



Georgia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday  
March 12,  
2018

# DAILY REPORT

33rd  
Legislative  
Day

House Budget & Research Office  
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- The House will reconvene for its 34th Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Rules committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- Six bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

## Today on the Floor

### Rules Calendar

#### **HR 944 People's Republic of China; organ harvesting; express concern**

Bill Summary: HR 944 urges the People's Republic of China to end the practice of forced harvesting of organs from prisoners, especially from Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience.

**Authored By:** Rep. Dewayne Hill (3rd)  
**House Committee:** Interstate Cooperation  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: Nays:  
**Floor Action:** Recommit to Rules

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-07-2018 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

#### **SB 17 Alcoholic Beverages; provide governing authorities of counties in which the sale for consumption is lawful; authorize certain time on Sundays**

Bill Summary: SB 17, through local referendum, lowers the initial time to allow for Sunday sales of alcohol from 12:30 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. for any licensed establishment that derives at least 50 percent of annual gross sales from the sale of food or a licensed establishment that derives 50 percent of annual gross income from the rental of rooms for overnight lodging. SB 17 also provides the language for such a local referendum.

**Authored By:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
**House Committee:** Regulated Industries  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 97 Nays: 64

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-06-2018 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

#### **SB 356 Georgia Commission on the Holocaust; membership; change**

Bill Summary: SB 356 moves the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust from the Office of the Secretary of State to the Department of Community Affairs. The bill also allows for legislative oversight to include one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party from each chamber; these appointments are made by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate. Subject to the availability of private funds, the commission is also charged with designing, procuring, and placing a Georgia World War II Holocaust Memorial.

**Authored By:** Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
**House Committee:** State Properties  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 164 Nays: 0

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

**SB 371 Taxes; furnishing of sales and use tax information to municipalities and counties; change provisions**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 371 amends 48-2-15, relating to confidential information secured in the administration of taxes, by allowing counties and municipalities to request information included on the vendor's sales tax certificate for all vendors that have filed a report for a designated period from the commissioner of the Department of Revenue. Any information furnished by the commissioner is to remain privileged and confidential in nature. The finance officer or taxing official of a county or municipality is not authorized to contact in any manner any taxpayer identified in such information. If the finance officer or taxing official finds any discrepancies, anomalies, or other issues relating to the data received, they must notify the commissioner of their findings. The information disclosed may only be shared with members of the governing authority of the county or municipality when the members of the governing authority are in executive session.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lee Anderson (24th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 163 Nays: 4

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-01-2018 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

## Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules

*The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 34th Legislative Day, Wednesday, March 14, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 35th Legislative Day.*

### **HR 1376 House Rural Development Council; solicit input from hospitals in the state on the financial conditions of such hospitals; urge**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1376 urges the House Rural Development Council to solicit input from the hospitals in this state on their financial condition including profitability, community benefit, cash reserves and viability projections as well as to receive recommendations from the hospital industry on legislative or regulatory changes that could ensure viability of the health care industry.

**Authored By:** Rep. Matt Hatchett (150th)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-06-2018 Do Pass

### **SB 333 Deferred Compensation Plans; governing authority of a municipality may pay costs/fees associated with employee's participation; provide**

**Bill Summary:** SB 333 allows the governing authority of a municipality to pay the costs or fees associated with an employee's participation in a deferred compensation plan. Also, this legislation allows employers to establish automatic enrollment arrangements; currently, employees must request participation and determine the contribution level. This bill has been certified as a non-fiscal retirement bill by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
**House Committee:** Retirement

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-07-2018 Do Pass

### **SB 357 Health Coordination and Innovation Council of the State of Georgia; create**

**Bill Summary:** SB 357 establishes the Health Coordination and Innovation Council of the State of Georgia. The 18-member council includes: a new position for a director of health care policy and strategic planning; the commissioner of the Department of Community Health; the commissioner of the Department of Public Health; the commissioner of the Department of Human Services; the commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; and the executive of director of the Division of Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Related Disorders. Six additional members are appointed by the governor for four-year terms. Appointments shall be made to ensure that the council always includes: a dentist, a pharmacist, a primary care physician and a member representing a private health care industry. The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House of Representatives each have one appointment. The council will create an annual report of its business, which is to create a forum for innovative ideas, evaluation, maximize resources, and organize a health care approach.

The new position is responsible for the management and coordination of health care delivery on all government levels, in addition to coordinating data-driven decision-making between the Health Coordination and Innovation Council and the state. The director may hire staff to perform these functions.

