



Georgia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday
February 26,
2020

DAILY REPORT

19th
Legislative
Day

House Budget & Research Office
(404) 656-5050

- The House will reconvene for its 20th Legislative Day on Thursday, February 27 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Rules Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- Five bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

Today on the Floor

Rules Calendar

HB 521 Professions and businesses; temporary licenses for dentists licensed in other states to provide dental care to indigent populations in this state; authorize

Bill Summary: House Bill 521 authorizes temporary licenses for dentists and dental hygienists who are licensed in other states to provide dental care to indigent populations in Georgia.

Authored By: Rep. Houston Gaines (117th)
House Committee: Health & Human Services
Floor Vote: Yeas: 161 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-20-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 799 Motor vehicles; prohibition regarding eligibility of certain violators to receive early reinstatement of their driver's licenses and limited driving permits; repeal

Bill Summary: HB 799 brings driving under the influence of controlled substances and marijuana in line with driving under the influence of alcohol by giving the trial judge the discretion to reinstate a driving license early or allow for a limited driving permit.

Authored By: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 159 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-21-2020 Do Pass
Amendments:

HB 893 Special Insurance Fraud Fund; frequency of assessments; reduce

Bill Summary: House Bill 893 reduces the frequency of Special Insurance Fraud Fund assessments from quarterly to annually.

Authored By: Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th)
House Committee: Insurance
Floor Vote: Yeas: 164 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-19-2020 Do Pass
Amendments:

Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules

The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 20th Legislative Day, Thursday, February 27, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Thursday, February 27, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 21st Legislative Day.

HB 378 Revenue and taxation; collection and remittance of excise taxes on rental motor vehicles by marketplace facilitators that are dealers that facilitate the rental or lease of five or more rental motor vehicles; require

Bill Summary: House Bill 378 amends O.C.G.A. 48-13-91 and 48-13-93, relating to excise taxes on rental motor vehicles. The definition of "rental motor vehicle concern" is expanded to include rental motor vehicle facilitators. Rental motor vehicles facilitators are dealers that are required to collect and remit sales tax as a marketplace facilitator for facilitating the rental of five or more motor vehicles. The definition expansion requires the motor vehicle facilitators to collect and remit the local excise taxes due on the rental of motor vehicles.

Authoring By:	Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House	Ways & Means	Committee	02-20-2020 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute

HB 808 Alternative ad valorem tax; motor vehicles; revise a definition

Bill Summary: House Bill 808 amends the definition of "loaner vehicle" by allowing vehicles owned by a dealer to remain exempt from the Title Ad Valorem Tax for up to 45 days when the vehicle is used as a loaner vehicle.

Authoring By:	Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Transportation	Committee	02-20-2020 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute

HB 838 Law enforcement officers and agencies; Office of Public Safety Officer Support; change the name

Bill Summary: House Bill 838 renames the recently established Office of Public Safety Officer Support at the Department of Public Safety to the Office of Public Safety Support.

Authoring By:	Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Open
House	Public Safety & Homeland Security	Committee	02-24-2020 Do Pass
Committee:		Action:	

HB 846 Revenue and taxation; interest paid on refunds of overpayments of taxes and past due taxes shall be equal to the bank prime loan rate; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 846 adds a new Code Section at 48-8-49.1, which establishes and defines the direct pay reporting program. The program allows a taxpayer to accrue and pay directly to the department the sales and use taxes owed. To qualify, a taxpayer must purchase more than \$2 million of tangible personal property per year, average purchases of tangible personal property of over \$2 million per year for the past three years, or meet a lower spending threshold prescribed by the department and be classified in one of nine industry codes.

The interest on overpayments of sales taxes by a taxpayer with a direct payment permit shall begin to accrue on the date an amended return or a refund claim is filed. The bill also sets the interest earned on overpayment and due on underpayment of taxes at the Federal Reserve System's bank prime loan rate and allows the affected political subdivision to choose to make payments over a period of time equal to or less than the amount of time subject to the claim.

Authoring By:	Rep. John Corbett (174th)	Rule Applied:	Structured
House	Ways & Means	Committee	02-20-2020 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute

HB 861 Motor vehicles; commercial carriers; amend certain definitions

Bill Summary: House Bill 861 revises the definition of a commercial motor vehicle to include vehicles that are used only in intrastate commerce or only in interstate commerce.

