



Georgia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday
June 18,
2020

DAILY REPORT

33rd
Legislative
Day

House Budget & Research Office
(404) 656-5050

- The House will reconvene for its 34th Legislative Day on Friday, June 19 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Rules Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- One bill / resolution is expected to be debated on the floor.

Today on the Floor

Rules Calendar

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

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

Authored By: Sen. Lee Anderson (24th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 152 Nays: 9

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

SB 295 Courts and Revenue and Taxation; cost-of-living and general performance based increases; revise

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 295 provides that the minimum salary schedules for specified constitutional officers will not be increased by state cost-of-living or performance-based raises that went into effect prior to January 1, 2020.

Authored By: Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)
House Committee: Governmental Affairs
Floor Vote: Yeas: 159 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

SB 372 Public Health; provisions; modernize, clarify, and update; certain councils and committees; eliminate

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 372 modernizes various provisions relating to public health. The bill allows first responders to purchase Naloxone, adds the duty of raising awareness of women's reproductive health issues for the Office of Women's Health, and increases the number of years before the records of a deceased citizen are transferred to state archives to from 100 to 125 years from the time of birth.

Authored By: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)
House Committee: Health & Human Services
Floor Vote: Yeas: 157 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 06-16-2020 Do Pass
Amendments:

SB 377 Inspections; number of required annual elevator inspections; reduce

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 377 changes the time requirement of elevator inspections from six months to 12 months.

Authored By: Sen. Burt Jones (25th)
House Committee: Insurance
Floor Vote: Yeas: 134 Nays: 27

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 06-17-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

Postponed Until Next Legislative Day**SB 249 Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; amount of monthly dues paid; increase; amounts collected from fines; revise**

Bill Summary: SB 249 allows jail officers who are certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to become members of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The monthly member contribution increases from \$20 to \$25 per month. The benefit increases from \$17.50 to \$25.15 for each full year of creditable service on July 1, 2020, and automatically increases to \$30 per month for each year of creditable service on July 1, 2021. SB 249 revises the fee structure for forfeited and collected bonds in any quasi-criminal case from a graduated fine to the greater of \$10 or 10 percent. The bill also revises fees collected before pretrial diversion in any quasi-criminal case to \$5 or five percent, whichever is greater. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation determines the first-year cost is \$13,798,000, with an estimated total cost to the fund of \$27,838,000; however, the new fee structure generates \$29,772,000 in revenue, and the fund will continue to meet minimum funding standards.

Authored By: Sen. John Albers (56th)

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured

Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules

The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 34th Legislative Day, Friday, June 19, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Friday, June 19, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 35th Legislative Day.

SB 249 Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; amount of monthly dues paid; increase; amounts collected from fines; revise

Bill Summary: SB 249 allows jail officers who are certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to become members of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The monthly member contribution increases from \$20 to \$25 per month. The benefit increases from \$17.50 to \$25.15 for each full year of creditable service on July 1, 2020, and automatically increases to \$30 per month for each year of creditable service on July 1, 2021. SB 249 revises the fee structure for forfeited and collected bonds in any quasi-criminal case from a graduated fine to the greater of \$10 or 10 percent. The bill also revises fees collected before pretrial diversion in any quasi-criminal case to \$5 or five percent, whichever is greater. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation determines the first-year cost is \$13,798,000, with an estimated total cost to the fund of \$27,838,000; however, the new fee structure generates \$29,772,000 in revenue, and the fund will continue to meet minimum funding standards.

Authored By: Sen. John Albers (56th)
House Retirement
Committee:

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 06-16-2020 Do Pass
Action:

Committee Actions

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

Code Revision Committee

SB 429 Code Revision Commission; statutory portion of said Code; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions in, and reenact

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 429 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 that 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.

Authored By:	Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)	Committee	06-18-2020 Do Pass
House	Code Revision	Action:	
Committee:			

Insurance Committee

SB 28 Insurance; imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or office visit charge in an amount greater than charges imposed for physician; prohibit

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 28 establishes additional criteria for co-payments in certain health benefit plans. The bill adds a provision requiring co-payments to: be reasonable in relation to the covered benefits to which they apply; must serve as an incentive rather than a barrier to access appropriate care; and must not unfairly deny necessary health care services.

