



Thursday, March 26, 2015

House Budget & Research Office  
(404) 656-5050

House Communications Office  
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- The House will reconvene for its 38th Legislative Day on Friday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Rules committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- 16 bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

## Today on the Floor

### Rules Calendar

#### **HR 640 Joint Study Committee on Health, Education, and School-Based Health Centers; create**

Bill Summary: HR 640 creates the House Study Committee on Health, Education, and School-Based Health Centers. The committee will be composed of five members who will make recommendations on the creation of a state-wide plan to promote the development and funding of comprehensive school-based health centers in the underserved communities in Georgia.

**Authored By:** Rep. Bruce Broadrick (4th)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 160 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

#### **HR 641 Joint Study Committee on Children's Mental Health; create**

Bill Summary: HR 641 creates the House Study Committee on Children's Mental Health. The committee will be composed of five members and the chairperson of the committee will have the ability to call as many meetings as he or she deems necessary; however, members will only be compensated for up to five meetings. If the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations, the chairperson shall file a report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The committee shall be abolished on December 1, 2015.

**Authored By:** Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 155 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

#### **SB 100 Motor Vehicles and Traffic; provide for applicability with current federal reg. in the safe operations of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 100 is a housekeeping bill for the Department of Public Safety (DPS). It defines a "for hire intrastate motor carrier" as a person engaged in the transportation of goods or passengers for compensation wholly within the boundaries of Georgia.

It defines an "intrastate motor carrier" as any self-propelled or towed vehicle that is used on a highway in intrastate commerce to transport property or passengers and: has a gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight of 10,001 lbs. or more; is designed or used to transport more than ten passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or is used to transport hazardous materials in any quantity.

It requires that all intrastate motor carriers must register with the Department of Revenue (DOR). Prior to the initial registration, all intrastate motor carriers must also provide evidence to DPS of the completion of an educational and safety seminar. All for-hire intrastate motor carriers must now file a

certificate of insurance with DOR in order to be issued a registration.

This bill also eliminates all mandatory driver's license suspensions for non-highway safety related or non-moving violations; however, the legislation does maintain suspension provisions imposed for failure to provide child support under the 'Child Support Recovery Act'. It eliminates the driving restrictions on an "Interlock Limited Driving Permit" as defined in Title 40.

**Authored By:** Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)

**House Committee:** Motor Vehicles

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Amendments:**

## **SB 101 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation; provide for buffer against coastal marshlands within which certain land-disturbing activities are prohibited**

**Bill Summary:** SB 101 amends Chapter 7 of Title 12, relating to the control of soil erosion and sedimentation, by establishing a 25-foot buffer along coastal marshlands and providing exceptions to that buffer. The definition of "coastal marshlands" is as defined in O.C.G.A. 12-5-282. No land-disturbing activity shall be conducted within the 25-foot buffer and the buffer shall remain in its undisturbed state of vegetation until all land-disturbing activities on the construction site are complete. Once the final stabilization of the site is completed, the buffer may be thinned or trimmed so long as protective vegetative cover remains.; however, for single family residence construction sites, the buffer may be thinned or trimmed at any time so long as a protective vegetative cover remains. On or before December 31, 2015, the board of Natural Resources shall promulgate rules and regulations that contain criteria for the grant or denial of requests for variances pursuant to this paragraph including where an alteration has been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers and provide variances by rule where an alteration will have a minimal impact on the water quality or aquatic habitat of adjacent marsh, including where the area within the buffer is not more than 500 square feet. The board may adopt rules and regulations that provide for an expedited process for certain categories of activities. The exceptions to the buffer are:

- Where the director determines to allow a variance that is at least as protective as a 25 foot buffer;
- Where otherwise allowed pursuant to 12-2-8;
- Where an alteration has been authorized pursuant to 12-5-286;
- For maintenance of any currently serviceable structure, landscaping, or hardscaping; provided that if such maintenance requires any land disturbing activity, adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- Where a drainage structure or roadway drainage structure is constructed or maintained; provided that if such maintenance requires any land disturbing activity, adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- On the landward side of a currently serviceable shoreline stabilization structure;
- For the maintenance of any manmade storm-water detention basin, golf course pond, or impoundment located within the property of a single owner; provided that if such maintenance requires any land disturbing activity, adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- For utility lines that cause a width of disturbance of not more than 50 feet within the buffer; provided that adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- For any land-disturbing activity conducted pursuant to and in compliance with a valid and effective land-disturbing permit issued between April 22, 2014 and the effective date of this act; provided that adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented;
- For any lot for which the preliminary plat has been approved prior to the effective date of this act if roadways, bridges, or water and sewer lines have been extended to such lot prior to the effective date of this act and if the requirement to maintain a 25-foot buffer would consume at least 18 percent of the high ground of the platted lot otherwise available for development; provided that adequate erosion control measures are fully implemented.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**House Committee:** Natural Resources & Environment

