic enforcement safety devices in school zones; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 978 amends the Code relating to school buses to make it lawful for drivers who meet or pass school buses on a divided highway when the bus is on the other side of the divider. The bill also allows for the use cameras on school buses to be operated, maintained, or leased to a law enforcement agency and for the recorded images to be reviewed by the agent who provides this service to law enforcement. The bill provides that monetary civil fines paid for violations be \$250. A person who receives a citation in the mail has 30 business days from the mailing to inspect the information collected by the recording device and may request a court date or pay the fine. Should the person fail to appear or pay the fine, notice will be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle, as well as notice that the Department of Revenue will be notified. If within 30 days the fine is still outstanding, the motor vehicle registration will not be renewed and any title transfer within this state will be prohibited.

The bill further allows for third parties to operate automatic traffic enforcement devices without registrations or certifications. Any school zone with automatic traffic enforcement devices is required to erect signs warning of stationary speed detection devices within the approaching school zone. The bill allows for the speed limit posted within a school zone pursuant to Code to be enforced by using photographically recorded images for violations during school hours when violations are in excess of 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. The driver in violation is liable for the monetary penalty to the governing body of the law enforcement agency in the amount of \$125, in addition to processing fees not to exceed \$25.

For the first 30 days of operation, the driver is simply given a civil warning for disregarding the speed limit within the school zone. The money collected and remitted to the governing body is required to fund local law enforcement or public safety initiatives.

Authored By: Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)
House Committee: Public Safety & Homeland Security
Floor Vote: Yeas: 94 Nays: 76

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-27-2018 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 982 Courts; relative searches conducted by DFCS; change provisions

Bill Summary: HB 982 clarifies and streamlines dependency proceedings regarding children in foster care. If the court finds within six months of the removal of such a child from his or her home that diligent search efforts by the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) have not resulted in the identification of relatives or fictive kin who are willing to provide a permanent home for the child, and the child is living with a foster parent in a stable home environment where removal from that home would be detrimental to the child's well-being, the court may excuse DFCS from continuing a search for relatives or fictive kin. Moreover, when a child has been in foster care for a cumulative period of 12 months and the parent has substantially neglected or willfully refused to remedy the situation, the court shall order DFCS to file a petition to terminate the parental rights of said parent and concurrently identify and approve a qualified family for adoption. In addition, if a petition to terminate parental rights has been filed by another party, DCFS shall seek to be joined as a party to the proceedings.

Authored By:	Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Juvenile Justice	Committee Action:	02-23-2018 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 168 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 986 Waycross Judicial Circuit; judges of superior courts; increase supplements

Bill Summary: HB 986 allows the governing authority of each county in the Waycross Judicial Circuit to supplement the salaries, expenses, and allowances of superior court judges not to exceed monthly amounts as follows: Bacon \$450, Brantley \$550, Charlton \$450, Coffee \$700, Pierce \$550, and Ware \$700. This act is effective January 1, 2019.

Authored By:	Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Judiciary	Committee Action:	02-22-2018 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 168 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 992 Health; use of automated external defibrillators; eliminate certain requirements

Bill Summary: House Bill 992 removes outdated language in Code relating to the requirement for certification to operate and employee automated external defibrillators.

Authored By:	Rep. Jodi Lott (122nd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Public Safety & Homeland Security	Committee Action:	02-27-2018 Do Pass
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 173 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 995 Local government; certain disclosures from consultants who enter into contracts to prepare requirements for bids; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 995 provides a process for a consultant to disclose any conflicts of interest when contracting for services with a local governing authority.

Authored By:	Rep. Mark Newton (123rd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House Committee:	Governmental Affairs	Committee Action:	02-27-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 175 Nays: 0	Amendments:	

HB 996 Georgia Technology Authority; Strategic Integrated Data System; establish

Bill Summary: House Bill 996 establishes the Strategic Integrated Data System in the Georgia Technology Authority. It creates a governing board and provides for its membership. Further, it provides for oversight of the projects, the board's responsibilities, and funding.

Authored By:	Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Governmental Affairs	Committee Action:	02-27-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 170 Nays: 4	Amendments:	

HB 999 Weapons; carry license; inpatient hospitalization; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 999 removes the requirement that the Georgia Crime Information Center purge the records of an individual's involuntary hospitalization from their database after five years have elapsed.

Authored By:	Rep. Christian Coomer (14th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Judiciary Non-Civil	Committee Action:	02-27-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 161 Nays: 4	Amendments:	

HR 238 Sales and use tax; annual allocation of 75 percent of revenue from sale of outdoor recreation equipment for protection and preservation of conservation land; provide - CA

Bill Summary: House Resolution 238 amends the Georgia Constitution by allowing the General Assembly, by general law, to provide up to 0.75 percent of all revenue received from the state's portion of the sales and use tax of goods and services to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund. The general law pertaining to this resolution must contain a sunset of no more than 10 years and may not be extended for more than 10 years at any time. The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund has the purpose of protecting and preserving conservation land.