Authored By:	Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)	Committee	06-18-2020 Do Pass
House	Insurance	Action:	
Committee:			

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

HB 1163 Randolph County; board of education; change compensation of members

Bill Summary: House Bill 1163 changes the compensation of the Randolph County Board of Education members. Board members, excluding the chairperson, shall receive \$300 per month, while the chairperson will receive \$350 per month.

Authored By:	Rep. Gerald Greene (151st)	Committee	06-18-2020 Do Pass
House	Intragovernmental Coordination -	Action:	
Committee:	Local		

HB 1166 Fayette County; school district ad valorem tax; provide new homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 1166 provides a new homestead exemption, which has the effect of a valuation freeze, from Fayette County School District ad valorem taxes.

Authored By:	Rep. Josh Bonner (72nd)	Committee	06-18-2020 Do Pass
House	Intragovernmental Coordination -	Action:	
Committee:	Local		

HB 1167 Atlanta, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide new homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 1167 provides a new homestead exemption from city of Atlanta ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$30,000 for each resident of Atlanta who holds real property subject to a written lease having an initial term of not less than 99 years with a

landlord that is an entity exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code and who owns all improvements located on the real property.

Authored By: Rep. Park Cannon (58th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1169 Shellman, City of; filling vacancies on the city council; revise provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 1169 revises provisions for filling vacancies on the Shellman City Council.

Authored By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1170 Newton County; certain officers; provide method of calculating annual compensation

Bill Summary: House Bill 1170 provides the method for calculating the annual compensation for the Newton County sheriff, tax commissioner, judge of the probate court, the clerk of superior court, and the chairman of the board of commissioners.

Authored By: Rep. Pam Dickerson (113th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1171 Newton County; dissolve Recreation Commission; authorize

Bill Summary: House Bill 1171 authorizes Newton County to dissolve the Newton County Recreation Commission.

Authored By: Rep. Pam Dickerson (113th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1173 Bluffton, City of; mayor can vote to provide a majority on city council; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 1173 provides that the mayor of the city of Bluffton can vote on the city council to provide a majority.

Authored By: Rep. Gerald Greene (151st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1174 Newton County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 1174 creates the Newton County Public Facilities Authority and provides for the appointment of members to the authority.

Authored By: Rep. Pam Dickerson (113th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1175 Port Wentworth, City of; provide new charter

Bill Summary: House Bill 1175 provides a new charter for the city of Port Wentworth.

Authored By: Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1176 Mountain Park, City of; new term for a city council seat; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 1176 provides a new term for a Mountain Park City Council seat.

Authored By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1177 Jefferson, City of; independent school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 1177 amends a city of Jefferson independent school system homestead exemption by requiring yearly income statements to continue to receiving the exemption.

Authored By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1178 Commerce, City of; independent school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 1178 amends a city of Commerce independent school district homestead exemption by requiring yearly income statements to continue to receive the exemption.

Authored By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1179 Jackson County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 1179 amends a Jackson County school district homestead exemption by requiring yearly income statements to the tax commissioner to continue to receive the exemption.

Authored By: Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1180 Chattooga County; Board of Education; election of members; repeal amendment

Bill Summary: House Bill 1180 repeals the local amendment to the state constitution for the election of members of the Chattooga County Board of Education.

Authored By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1181 Johnson County; Board of Education; change compensation of members

Bill Summary: House Bill 1181 changes the compensation of the members of the Johnson County Board of Education. Each member, except for the chair, shall receive a \$200 per diem, while the chairperson shall receive a \$250 per diem for each day of attendance at meetings of the board and while meeting and traveling as a member of a committee of the board on official business first authorized by a majority of the board.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Hatchett (150th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1182 Hall County Family Connection Network; repeal an Act

Bill Summary: House Bill 1182 repeals an act creating the Hall County Family Connection Network.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Dubnik (29th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1183 Pine Mountain, Town of; levy an excise tax

Bill Summary: House Bill 1183 authorizes the governing authority of the town of Pine Mountain to levy an excise tax.