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 164 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-12-2015 Do Pass

**Amendments:** AM 40 0138

**SB 119 "Water Professionals Appreciation Day"; designate the first Monday in May of each year in Georgia**

Bill Summary: SB 119 designates the first Monday in May of each year as "Water Professionals Appreciation Day" in Georgia.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**House Committee:** Natural Resources & Environment **Committee Action:** 03-19-2015 Do Pass  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 159 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

**SB 194 Pharmacists and Pharmacies; certain provisions shall not apply; facility engaged solely in the distribution of dialysate, drugs; patients with end stage renal disease**

Bill Summary: SB 194 exempts facilities engaged solely in the distribution of dialysate drugs or devices used to perform kidney dialysis from the general provisions relating to pharmacists and pharmacies in O.C.G.A 26-4-1; however, such facilities must meet certain criteria in order to be exempt from this Code section. These criteria require that the dialysate drugs or devices used to perform kidney dialysis be: approved by the Food and Drug Administration; lawfully registered with the state; held and delivered in their original state; delivered only by the manufacturer upon receipt of a physician's order; and delivered directly to a patient or health care provider.

Additionally, SB 194 allows a pharmacist, without authorization from the practitioner, to refill prescriptions for topical ophthalmic products at 70 percent of the predicted days of use. Additionally, a practitioner can authorize refills earlier than 70 percent of the predicted days of use.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services **Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 159 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

**SB 195 Bonds and Recognizances; increase fees allowed for continuing education programs**

Bill Summary: SB 195 raises the annual maximum fee for continuing education programs for professional bondsmen from \$125 to \$250.

The bill also requires the judge at a bond forfeiture proceeding to issue a bench warrant for the principal's arrest when the principal fails to appear.

Finally, the bill provides that judgment shall not be rendered on a forfeiture of any appearance bond if it is shown that the principal on the bond did not attend because he/she was deported or removed from the United States by federal authorities.

**Authored By:** Sen. Michael Williams (27th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil **Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 152 Nays: 7 **Amendments:**

**SR 26 Joint House and Senate Coastal Greenway Study Committee; create**

Bill Summary: SR 26 creates the Joint House and Senate Coastal Greenway Study Committee. A paved trail from Savannah to St. Marys, to be known as the Coastal Georgia Greenway, has been proposed. SR 26 creates a 13-member committee to study and report on the conditions, needs, issues, and problems of the trail. The committee will be composed of four senators, four house members, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, the Director of the Department of Economic Development, and the Executive Director of the Coastal Georgia Greenway.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**House Committee:** Economic Development & Tourism **Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 160 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

## Postponed Until Next Legislative Day

### HR 620 Local boards of education; provide educational awareness regarding renewable energy; urge

Bill Summary: HR 620 urges local boards of education to provide educational awareness regarding renewable energy.

**Authored By:** Rep. Karla Drenner (85th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

## Local Calendar

### HB 596 DeKalb County; homestead exemption; modify time limitation on exemption

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for a homestead exemption from certain DeKalb County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead, so as to modify the time limitation on such exemption.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Jacobs (80th)

**Rule Applied:**

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21

**Amendments:**

### HB 643 Warner Robins, City of; resolution passed by city council; change a reference

Bill Summary: A Bill to authorizing the governing authority of the City of Warner Robins to levy a hotel/motel tax.

**Authored By:** Rep. Heath Clark (147th)

**Rule Applied:**

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21

**Amendments:**

### HB 644 Warner Robins, City of; ad valorem tax; filing an application for homestead exemption; change date

Bill Summary: A Bill to providing for a homestead exemption from all City of Warner Robins ad valorem taxes for any city purposes, including but limited to, taxes to retire bonded indebtedness for certain persons who have been residents of the City of Warner Robins for at least the immediately preceding five years and who are 65 years of age or older.

**Authored By:** Rep. Heath Clark (147th)

**Rule Applied:**

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21

**Amendments:**

### HB 651 Paulding County; board of education; change method of filling vacancies

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the election of members of the Board of Education of Paulding County, so as to change the method of filling vacancies on the board of education.