Authored By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th)
House Committee: Motor Vehicles

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 02-21-2020 Do Pass

Committee Actions

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

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

HB 894 Seed Development Commission; stagger terms of members

Bill Summary: House Bill 894 staggers the terms for members of the Seed Development Commission. To do so, the initial terms for members appointed by May 31, 2020 are changed as follows: the governor's two new appointees shall serve a single four-year term; the lieutenant governor's appointee shall serve a single five-year term; the speaker of the House's appointee shall serve a single five-year term. Initial terms for members appointed by May 31, 2021 are changed as follows: two new appointees, one chosen by the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee and one chosen by the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, shall serve a single six-year term; the commissioner of Agriculture's new appointee shall serve a single five-year term; and the dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia's new appointee shall serve a single five-year term. The successors to each of these initial appointees shall serve four-year term.

Authored By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th)
House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Committee Action: 02-26-2020 Do Pass

HB 897 State Forestry Commission; create a standing timber notification website; require

Bill Summary: HB 897 requires the State Forestry Commission to begin creating a website by July 1, 2020 for persons or firms harvesting standing timber to use as uniform system of notification to local governing authorities. The State Forestry Commission must provide notice of when the website is operational. Within 19 months of becoming operational, the State Forestry Commission shall set a date upon which use by persons or firms harvesting timber for notification purposes is mandatory.

Standing timber harvesting entities shall maintain a bond or letter of credit to protect the county or municipality against any damage that requires the restoration of a ditch structure, the removal of harvesting residue placed in or around rights-of-way, or the repair of county or municipal roads. A county or municipality has 30 days to provide a written claim of damage to the harvesting firm, at which time the harvesting firm has 30 days to do one of the following: request an extension of no more than 90 days to account for inclement weather; repair the damage at their own expense with the approval of the governing body; or appeal the written claim to the magistrate court of the county. If a bond or letter of credit is revoked, the harvesting entity has five business days to obtain a new bond or letter of credit. The governing authority may increase the required bond or letter of credit amount by \$2,500 for each instance of revocation, up to \$10,000 of the original bond or letter of credit.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Committee Action: 02-26-2020 Do Pass

HB 928 Fair Business Practices Act of 1975; requirements for solicitations of services for filings required by the Secretary of State; provide

Bill Summary: HB 928 requires any person who mails a solicitation for services related to corporate filings to include the following disclaimer at the top of the document in 16-point Helvetica font: "THIS IS NOT A BILL OR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT. THIS IS A SOLICITATION." The disclaimer must be both larger than and two inches from any other text in the solicitation. Any violation of this provision shall be considered an unfair and deceptive act.

Authored By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th)
House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Committee Action: 02-26-2020 Do Pass

HB 937 Local government; regulate certain building products and construction practices for single-family dwellings; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 937 states that no local ordinance, resolution, or rule may prohibit the use of any product, material, or construction practice approved for use under O.C.G.A. 8-5 in single-family dwellings. The bill includes exceptions for structures located in a historic district as designated by either the 'Georgia Historic Preservation Act' or the National Register of Historic Places. HB 937 allows for local ordinances or regulations that are consistent with the 'Uniform Standards Codes for Manufactured Homes Act', are a requirement of a local amendment to the state minimum standard codes, or are a condition of participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Authored By: Rep. Vance Smith (133rd)
House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Committee Action: 02-26-2020 Do Pass

HB 966 Conservation and natural resources; regulate the harvest and sale of palmetto berries

Bill Summary: HB 966 provides for the harvest and sale of saw palmetto berries. A saw palmetto berry seller must obtain a certificate of harvest from a landowner indicating permission for harvest to sell to a saw palmetto berry dealer. A saw palmetto berry dealer that purchases berries directly from a landowner must obtain a certificate of harvest from the landowner. Any person that participates in the procurement of saw palmetto berries shall maintain a legible record of all activities and purchase transactions for no less than two years from the date of harvest.

Law enforcement or the director of the State Forestry Commission may issue an order to stop harvest, sale, or use if there is an indication that an individual is in violation of the provisions for the harvest and sale of saw palmetto berries. The berries must be released if proof of the requirements being met are provided to law enforcement or the director. If the violation is upheld by the superior court of the county in which the saw palmetto berries are found, the berries shall be destroyed.

The following violations are considered misdemeanors that may be punished by a fine of no more than \$1,000: the sale of saw palmetto berries to a berry dealer or seller without first obtaining a certificate of harvest; the harvest of saw palmetto berries without obtaining a certificate of harvest from the landowner; the purchase of saw palmetto berries without obtaining a landowner's certificate of harvest; or knowingly possessing saw palmetto berries that were harvested illegally. A person that knowingly purchases or sells saw palmetto berries valued at less than \$1,500 without a landowner's certificate of harvest may be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by either or both a fine equal to the value of the berries and/or up to one year imprisonment. If the value of the saw palmetto berries exchanged exceeds \$1,500, the person that knowingly purchased or sold the berries may be punished by either or both a fine equal to the value of the berries, up to \$5,000, and imprisonment of up to three years.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Committee Action: 02-26-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Interstate Cooperation Committee**HR 1240 Federal government; allow states to switch to permanent Daylight Saving Time; urge**

Bill Summary: House Resolution 1240 urges the federal government to allow states to switch permanently to Daylight Saving Time.