Authored By: Rep. Vance Smith (133rd)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1189 Hall County Commission for Children and Families; repeal an Act

Bill Summary: House Bill 1189 repeals an act creating the Hall County Commission for Children and Families.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Dubnik (29th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1191 Bacon County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees

Bill Summary: House Bill 1191 authorizes the Bacon County Magistrate Court to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1192 Pierce County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees

Bill Summary: House Bill 1192 authorizes the Pierce County Magistrate Court to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1193 Brantley County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees

Bill Summary: House Bill 1193 authorizes the Brantley County Magistrate Court to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1194 Ware County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees

Bill Summary: House Bill 1194 authorizes the Ware County Magistrate Court to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1196 Coffee County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees

Bill Summary: House Bill 1196 authorizes the Coffee County Magistrate Court to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1197 Charlton County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees

Bill Summary: House Bill 1197 authorizes the Charlton County Magistrate Court to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1198 Hart County; ad valorem tax; increase amount of homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 1198 amends a Hart County homestead exemption by increasing the amount of the county exemption for residents 65 and older from \$10,000 to \$15,000 of the assessed value of that homestead.

Authored By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1199 Franklin County; ad valorem tax; increase amount of homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 1199 amends a Franklin County homestead exemption for both county and educational purposes by raising the exemption amount to \$20,000 of the assessed value.

Authored By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1200 Wilcox County; board of elections and registration; provide for hiring of employees

Bill Summary: House Bill 1200 provides for the hiring of employees for the Wilcox County Board of Elections and Registration, including an election supervisor, by the county manager.

Authored By: Rep. Noel Williams (148th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1201 Fulton County; reconstitute board of elections and registration; provisions

Bill Summary: House Bill 1201 reconstitutes and reestablishes the Fulton County Board of Elections and Registration.

Authored By: Rep. Josh McLaurin (51st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1202 Fulton County; board of elections and registration; provide for abolition of the board on a date certain

Bill Summary: House Bill 1202 provides for the abolition of the Fulton County Board of Elections and Registration on July 31, 2020.

Authored By: Rep. Josh McLaurin (51st)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1215 City of Fayetteville Community Improvement Districts Act; enact

Bill Summary: House Bill 1215 provides for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in Fayetteville City.

Authored By: Rep. Derrick Jackson (64th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1216 Union City; City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

Bill Summary: House Bill 1216 provides a \$2,000 homestead exemption from Union City ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Derrick Jackson (64th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

HB 1218 Hart County; Board of Education; revise compensation of members

Bill Summary: House Bill 1218 revises the compensation of the Hart County Board of Education members. Each member of the board shall receive \$200 per month for attendance at meetings of the board, while the chair shall receive \$250 per month. Additionally, each member shall receive \$139 for each day of attendance at planning and training sessions; however, such compensation shall be limited to no more than five calendar days each year.

Authored By: Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

SB 490 City of Cartersville; ad valorem taxes for educational purposes; increase the amount

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 490 increases a \$28,000 homestead exemption to \$60,000 from city of Cartersville ad valorem taxes for education purposes for each resident who is 65 or older or who is totally disabled. The act is automatically repealed on December 31, 2027.

Authored By: Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)
House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

Judiciary Committee**HR 1525 House Study Committee on Remote Online Notarization; create**

Bill Summary: HR 1525 creates the House Study Committee on Remote Online Notarization. The speaker will appoint five members of the House to the committee and shall designate one member as the chairperson. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

Authored By: Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th)
House Committee: Judiciary
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

Judiciary Non-Civil Committee**SB 344 Witness or Criminal Defendant; certain proceedings conducted by video conference; requirements; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 344 provides that prisoners and crime lab employees may appear for certain court proceedings via video conference; however, these do not include criminal proceedings outside of pretrial and post-sentencing matters.