This bill also creates a 13- to 19-member advisory board to the council, which may not have government employees as members. The governor will appoint all members who have experience to address the needs of the council, such as reviewing and commenting on all health care grant applications. The following entities shall provide required reporting to the council, the: Maternal Mortality Review Committee; Office of Women's Health; Commission on Men's Health; Renal Dialysis Advisory Council; Kidney Disease Advisory Committee; Hemophilia Advisory Board; Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness; Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council; Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission; Behavioral Health Coordinating Council; Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry; Office of Cardiac Care; and Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund.

**Authored By:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-08-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 382 Optometrists guidance and consultation by the Department of Public Health; provide**

Bill Summary: This bill requires the Department of Public Health to provide guidance on certain training programs for doctors of optometry who administer pharmaceutical agents by injection. The legislation adds that any injectable training program approved by the State Board of Optometry, prior to its approval by the board, is subject to the guidance by the Department of Public Health to ensure that the necessary, appropriate curriculum is in place.

**Authored By:** Sen. P. K. Martin (9th)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-08-2018 Do Pass

**SB 425 Professional Land Surveyors; provisions; change**

Bill Summary: SB 425 removes the requirement that land surveyors receive at least five hours of course study in hydrology. The bill raises the required semester hours of course study, or the equivalent, in surveying subjects approved by the board from 15 to 18 hours. Moreover, HB 833 grandfathers in those who have already received credit in hydrology coursework so that they may sit for the board approved examination for licensure. In addition, HB 833 adds surveyors to the list of professionals subject to a misdemeanor for practicing as a licensed surveyor if that person has not completed the licensing requirements.

**Authored By:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
**House Committee:** Regulated Industries

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-06-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SR 794 Joint Georgia-North Carolina and Georgia-Tennessee Boundary Line Commission; create**

Bill Summary: SR 794 creates the Joint Georgia-North Carolina and Georgia-Tennessee Boundary Line Commission to establish, survey, and proclaim the true boundary lines between Georgia and Tennessee and Georgia and North Carolina. There shall be six commission members, three appointed by the president of the Senate and three appointed by the speaker of the House. The commission shall issue a report of its findings with the secretary of the Senate and the clerk of the House. If no report is approved by the commission, the co-chairs may file the meeting minutes. The commission is abolished on December 1, 2018.

The resolution also directs the governor of Georgia to communicate with the governors of North Carolina and Tennessee for the purpose of having joint surveys and settlements of the disputed boundary questions.

**Authored By:** Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
**House Committee:** Interstate Cooperation

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-07-2018 Do Pass

## Committee Actions

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

### Banks & Banking Committee

#### SB 358 Counties/Municipal Corporations; establishment of banking improvement zones; agreement for deposit of public funds; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 358 adds a new Code section to provide for the establishment of banking improvement zones. "Banking improvement zones" are areas within the jurisdiction of a local government set up for the purpose of encouraging the establishment of branches or representative offices of a bank where the community is currently being underserved by banking services. To form a banking improvement zone, local governments must submit an application to the Department of Community Affairs. In determining whether to establish a banking improvement zone, the department will consider the current number of banking sites in the area, consumer need, the economic viability and local credit needs of the local government, existing commercial development in the area, potential economic development caused by additional banking services, and whether any potential gains to a bank from an interest agreement is ample consideration for a substantial public benefit. Local governments may choose to designate a bank as the depository for local government funds through an ordinance or a resolution, which also designates a fixed interest rate for the local government that is at or below the posted two-year certificate of deposit rate at the bank.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Banks & Banking	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass

#### SB 376 Identity Theft; consumer credit reporting agencies charging a fee for placing/removing a security freeze; prohibit

Bill Summary: This legislation prohibits credit reporting agencies from charging a fee for placing or removing a security freeze on a consumer's account.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. David Shafer (48th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Banks & Banking	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass

### Code Revision Committee

#### SB 365 Code Revision Commission; statutory portion of said Code; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions in and reenact

Bill Summary: This bill is the annual Code Revision clean-up bill. It amends the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to revise, modernize, and correct errors or omissions. The bill reflects the work of the Code Revision Commission to repeal portions of the Code which have become obsolete, unconstitutional, or preempted or superseded by subsequent laws. Lastly, the bill provides for other matters relating to revision, reenactment, and publication of the Code.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Code Revision	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass

### Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

#### SB 355 Nuclear Generating Plant; recovery of the costs of financing the construction; provisions; change

Bill Summary: This bill amends O.C.G.A. 46-2-25 so that a utility shall recover the financing costs associated with constructing a nuclear power plant from its customers if the plant has been certified by the Public Service Commission prior to January 1, 2018.