**Authored By:** Rep. Howard Maxwell (17th)

**Rule Applied:**

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21

**Amendments:**

### HB 652 Perry Public Facilities Authority Act; enact

Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Perry Public Facilities Authority.

**Authored By:** Rep. Larry O'Neal (146th)

**Rule Applied:**

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination -

**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Local  
Yeas: 131 Nays: 21  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 655 Fulton County; Magistrate Court; provide court administrator be chief magistrate or his or her designee; provisions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the administration of the budget of the Magistrate Court of Fulton County, so as to provide that the court administrator shall be the chief magistrate or his or her designee and that such court administrator shall have oversight of the budget.

**Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21  
**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**HB 656 Dodge County; office of Commissioner; change description of districts**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend the office of Commissioner of Dodge County, so as to reapportion the commissioner districts.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jimmy Pruett (149th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21  
**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**HB 657 Greene County Family Connection Commission; repeal an Act**

Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating the Greene County Family Connection Commission.

**Authored By:** Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21  
**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**SB 171 Probate Court of Cobb County; change the compensation of the chief deputy, assist. chief deputy, and executive assist. to the sheriff**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act changing the compensation of the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system, so as to change the compensation of the chief deputy, the assistant chief deputy, and the executive sheriff.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21  
**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**SB 172 Probate Court of Cobb County; change the compensation of the clerk of the superior court; change salary of deputy clerk of superior court**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act changing the compensation of the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system, so as to change the compensation of the clerk of the Superior Court, the deputy clerk, to provide for an executive assistant and an executive secretary.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21  
**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**SB 224 Lawrenceville Building Authority; create; public corporation**

Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Lawrenceville Building Authority as a public corporation and an instrumentality of the State of Georgia.

**Authored By:** Sen. P. K. Martin (9th)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination -  
Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 21

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

## **Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules**

*The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 38th Legislative Day, Friday, March 27, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Friday, March 27, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 39th Legislative Day.*

### **HR 612 House Study Committee on Fibroids Education and Awareness; create**

**Bill Summary:** HR 612 creates the House Study Committee on Fibroids Education and Awareness. The committee will be composed of seven members and the chairperson of the committee will have the ability to call as many meetings as he or she deems necessary; however, members will only be compensated for up to five meetings. If the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations, the chairperson shall file a report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The committee shall be abolished on December 1, 2015.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass

### **HR 743 House Study Committee on Annexation, Deannexation, and Incorporation; create**

**Bill Summary:** A Resolution to create a study committee on deannexation, annexation, and incorporation of municipalities.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jan Tankersley (160th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-25-2015 Do Pass

### **HR 744 House Study Committee on the Use of Drones; create**

**Bill Summary:** House Resolution 744 creates the House Study Committee on the Use of Drones. The committee will be composed of seven members of the House, is allotted five meetings, and stands abolished on December 1, 2015.

**Authored By:** Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th)  
**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-24-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **SB 4 Urban Redevelopment; provide for use of surface transportation projects; definitions; public contracts with private enterprises for completion**

**Bill Summary:** SB 4 clarifies existing urban redevelopment law to include a framework through which the City of Atlanta and its associated redevelopment partners can leverage limited public resources for transportation to deliver high-quality, cost-effective projects more quickly and at a lesser cost through outsourcing to the private sector. The bill adds a new definition of surface transportation project to urban redevelopment law and lays out the requirements of procurement and bond issuance. The bill does not obligate any state funds.

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

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-19-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **SB 63 Alcoholic Beverages; provide for manufacturers of malt beverages to make limited retail sales of malt beverages under certain circumstances**

**Bill Summary:** SB 63 allows for manufacturers or distillers who are issued a distiller's license and issued a permit by the commissioner to conduct distillery tours, for a fee or free of charge. If conducting these tours, the distiller may provide a free souvenir of a complimentary sealed container of distilled spirits, free food and free tastings. The free souvenir must be a single bottle of distilled spirits manufactured by the distiller of not more than 750 milliliters. The free souvenir must be provided after the tour, and the recipient must be 21 years of age or older. Moreover, brewers of malt beverages may also conduct brewery tours in the same manner as distillery tours. However, the free souvenir from a

brewery tour is a sealed container or containers of malt beverages not to exceed 72 ounces. All fees for tours must be collected prior to conducting the tour.