When a prisoner will attend a proceeding digitally and a party intends to introduce testimony, the party must give written notice to the opposing counsel within 10 days of the hearing. Opposing counsel may object in writing any time after being given notice, but at least five days before the hearing. Upon objection, a judge may require the prisoner to appear in person. The state will then determine the prisoner's availability to testify and if the prisoner is found to be unavailable, the court may grant a continuance. The court retains the ability to order a defendant's personal appearance for any hearing.

For both prisoners and crime lab employees appearing digitally, accommodations must be made to preserve the attorney-client privilege. A private means of communication must be provided when a defendant and defense counsel are in different locations. Records of any digital proceeding will be made in the same manner as non-digital proceedings. Upon consent of the parties, digital proceedings may be recorded by an audio-video recording system and the recording becomes part of the record. Minimum requirements are provided for the video conferencing systems to be utilized.

Authored By: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

SB 435 "The Debbie Vance Act"; court imposing sentence may grant the relief of vacatur for convictions and sentences of defendants; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 435, 'The First Survivors Act', provides relief to proven victims of human trafficking from sentencing and punishment for crimes committed while being trafficked.

A defendant convicted and sentenced for an offense as a direct result of being the victim of human trafficking may petition the court to vacate the conviction. The petition must be submitted on the appropriate form promulgated by the attorney general, along with a copy of the defendant's criminal history background check, no earlier than six months following the conviction and sentencing for a misdemeanor and one year following a completion of sentencing for a felony. The petition may include certain documentation of the defendant's status as a victim of an offense of human trafficking. Defendants with an outstanding warrant may not file a petition.

If the prosecuting attorney consents to set aside the conviction or fails to respond to the petition within 30 days, the court shall, without notice or hearing, issue an order vacating the convictions and sentence and restrict access to criminal history record information for the offense. If the prosecuting attorney objects, the court shall hold a hearing within 90 days of the filing of the petition. If the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the defendant committed an offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking, the court may issue an order vacating the conviction and sentence. If ordered, the court shall also issue an order restricting access to criminal history record information for the offense.

Finally, the bill amends the Code as it relates to the Georgia Crime Information Center to allow for the restriction of access to a defendant's criminal history record information in accordance with the intent of the bill.

Authored By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

SB 446 Cash Bonds; unclaimed cash bonds; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 446 allows a posted cash bail to be paid into the general fund of an appropriate court when it is unclaimed by the surety on the bond after two years. The bill also provides that the time period begins from the date of the surety's release from liability or the date of disposition of the case, whichever is earlier.

Authored By: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

Natural Resources & Environment Committee

SB 123 Waste Management; the coal ash surcharge imposed by host local governments; eliminate

Bill Summary: SB 123 raises the required local government surcharge on a municipal solid waste disposal facility operated by a private enterprise from \$1.00 per ton to \$2.50 per ton. The bill removes an exception for the same facilities that accept coal combustion residuals and raises the

required surcharge from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per ton of coal combustion residuals. The percentage of surcharges collected by local governments specifically designated to offset repairs is lowered from 50 to 20 percent.

The bill allows for any permitted municipal solid waste landfill operating by July 1, 1997 to expand its operation within two miles of a federally-restricted military air space used for a bombing range.

SB 123 removes language to lower the surcharge on the disposal of waste at a solid waste disposal facility from \$0.75 per ton of solid waste to \$0.51 per ton. The surcharge's sunset date is changed to June 30, 2025. The bill strikes language to lower the fee on all new replacement tires from \$1.00 to \$0.38 per tire sold. The fee's sunset date is changed to June 30, 2025.

Authored By: Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)
House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

SB 426 Air Quality; reporting of any unpermitted release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources; provide

Bill Summary: SB 426 requires any permittee of an operation that includes the emission of ethylene oxide to report a spill or release of any amount of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division within 24 hours of discovery. The division must make the report publicly available on the division's website.

Authored By: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)
House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

SB 445 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation; water and sewer authorities to be designated as local issuing authorities for land-disturbing activity permits; authorize

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 445 allows for a water or water and sewer authority to issue land disturbance permits if the authority has been certified by the director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and authorized by local law. All applicable counties or municipalities must approve an intergovernmental agreement to allow the authority to operate as a local issuing authority.