Authored By: Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 164 Nays: 2
Floor Action: Adopted (Resolution)

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-15-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HR 444 Willie Thomas Murray Memorial Bridge; Lincoln County; dedicate

Bill Summary: The House Substitute to HR 444 is the annual road facility dedication bill and it includes the following House Resolutions:

HR 444 dedicates the bridge over New Ford Creek on Highway 79 in Lincoln County as the Willie Thomas Murray Memorial Bridge;

House Resolution 872, Rep. Penny Houston

HR 872 dedicates the bridge on Nashville Tifton Highway/State Route 125 between the Virgil T. Barber Bridge and the City of Nashville in Berrien County as the Lieutenant Hugh L. Moore Memorial Bridge;

House Resolution 900, Rep. Beth Beskin

HR 900 dedicates the portion of State Route 9 between Peachtree Battle Avenue and the Amtrak Peachtree Station in Fulton County as the J. Harold Shepherd Parkway;

House Resolution 1038, Rep. Terry England

HR 1038 dedicates the bridge on State Route 11 at the Barrow/Walton County line as the Horace L. Dunahoo Memorial Bridge;

House Resolution 1101, Rep. Todd Jones

HR 1101 dedicates the portion of State Route 20 from Haw Creek Parkway/Nuckolls Road to Samples Road in Forsyth County as the Sergeant David P. Land Memorial Highway;

House Resolution 1106, Rep. Gerald Greene

HR 1106 dedicates U.S. Highway 27 through Stewart, Randolph, Clay, and Early counties as the Purple Heart Highway; and

House Resolution 1199, Rep. Clay Cox

HR 1199 dedicates the interchange at Interstate 85 and Indian Trail Road in Gwinnett County as the Jesse C. Long Interchange.

Authored By: Rep. Tom McCall (33rd)
House Committee: Transportation
Floor Vote: Yeas: 151 Nays: 21
Floor Action: Adopted (Resolution)

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HR 993 Business court; state-wide jurisdiction; create - CA

Bill Summary: HR 993 proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution that would create a state-wide business court. The amendment would give the newly formed business court the judicial power of the state. The provisions of the amendment would be effective within 24 months after having been voted on and approved by a public referendum. All cases brought before the business

court may have pretrial proceedings in any county, however venue for trials brought before the business court shall be determined according to traditional venue rules provided by the Code. The business court shall have state-wide jurisdiction and equity powers. Business court judges will be appointed by the Governor to a five-year term and may be reappointed at the end of their term. Initial terms can be provided for by general legislation. To qualify as a business court judge, the appointee must have been admitted to the practice of law for seven years and have significant experience in business or other complex litigation.

Authored By:	Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Judiciary	Committee Action:	02-22-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 142 Nays: 25	Amendments:	
Floor Action:	Adopted (Resolution)		

SB 2 "The FAST Act - Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency - Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed"

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 2, also known as the "FAST Act - Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency ' Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed," modifies regulations on businesses and professions at the state level, specifically dealing with permitting processes. It amends O.C.G.A 36-60, 43-1 and Title 50.

State agencies must establish a schedule of fees and requirements if they impose regulatory fees or requirements. Additionally, if a state agency does not meet an established deadline for processing a complete application, the fees will be reduced by 10 percent for each 10 business days following the missed deadline. Any delay outside of the control of the agency shall not count toward the days mentioned above.

State agencies that impose regulatory requirements will also establish an expedited permitting process for which they cannot charge more than twice the amount of the regulatory fee. Furthermore, each state agency shall annually review its activities that require the collection of personal information and determine if it could be shared with or acquired from other agencies.

Regulatory requirements under the authority of the office of the Secretary of State are exempt from these rules, as are the licensing and permitting duties of the EPD under Title 12 and the responsibilities of the EPD for licensing and permitting or other delegated duties from any federal statute or regulation. Additionally, neither Title 43 nor O.C.G.A. 10-5 is affected by this bill.

The bill also states that each professional licensing board shall establish provisions for the issuance of transferred licenses to individuals who live in this state that have been licensed in another state. The licensing criteria has to meet or exceed the qualifications for licensing in this state. If the board rules that the issuance of such transferred licenses would pose significant danger to the life, health, or safety of the public, then the board shall not be required to issue the transferred licenses. The transferred license shall not be issued if the comparable license has been suspended or revoked.

The licensing board shall also review its activities that require the collection of personal information and determine if the information can be shared with or acquired from other government agencies.

Additionally, each licensing board that engages in site visits to verify compliance with its rules and regulations by licensees shall only make the visits after providing reasonable notice of the time and date of the visit. Surprise visits related to health, safety, or welfare may continue unabated.