**Authored By:** Sen. Hunter Hill (6th)  
**House Committee:** Regulated Industries

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-24-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 64 Juvenile Code, Domestic Relations, and Vital Records; repeal voluntary acknowledgments of legitimation**

**Bill Summary:** SB 64 revises the definition of "legal father" and makes grammatical corrections to provide consistency within the Juvenile Code. The administrative legitimation as a means of defining legal father is removed. The bill also clarifies the language whereby only a biological father may legitimate his child and also what is required in that petition. The bill adds a provision allowing the court to insure that the petitioning alleged biological father is, in fact, the biological father and may order genetic testing. The Code is further refined so that the hospital in which a child is born must provide paternity acknowledgement forms prior to the birth of the child rather than after. The bill adds a requirement that the hospital provide the mother and the alleged father with the opportunity to execute a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity within 30 days of birth. Acknowledgement of paternity shall constitute a legal determination of paternity if sworn to and signed in the presence of a notary public or other witness.

**Authored By:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
**House Committee:** Juvenile Justice

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-24-2015 Do Pass

**SB 69 State Defense Force; remove restrictions; rights of public officers and employees to be absent for service; reemployment rights**

**Bill Summary:** SB 69 extends the same employment protections for State Defense Force members that exist for active-duty National Guard members. The legislation prohibits a State Defense Force member from being terminated from a position of employment due to service-related duties.

**Authored By:** Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
**House Committee:** Defense & Veterans Affairs

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-18-2015 Do Pass

**SB 79 Victim Compensation; expand the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's powers and duties relative to claims**

**Bill Summary:** This legislation makes minor changes to rules for administering the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund. The Act raises the maximum amount payable for funeral expenses from \$3,000 to \$6,000. The list of eligible family members is modified to include step-parents and step-children.

**Authored By:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-18-2015 Do Pass

**SB 131 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; provide for certification; policies and procedures**

**Bill Summary:** SB 131 revises Code Section 37-1-29 relating to crisis stabilization units by revising the powers of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The department originally had the authority to license such units. Under the provisions of this bill, the department will be authorized to certify, instead of license, such units. Additionally, if the department makes any changes to policies or procedures relating to crisis stabilization units, the changes must be posted on the department's website within 45 days.

**Authored By:** Sen. Mike Dugan (30th)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 134 Speed Detection Devices; provide for a rebuttable presumption for law enforcement agencies' use of speed detection devices**

Bill Summary: SB 134 expands the rebuttable presumption against law enforcement agencies that derive more than 40 percent of that agency's budget based on the use of speed detection devices to include fines from speeding violations that exceed 17 mph over the speed limit in the calculation for determining that agency's percentage of budget derived from speeding violations.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-23-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 135 Clerks of Superior Courts; provide for protection and disclosure of records held; procedure for disclosure**

Bill Summary: SB 135 amends Code Section 9-11-4.1 relating to certification of process servers. Currently, this section has a sunset provision taking effect on July 1, 2015. SB 135 repeals the sunset provision.

The remaining sections of the bill outline record-keeping requirements and procedures for Superior Courts. More specifically, the bill amends Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 15 relating to Superior Court clerks by adding Code Section 15-6-60.1, which makes the clerk the sole custodian of all original filed Superior Court records he or she is required to maintain and permits the clerk to maintain these records in any format. SB 135 also amends Code Section 15-6-62.1 relating to procedures for maintaining electronic records by requiring clerks to retain back-up records on a secure server and submit back-up records to the Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority at least monthly but no later than the fifteenth day following the last day of each month. Furthermore, all public requests for official documents must be provided to the clerk.

**Authored By:** Sen. Charlie Bethel (54th)

**House Committee:** Judiciary

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-24-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 139 Selling and Other Trade Practices; provide regulation; auxiliary containers shall be done by general law**

Bill Summary: The legislation amends O.C.G.A. 10-1-940 and allows prudent regulation regarding the use and taxation of auxiliary containers used by retail and food establishments to be done by general law. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit or limit any county or municipal curbside recycling program or other designated residential or commercial recycling program.

**Authored By:** Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)

**House Committee:** Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-02-2015 Do Pass as Amended Substitute

**SB 148 Commerce and Trade; transfer powers and responsibilities of Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs to Attorney General's office**

Bill Summary: SB 148 dissolves the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs and transfers the responsibilities to the Georgia Attorney General's Office. The bill empowers the attorney general as the "administrator" with authority for administering the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975,' the 'Buying Services Act of 1975,' the Georgia Lemon Law and violations of the 'Georgia Land Sales Act'. The 15-member Consumer Advisory Board will continue to advise and recommend reforms to the attorney general and as make an annual report to the governor.