Authored By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th)
House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

SB 473 Conservation and Natural Resources; duties, powers, and responsibilities relative to historic preservation; from Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Community Affairs; transfer

Bill Summary: SB 473 transfers the Historic Preservation Program, including all grant, tax credit, and site designation responsibilities, to the Department of Community Affairs.

Authored By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

SB 474 Department of Natural Resources; construct, operate, maintain, and supply informational materials at welcome centers assigned to it by the Governor; provide

Bill Summary: SB 474 extends the ability to construct and operate welcome centers to the Department of Natural Resources. The agency may also operate vending machines and install automated teller machines in assigned welcome centers.

Authored By: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
House Committee: Natural Resources & Environment
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care Committee

SB 313 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; regulation and licensure; extensive revisions; provide

Bill Summary: House Bill 946 requires any physician employed or contracted with a pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) that is advising or making determinations specific to an insured individual to: have actively seen patients within the past five years; and has practiced in the same specialty area for which the physician is providing advisement within the past five years. The Department of Community Health (DCH) is encouraged to require the use of a licensed Georgia physician for prior authorization, step therapy appeals, or determination reviews for contracts and amendments entered into with a PBM.

This bill grants the Department of Insurance regulatory authority of PBMs in Georgia. Any methodologies utilized by a PBM in connection with reimbursement must be filed with the department. A PBM must utilize the national average drug acquisition cost as a point of reference for the ingredient drug product component of a pharmacy's reimbursement for drugs appearing on the national average drug acquisition cost list. A report must be filed with the department every three months detailing all drugs appearing on the national average drug acquisition cost list reimbursed at 10 percent and below the national average drug acquisition cost, as well as all drugs reimbursed at 10 percent and above this national average. For each drug in the report, a PBM must include: the month the drug was dispensed; the quantity of the drug dispensed; the amount the pharmacy was reimbursed per unit or dosage; whether the dispensing pharmacy was an affiliate; whether the drug was dispensed pursuant to a state or local government health plan; and the national average drug acquisition cost on the day the drug was dispensed.

This bill requires that PBMs will not engage in any practice that: discriminates in reimbursement, assesses any fees or adjustments, or excludes a pharmacy from the PBM's network; in any way bases pharmacy reimbursement for a drug on the patient outcomes, scores, or metrics; includes imposing a point-of-sale fee or retroactive fee; or derives any revenue from a pharmacy or insured in connection with performing PBM services.

PBMs are required to pass on to the health plan 100 percent of all rebates it receives from pharmaceutical manufacturers and report annually to each health plan the aggregate amount of all rebates and other payments that the PBM received from pharmaceutical manufactures in connection with claims if administered on behalf of the health plan. PBMs must offer the option of charging a health plan the same price for a prescription drug as it pays a pharmacy for the prescription drug. A PBM must report in the aggregate to a health plan the difference between the amount the PBM reimburses a pharmacy and the amount the PBM charges a health plan. This information will be confidential and not subject to open records unless the health plan is administered by the DCH.

Authored By:	Sen. Dean Burke (11th)	Committee	06-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee
House	Special Committee on Access to	Action:	Substitute
Committee:	Quality Health Care		

SB 483 "Behavioral Rehabilitation and Stability Services Act"; certain Medicaid reimbursement; enact

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 483 establishes a behavioral rehabilitation joint venture, or an agreement between a general acute hospital and an institution for mental diseases to authorize the institution to manage up to 16 of the hospital's vacant beds as swing beds for the treatment of behavioral health patients. The Department of Community Health (DCH) will provide Medicaid reimbursement up to 100 percent for any patient treated under the joint venture.

Any contributions received by a joint venture will not count against the aggregate limit cap of \$4 million for an individual rural hospital organization in any taxable year, or the overall aggregate cap on tax credits of \$60 million per taxable year.