**Authored By:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
**House** Energy, Utilities &  
**Committee:** Telecommunications  
**Committee** 03-12-2018 Do Pass  
**Action:**

**SB 396 Telephone System For Physically Impaired; state-wide dual party relay service and audible universal information access service; change provisions**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 396 relates to telephone systems for the physically impaired. It changes the provisions related to the systems to include wireless devices and applications among the telecommunications equipment distributed as part of the telecommunications distribution program.

**Authored By:** Sen. David Shafer (48th)  
**House** Energy, Utilities &  
**Committee:** Telecommunications  
**Committee** 03-12-2018 Do Pass  
**Action:**

## Health & Human Services Committee

**SB 364 Delegation of Authority to Physician Assistants; higher supervisory ratio; completed a board approve anesthesiologist assistant program; authorize**

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes a higher supervisory ratio for physician assistants who have completed a board-approved anesthesiologist assistant program. No primary supervising physician shall have more than eight physician assistants who have completed a board-approved anesthesiologist assistant program licensed to him or her at a time.

**Authored By:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
**House** Health & Human Services  
**Committee:**  
**Committee** 03-12-2018 Do Pass  
**Action:**

**SB 370 Medical Assistance; commissioner of human services waives the first \$25,000 of any estate; provide**

Bill Summary: This bill requires, no later than July 1, 2018, the Department of Community Health shall submit a state plan amendment to waive the first \$25,000 value of any estate to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In the event that such amendment to the state plan is not approved, this change shall stand repealed in its entirety.

**Authored By:** Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)  
**House** Health & Human Services  
**Committee:**  
**Committee** 03-12-2018 Do Pass  
**Action:**

## Insurance Committee

**SB 8 "Surprise Billing and Consumer Protection Act"; health insurance; provide consumer protections; definitions**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 8 is designed to bring transparency to the process of medical billing. It prevents the "surprise" bill patients receive when an out-of-network doctor participates in the treatment team for an elective procedure. The bill requires hospitals, healthcare providers and insurers to disclose to patients which doctors in their treatment team are or are not part of their insurance network. Further, it requires the disclosure of the cost for the out-of-network care. The elements of this bill do not apply to emergency care or any care that arises due to a complication during an elective procedure. In the event a surprise bill does arise as a result of complications during a procedure, the legislation provides for a dispute resolution process.

**Authored By:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
**House** Insurance  
**Committee:**  
**Committee** 03-12-2018 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute

**SB 118 Autism; age limit for coverage for autism spectrum disorders for an individual covered under a policy or contract; change**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 118 increases the age of coverage for the treatment of Autism Spectrum disorders from six-years to 20-years old and the limit on coverage from \$30,000 per year to \$35,000 per year.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
<b>House Committee:</b>	Insurance		

**Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee****HB 1021 Pulaski County; Office of Commissioner of Roads and Revenues; provide for filling of vacancies**

Bill Summary: This bill provides for the filling of vacancies in the Pulaski County Commissioner of Roads and Revenues office.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Buddy Harden (148th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

**HB 1022 Coffee County; Board of Education; revise provisions regarding filling of vacancies**

Bill Summary: This bill revises the provisions regarding the filling of vacancies on the Coffee County Board of Education.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

**HB 1023 Camden County; Joint Board of Elections and Registration; create**

Bill Summary: This bill creates a Board of Elections and Registration for Camden County.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Jason Spencer (180th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

**HB 1024 Glennville, City of; provide new charter**

Bill Summary: This bill provides a new charter for the City of Glennville.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. William Werkheiser (157th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

**HB 1025 Jesup, City of; levy an excise tax**

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the governing authority of the City of Jesup to levy an excise tax.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. William Werkheiser (157th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2018 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

**HB 1028 Spalding County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption**

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

**Authored By:** Rep. David Knight (130th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local      **Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**HB 1030 Douglasville, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for referendum**

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the City of Douglasville to exercise all redevelopment and other powers found under Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VII(b) of the Georgia Constitution and Chapter 44 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A.

**Authored By:** Rep. Roger Bruce (61st)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local      **Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**HB 1031 Villa Rica, City of; provide new charter**

Bill Summary: This bill provides a new charter for the City of Villa Rica.