Authored By: Rep. Wesley Cantrell (22nd)
House Committee: Interstate Cooperation
Committee Action: 02-26-2020 Do Pass

Juvenile Justice Committee

HB 913 Domestic relations; protection of children; strengthen, clarify, and update provisions

Bill Summary: HB 913 clarifies and refines the Code regarding statutory adoption provisions. The bill clarifies the venue alternatives when a child is placed for adoption with an out-of-state resident. The exception to the general venue rule applies when a child is placed in accordance with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), or when the petitioner is a resident of another country. HB 913 reduces the statutory age at which a person is allowed to petition for adoption from 25 to 21 years old. The bill clarifies that adoption petitioners are not subject to the requirements of the ICPC when the ICPC's relative exception applies, or when the petitioners are residents of another country. Moreover, the bill clarifies the deadline for submitting a revocation be delivered by registered mail or by statutory overnight delivery.

HB 913 authorizes use of certified mail with return receipt requested to effect service upon a parent when state law does not require a surrender or termination of parental rights, or when state law authorizes the termination of a parent's rights based on certain circumstances. The bill allows the required search of the putative father registry after the adoption petition is filed and the results to be attached as an amendment to the petition. The bill requires the petition for adoption to request the appointment of an investigator to verify the allegations in the adoption petition if the court fails to appoint one. HB 913 creates a presumption that a nonresident petitioner can appear for the final hearing via electronic means if the petition for adoption is uncontested.

HB 913 creates a civil cause of action as a tort claim under Georgia law to address adoption scams where individuals intentionally misrepresent a pregnancy or intention to place a child for adoption when the individual is not pregnant or has no intention of placing a child for adoption and no money has been obtained by the individual, but the potential adoptive parents have expended money based on the misrepresentation.

Finally, the bill incorporates these changes into statutorily-prescribed adoption forms.

Authored By: Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)
House Juvenile Justice
Committee:

Committee 02-26-2020 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

State Properties Committee

HR 1094 Property; granting of non-exclusive easements; authorize

Bill Summary: HR 1094 authorizes the granting of non-exclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads, and ingress and egress in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through property owned by the state of Georgia in the counties of Barrow, Calhoun, Chatham, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Crisp, Dougherty, Douglas, McIntosh, Muscogee, Paulding, Polk, and Richmond, as follows:

Article 1 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.75 of an acre in Barrow County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground electrical transmission lines and associated equipment that will serve the recreation fields at Fort Yargo State Park-Victor Lord Park for \$10.

Article 2 grants an easement to Diverse Power or its successors and assigns over approximately 4.94 acres in Calhoun and Dougherty Counties under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground electrical transmission lines and associated equipment to serve new shooting range at Chickasawhatchee Wildlife Management Area for \$10.

Article 3 grants an easement to Atlanta Gas Light or its successors and assigns over approximately 1.128 acres in Chatham County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground natural gas lines and associated equipment to serve Hutchinson Island across the Savannah River for \$66,400.

Article 4 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.21 of an acre in Cherokee County under the custody of the Department of Human Services for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical transmission lines and associated equipment to serve the new Department of Family and Children Services and Division of Child Support Services Building for \$10.

Article 5 grants an easement to Clayton County or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.89 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Agriculture for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of waterline, sewer line, and water vaults to serve the Atlanta State Farmers Market for \$10.

Article 6 grants an easement to Atlanta Gas Light or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.02 of an acre in Cobb County under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground gas distribution lines to serve the Marietta Campus of Chattahoochee Technical College for \$10.

Article 7 grants an easement to Bridgeline Capital, LLC or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.326 of an acre in Cobb County under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground sanitary sewer lines to serve their new development at the Marietta Campus of Chattahoochee Technical College for \$8,900.

Article 8 grants an easement to Crisp County Power Commission or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.75 of an acre in Crisp County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground fiber optic line to serve a new telecommunication tower at Georgia Veterans State Park for \$10.

Article 9 grants an easement to Southern Fiberworks or its successors and assigns over approximately 9.11 acres in Crisp County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground fiber optic cable to serve park facilities at Georgia Veterans State Park for \$10.