An agency defined under O.C.G.A. 50-13 shall give at least 30-days' notice of its intent to modify its rules. The agency shall also prepare an economic impact analysis for each proposed modification to its rules that would affect revenue for or require expenditures by the state or a local government. It shall also prepare note about public benefits and costs of the proposed modification of its rules.

Authored By:	Sen. Mike Dugan (30th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House Committee:	Small Business Development	Committee Action:	02-15-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Floor Vote: Yeas: 66 Nays: 106
Floor Action: Failed

Amendments: AM 43 0077ER

Local Calendar

HB 707 Roswell, City of; ad valorem tax; provide new homestead exemption

Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption, which has the effect of a valuation freeze, from City of Roswell ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Betty Price (48th)

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

Rule Applied:

Committee Action: 02-13-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Amendments:

HB 708 Johns Creek, City of; ad valorem tax; provide new homestead exemption

Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption, which has the effect of a valuation freeze, from City of Johns Creek ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Brad Raffensperger (50th)

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

Rule Applied:

Committee Action: 02-13-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Amendments:

HB 710 Milton, City of; ad valorem tax; provide new homestead exemption

Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption, which has the effect of a valuation freeze, from City of Milton ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th)

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

Rule Applied:

Committee Action: 02-13-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Amendments:

HB 711 Mountain Park, City of; ad valorem tax; provide new homestead exemption

Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption, which has the effect of a valuation freeze, from City of Mountain Park ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th)

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

Rule Applied:

Committee Action: 02-13-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Amendments:

HB 712 Alpharetta, City of; ad valorem tax; provide new homestead exemption

Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption, which has the effect of a valuation freeze, from City of Alpharetta ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th)

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

Rule Applied:

Committee Action: 02-13-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Amendments:

HB 863 Jonesboro, City of; homestead exemptions from ad valorem taxes; provisions

Bill Summary: This bill grants each resident of the City of Jonesboro an exemption from city ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes. The exemption gradually decreases from \$50,000 in 2019 to \$10,000 in 2023 and thereafter.

Authored By: Rep. Mike Glanton (75th)

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Rule Applied:

Committee Action: 02-13-2018 Do Pass

Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 869 Fulton County Industrial District; repeal amendment

Bill Summary: This bill repeals an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia creating the Fulton County Industrial District and prohibiting the governing authority of Fulton County from levying any tax for education purposes within the boundaries of an independent school system. A referendum will be held in November 2018 to repeal the constitutional amendment.

Authored By: Rep. Roger Bruce (61st) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-28-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 870 South Fulton, City of; change corporate boundaries

Bill Summary: This bill changes the corporate boundaries of the City of South Fulton.

Authored By: Rep. Roger Bruce (61st) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-28-2018 Do Pass by Committee
Committee: Local **Action:** Substitute
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 900 Lamar County; Board of Education; revise compensation of members and chairperson

Bill Summary: This bill changes the compensation of the members and chairperson of the Lamar County Board of Education to \$500 per month, with the chairperson receiving an additional \$150 per month.

Authored By: Rep. Johnnie Caldwell (131st) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 901 Adrian, City of; revise terms of office of mayor and city council members

Bill Summary: This bill revises the terms of the office of the mayor and members of the city council of the City of Adrian.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Hatchett (150th) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 911 Griffin, City of; provide for mayor and mayor pro tem

Bill Summary: This bill provides for a mayor and a mayor pro tem for the City of Griffin.

Authored By: Rep. David Knight (130th) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 912 Spalding County; State Court; provide for imposition of court costs in certain criminal cases

Bill Summary: This bill requires a person before the State Court of Spalding County who is ordered to pay a fine, convicted, pleads guilty, or enters a plea of no contest to any violation to pay court costs, not to exceed \$50, unless otherwise ordered by the sentencing judge. Any person who fails to appear for a scheduled court appearance shall pay a failure to appear fee, not to exceed \$100, unless otherwise ordered by the judge.

Authored By: Rep. David Knight (130th) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**

Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 921 Cave Spring, City of; levy an excise tax

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the City of Cave Spring to levy an excise tax.

Authored By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 933 Dillard, City of; eliminate one council post

Bill Summary: This bill eliminates one council post in the City of Dillard.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Gurtler (8th) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 942 Savannah State Farmers Market Authority Act; enact

Bill Summary: This bill creates the Savannah State Farmers Market Authority.

Authored By: Rep. Carl Gilliard (162nd) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: Nays:
Floor Action: [Recommit to Committee](#) **Amendments:**

HB 945 Macon-Bibb County; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption, which has the effect of a valuation freeze, from Macon-Bibb County ad valorem taxes for county purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Allen Peake (141st) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: Nays:
Floor Action: [Recommit to Committee](#) **Amendments:**

HB 946 Houston County; Board of Education; modify compensation of members

Bill Summary: This bill changes the compensation of the members of the Houston County Board of Education. Board members will be paid \$600 per month and \$100 for meetings other than regular school board meetings. The special meeting compensation is limited to four times in a month.