**Authored By:** Rep. J. Collins (68th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local      **Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**HB 1033 Barrow County; commission to study whether such county and all municipal corporations should be reconstituted as a single consolidated government; provide referendum**

Bill Summary: This bill provides for a non-binding, advisory referendum to determine whether an independent commission should be created to study whether Barrow County and the municipalities located within Barrow County should be reconstituted as a single consolidated government.

**Authored By:** Rep. Terry England (116th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local      **Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**HB 1034 Tallulah Falls, Town of; town council; change certain provisions**

Bill Summary: This bill changes the provisions relating to quorum, voting, and special meetings of the Town of Tallulah Falls Town Council.

**Authored By:** Rep. Dan Gasaway (28th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local      **Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**HB 1035 Muscogee County; Magistrate Court to impose and collect county law library fees; authorize**

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the Muscogee County Magistrate Court to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs.

**Authored By:** Rep. Calvin Smyre (135th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local      **Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**HB 1036 Fulton County; Superior Court; tax parcel identification number be included on documents recorded in real property records; require**

Bill Summary: This bill states the Fulton County Superior Court Clerk shall require that tax parcel identification number information shall be included on documents recorded in the real property

records of the clerk.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chuck Martin (49th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**SB 398 Board of Education of Talbot County; compensation of the members; provide**

Bill Summary: This bill states each member of the Talbot County Board of Education shall be compensated \$200 for each day of attendance at meetings of the board and while meeting and traveling within or outside the state as a member of the board on official business.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**SB 440 City of Soperton; certain tracts or parcels of land; annex; description of the council districts; change**

Bill Summary: This bill annexes certain parcels of land into the City of Soperton and changes the description of the council districts.

**Authored By:** Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

## Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**SB 327 Death Investigations; medical examiner's inquiry is required to be conducted; clarify**

Bill Summary: SB 327 gives the option to coroners to order a medical examiner's inquiry when there is no suspicion concerning a death that has happened unattended by a physician.

**Authored By:** Sen. John Albers (56th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 336 Georgia Bureau of Investigation; general provisions; subpoena issued for production of electronic communication; not provide notice to the subscriber**

Bill Summary: SB 336 prohibits the provider of electronic communication services from notifying a subscriber that the provider has been issued a subpoena concerning the subscriber's usage of the electronic communication service regarding minors. In addition, SB 336 allows for certain 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.

**Authored By:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 369 Revenues Collected from Fines and Fees; payments to Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; fees collected in criminal and quasi-criminal cases prior to adjudication of guilt; provide**

Bill Summary: SB 369 authorizes the clerk of court to collect a \$5.00 fee when an individual enrolls in a pretrial diversion program, and to submit those monies to the secretary-treasurer of the Peace Officer's Annuity and Benefit Fund.

**Authored By:** Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**SR 774 Joint Study Committee on Adoption Expenses; create**

Bill Summary: SR 774 creates a joint study committee to investigate adoption expenses in Georgia.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 Do Pass

**Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee**

**SB 368 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; functions and authority; add**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 368 extends the function and authority of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to include providing technical support and assistance for grant writing to local law enforcement agencies to enhance effectiveness when the council finds that such local law enforcement agency would otherwise lack access to adequate technical support and assistance. Grant writing assistance includes but is not limited to, grants for equipment, training, or other official local agency needs.

**Authored By:** Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security  
**Committee Action:** 03-12-2018 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](http://www.house.ga.gov) and click on [Meetings Calendar](#).*

### Tuesday, March 13, 2018

8:30 AM	<a href="#">Governmental Affairs Special Subcommittee on Voting Technology</a>	406 CLOB
9:00 AM	<a href="#">SPECIAL RULES</a>	506 CLOB
10:00 AM	<a href="#">MOTOR VEHICLES</a>	515 CLOB
10:30 AM	<a href="#">Ways &amp; Means Subcommittee on Public Finance and Policy</a>	133 CAP
1:30 PM	<a href="#">Reeves Subcommittee of Judiciary (Non-Civil)</a>	415 CLOB
2:00 PM	<a href="#">Game, Fish and Parks Subcommittee</a>	403 CAP
2:00 PM	<a href="#">Kelley Subcommittee of Judiciary (Civil)</a>	132 CAP
2:30 PM	<a href="#">GAME, FISH AND PARKS</a>	403 CAP
3:00 PM	<a href="#">ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS</a>	403 CAP