Effective January 1, 2021, the joint venture will be conducted as a pilot program in up to three counties identified by the Department of Community Health (DCH). No later than December 31, 2025, DCH will provide a report to the chairpersons of the House and Senate Health and Human

Services committees. This report will evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program in increasing access to behavioral health services for indigent and Medicaid patients and make recommendations about potential statewide implementations. DCH has the authority to establish rules and regulations necessary to implement the pilot program.

Additionally, an ambulatory surgery facility that performs medical procedures only in non-sterile procedure rooms, and has a letter of determination from DCH that the performance of certain procedures is not subject to prior review and approval for certificate of need (CON), is not required to have an operating room or be subject to any minimum physical plant and operational standards specified in DCH rules for purposes of CON.

Authored By:	Sen. Matt Brass (28th)	Committee	06-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee
House	Special Committee on Access to	Action:	Substitute
Committee:	Quality Health Care		

Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System Committee

SB 288 Criminal History Record Information; automatic restriction; final disposition other than a conviction; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 288 expands the ability of individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors or convicted of non-serious or non-sexual felonies and are later pardoned to petition for the restriction and sealing of their criminal history record information. Specific misdemeanor offenses along with violent or sexual felonies are excluded. Exceptions are provided to allow for criminal history record information that was previously restricted and sealed to be unrestricted and unsealed for certain purposes.

A restriction or sealing may be used to disqualify an individual for employment in the same manner as a discharge under Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42. Restricted and sealed criminal history record information shall always be available for inspection: for the purpose of imposing a sentence under Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42; by the Judicial Qualifications Commission; by an attorney representing an accused individual who submits a sworn affidavit to the court attesting that such information is relevant to a criminal proceeding; by a prosecuting attorney or public defender; pursuant to a court order; and by an individual who is the subject of a restricted or sealed offense.

Authored By:	Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)	Committee	06-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee
House	Special Committee on Access to the	Action:	Substitute
Committee:	Civil Justice System		

Transportation Committee

SB 159 Motor Vehicles and Traffic; operation of motorized mobility devices; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 169 codifies electric scooters and gives authority to local governments for regulation of the use of those scooters. "Scooter" is defined as a device weighing less than 100 pounds that is equipped with handle bars and an electric motor, powered by an electric motor or human power or both, and capable of a maximum speed of no more than 20 mph on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor.

Authored By:	Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)	Committee	06-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee
House	Transportation	Action:	Substitute
Committee:			

SB 370 Public Utilities and Public Transportation; compliance with certain safety and permit requirements; electric easements are utilized for broadband services; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 370 requires owners of electric easements located on, along, across, under, or over property owned by a railroad company or state agency to comply with the application,

review, safety, and permit requirements of the railroad company or state agency for projects where the easement is utilized for broadband services.

Authored By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
House Committee: Transportation
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

SB 371 Department of Transportation Officers; state investment in railways and railroad facilities and equipment; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 371 requires the Department of Transportation to administer the Georgia Freight Railroad Program, subject to appropriations, in order to enhance the state's investment in freight rail projects.

Authored By: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
House Committee: Transportation
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 Do Pass

Ways & Means Committee

SB 410 Ad Valorem Tax Appeals; alternative means of recovering costs of litigation and attorney's fees; provide

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 410 amends 48-5-311, relating to creation of county boards of equalization, duties, review of assessments, and appeals, to allow the taxpayer to recover costs of litigation and attorney's fees for appeals made by the board of assessors to the superior court where the final determination of value is 85 percent or less of the value set by the board of assessors.

The bill also amends 48-5-511, relating to returns of public utilities to the commissioner of the Department of Revenue, to require the annual property tax return of public utilities be transmitted to the commissioner electronically.

Authored By: Sen. John Kennedy (18th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Committee Action: 06-18-2020 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](#).

Friday, June 19, 2020

8:00 AM	PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY	606 CLOB
8:00 AM	JUVENILE JUSTICE	506 CLOB
8:00 AM	GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	406 CLOB
9:00 AM	RULES	341 CAP
10:00 AM	FLOOR SESSION (LD 34)	House Chamber
2:00 PM	REGULATED INDUSTRIES	506 CLOB
2:30 PM	EDUCATION	406 CLOB