Authored By: Rep. Heath Clark (147th) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

HB 952 Dahlonega, City of; filling of vacancies; provide

Bill Summary: This bill states if there is a vacancy in one or more elected offices of the City of Dahlonega, the remaining elected officials shall appoint a qualified person to fill the unexpired term. The appointee shall not be eligible to run in the next election.

Authored By: Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) **Rule Applied:**
House Intragovernmental Coordination - **Committee** 02-22-2018 Do Pass
Committee: Local **Action:**
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

SB 317 Homestead Exemption; Fulton County school district; ad valorem taxes for educational purposes; provide

Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption, which has the effect of a valuation freeze, from Fulton County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes.

Authored By: Sen. John Albers (56th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

Rule Applied:
Committee Action: 02-13-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules

The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 29th Legislative Day, Thursday, March 1, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Thursday, March 1, at 11:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 30th Legislative Day.

HB 673 Motor vehicles; prohibit actions which distract a driver while operating a motor vehicle; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 673 is the 'Hands-Free Georgia Act'. This bill prohibits an individual from physically holding or supporting a wireless telecommunication device or a stand-alone electronic device or reaching for devices in such a way that the driver is no longer seated in a driving position while operating a motor vehicle. The prohibition does not apply to: voice to text communications; the use of devices for the purpose of navigation with a GPS system; and dash camera video recording devices that record the front and rear of the vehicle.

Violating this provision is punished as a misdemeanor with a fine not less than \$300. Moreover, a 2-point deduction on the offender's driver's license is assessed on the first violation of this statute. A second offense results in a 3-point assessment, a third violation results in a 4-point assessment, and the fourth and subsequent violation results in a 6-point assessment.

The prohibited conduct shall not apply while reporting a traffic accident, an emergency situation, or a hazardous road condition. Moreover, the prohibited conduct shall not apply to a utility service provider operating within the scope of their employment, or law enforcement and first responders, or if the vehicle is lawfully parked.

Authored By: Rep. John Carson (46th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-21-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 944 Revenue and taxation; levy of joint county and municipal sales and use tax by consolidated governments; change certain provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 944 amends O.C.G.A 48-8-96, relating to levy of the joint county and municipal sales and use tax by consolidated governments, by allowing for annual increase of up to two percent in the assessed value of a homestead property in a consolidated government with two other local option sales taxes.

Authored By: Rep. Allen Peake (141st)
House Committee: Ways & Means

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 02-22-2018 Do Pass

HR 655 Gold Star Father Day; November 9 annually in Georgia; recognize

Bill Summary: HR 655 provides that the Georgia House of Representatives will recognize November 9th as Gold Star Father Day annually in Georgia.

Authored By: Rep. Rhonda Burnough (77th)
House Committee: Defense & Veterans Affairs

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-12-2018 Do Pass

SB 131 Juvenile Code; adoption proceedings be stayed while an appeal to terminate parental rights is pending; provide

Bill Summary: SB 131 provides that the appeal of an order granting a petition terminating parental rights will stay an adoption proceeding, relating to the child, until the conclusion of the appellate proceedings. The bill also adds to what a judge may take into consideration when determining grounds to terminate parental rights to include that a continuation of the parent and child relationship is likely to cause harm to said child. Moreover, SB 131 adds to the best interest of the child standard when the statutory grounds for terminating parental rights have been met by including the benefit to the child of a stable and permanent home environment and the detrimental impact to the child with the lack thereof. The bill also adds protections for a child waiving the right to an attorney, where liberty is not in

jeopardy.

Authored By: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)
House Committee: Juvenile Justice

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-08-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Committee Actions

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

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

HB 869 Fulton County Industrial District; repeal amendment

Bill Summary: This bill repeals an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia creating the Fulton County Industrial District and prohibiting the governing authority of Fulton County from levying any tax for education purposes within the boundaries of an independent school system. A referendum will be held in November 2018 to repeal the constitutional amendment.

Authored By: Rep. Roger Bruce (61st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 02-28-2018 Do Pass

HB 870 South Fulton, City of; change corporate boundaries

Bill Summary: This bill changes the corporate boundaries of the City of South Fulton.

Authored By: Rep. Roger Bruce (61st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 02-28-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

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 and click on [Meetings Calendar](#).*

Thursday, March 1, 2018

11:00 AM [RULES 341 CAP](#)

1:00 PM [House Session \(LD 29\)](#) House Chamber

3:30 PM [Kelley Subcommittee of Judiciary \(Civil\)](#) 132 CAP