Article 10 grants an easement to Greystone Power Corporation or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.16 of an acre in Douglas County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground electrical transmission line and associated equipment to serve new restroom building at Sweetwater Creek State Park for \$10.

Article 11 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.009 of an acre in McIntosh County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground transmission line and associated equipment to serve new host site at Fort King George State Park for \$10.

Article 12 grants an easement to the City of Darien or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.009 of an acre in McIntosh County under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground sanitation line and associated equipment to serve new host site at Fort King George State Park for \$10.

Article 13 grants an easement to Columbus Consolidated Government or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.12 of an acre in Muscogee County under the custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigations for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a sanitary sewer line to serve the Columbus Crime Laboratory Campus for \$10.

Article 14 grants an easement to Ronald Collum or its successors and assigns over approximately 1.19 acres in Paulding and Polk Counties under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural

Resources for ingress egress in exchange for Ronald Collum to convey an old access easement to the State, along with three additional access easement totaling approximately 2.51 acres at Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area.

Article 15 grants an easement to the Hale Foundation, Inc. or its successors and assigns over approximately 0.25 of an acre in Richmond County under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, operation and maintenance of an access easement for ingress egress over Augusta Technical College for fair market value not less than \$650.

Authored By:	Rep. Gerald Greene (151st)	Committee	02-26-2020 Do Pass
House	State Properties	Action:	
Committee:			

HR 1167 Property; conveyance of certain state owned real property; authorize

Bill Summary: HR 1167 is a conveyance resolution for properties located in six counties, conveying property owned by the state of Georgia or amending those conveyances, as follows:

Article 1 authorizes a purchase option and conveys 2.203 acres of property in Fulton County, located in Land Lots 77 and 78 of the 14th District of Fulton County, to CNN Center Ventures for the consideration of \$18,800,000.

Article 2 surpluses approximately 2.066 acres of improved real property in Glynn County, being a portion, commonly known as the former Georgia Air National Guard Site, under the custody of the Department of Defense, to a local government or State entity for a consideration of \$10 so long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity.

Article 3 leases approximately 14.6 acres, being a portion of the New Echota Historic Site at 143 Craigtown Rd., City of Calhoun, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, to the Calhoun Elks Home, Inc. for a term of 10 years with two five-year renewal options for fair market value.

Article 4 removes a deed restriction over approximately 4.01 acres of improved property, commonly known as Courthouse Square in Muscogee County, for \$10.

Article 5 conveys approximately 0.191 of an acre, being a portion of the Paulding Campus of Chattahoochee Technical College, under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to Paulding County for the Dallas Battlefield Trail for \$10.

Article 6 leases approximately 59,360 square feet of the Paulding Youth Detention Center, under the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, at 538 Industrial Blvd. N., City of Dallas to Wellspring Living, Inc. for a term of five years with two five-year renewal options for \$10 annually and the requirement that Wellspring Living, Inc. operate the building exclusively on behalf of the Department of Juvenile Justice's mission as a receiving center.

Article 7 conveys approximately 0.076 of an acre, being a portion of the Dillard Apple House, under the custody of the Department of Agriculture, to the Georgia Department of Transportation for a total consideration of \$6,200, being comprised of \$4,125 in fee and \$2,025 for cost to cure.

Article 8 conveys approximately 0.131 of an acre, being a portion of the Dillard Farmers Market, under the custody of the Department of Agriculture, to the Georgia Department of Transportation for a total consideration of \$10,300.

Article 9 conveys approximately 25 acres of improved property, known as the Hooks-Hanner Environmental Resource Center, under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, for \$10 so long as the property is used for public purpose in perpetuity and subject to a lease-back of approximately 844 square foot portion of the 5,348 square foot office building along with approximately 4,750 square foot storage warehouse building for a term of 10 years with an option to renew for another 10 years for the consideration of \$10 annually.

Authored By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st)
House Committee: State Properties

Committee Action: 02-26-2020 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, February 27, 2020

8:00 AM	Environmental Quality Subcommittee of Natural Resources and Environment	606 CLOB
8:00 AM	GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	506 CLOB
9:00 AM	RULES	341 CAP
1:00 PM	Reeves Subcommittee of Judiciary Non-Civil	515 CLOB
1:00 PM	EDUCATION	606 CLOB
2:00 PM	Alcohol and Tobacco Subcommittee of Regulated Industries	605 CLOB
2:00 PM	Port and Local Government Subcommittee of Transportation	506 CLOB
3:00 PM	SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE	341 CAP
3:00 PM	WAYS AND MEANS	606 CLOB
3:00 PM	WORKING GROUP ON CREATIVE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT	403 CAP