In conjunction with administering the 'Fair Business Practice' and 'Buying Services' acts, the bill provides that the rules, orders, and regulations in force at present remain in force and effect until repealed, amended, or superseded by rules or regulations adopted by the attorney general.

The legislation repeals provisions relating to the appointment of a referee to conduct hearings and appeal to the Fulton County Superior Court, but it provides for judicial review in situations where a person has exhausted all administrative remedies.

SB 148 gives the attorney general oversight and enforcement authority related to the regulation of: beauty pageants; unfair and deceptive practices toward the elderly; business administration; and the enforcement of the 'Fair Business Practices Act' on poultry contract growers and producers, respectively.

The bill removes references to the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs in provisions relating to: regulation of unbundled natural gas services; provisions relating to rules governing natural gas marketers' terms of service; definitions regarding charitable solicitations; consumer information disclosure statements and bills for natural gas service; the Public Service Commission's authority over certificated marketers of natural gas; and energy and conservation assistance to residential customers.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. John Kennedy (18th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Agriculture & Consumer Affairs	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-25-2015 Do Pass

### **SB 175 Animal Protection; require inspection of certain animals entering into the state**

Bill Summary: The legislation revises Code Section 4-11-11 of the O.C.G.A. to make it unlawful for any person to import any equines, poultry, livestock or birds into this state unless accompanied by an official interstate or international certificate of veterinary inspection. Additionally, it is unlawful to import any other animal which the commissioner of Agriculture has determined may pose a significant risk of disease to domestic animals or humans, unless such animal is accompanied by a certificate. The department will maintain a website listing of all animals determined to pose significant risk of disease. No certificate shall be required for poultry originating from flocks participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Ellis Black (8th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Open
<b>House Committee:</b>	Agriculture & Consumer Affairs	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-25-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **SB 190 Bona Fide Coin Operated Machines; provide certain definitions; license fees and requirements for manufacturers and distributors**

Bill Summary: SB 190 adds a new definition to the Code section regarding licensing of coin-operated amusement machine businesses. "Master licensee" means any person who has lawfully applied for and received a master license, which every owner of such machine must display in order to legally operate the business.

The bill provides for a distributor or manufacturer who offers the machines for sale to pay an annual license fee of \$5,000. These licenses must be available for inspection at the manufacturer's and distributor's place of business.

The bill also allows for the transferability of the master license. Previously, such licenses were not transferable or assignable; however, SB 190 states that upon the sale of an entire business that contains such machines, the buyer must pay a transfer fee to the governing authority ("corporation") in charge of administering such licenses. The first sale of a master license holder's business will require a transfer fee of \$10,000 with each consecutive sale increasing the amount of the fee.

The remainder of the bill largely inserts manufacturer and distributor licenses into the sections governing master licenses. Under current law, businesses cannot obtain or renew a license if their offices are not located in this state or if the applicant does not permit inspection of their place of business and records. This bill provides that this section does not apply to manufacturers.

The bill allows the corporation to issue up to 220 Class B licenses through the process of competitive auctions which shall occur at least once every three years. The corporation can renew Class B licenses at any time, and current holders of Class B licenses are not subject to the auctioning process. Current law provides that an owner or operator of a business where the machines are available for public use may not derive more than 50 percent of its "gross retail receipts" from Class B machines. The gross retail receipts do not include revenue derived from non-cash redemption of winnings from Class B machines or revenues that are due to a master licensee or the corporation. Thus, these revenues do not

count towards the owner's 50 percent limitation.

SB 190 strikes language that allowed by local ordinance authorization the use of more than nine Class B machines; no owner can offer more than nine machines, even with a local ordinance.

A person is not eligible for a distributor license if that person has had a gambling license in the last five years in any state.

A person applying for a manufacturer license or distributor license cannot have an interest in an owner, location owner, or location operator in Georgia. A manufacturing license applicant cannot have an interest in any distributor, and a distributor license applicant may not have an interest in any manufacturer.

As a condition to the issuance of a license, location owners or operators and master license holders may not remove or replace a machine until they certify that there are no disputes or other claims between the master licensee and the location owner or operator. If they cannot make this certification, the dispute will be referred to a hearing officer, who must be approved by the corporation. The corporation must adopt rules and regulations to govern the resolution of disputes by hearing officers. One of the parties may request a hearing to resolve the dispute, but the hearing officer may not conduct a hearing more than 90 days after he or she has been appointed to decide the dispute.

A decision may be appealed to the chief executive officer of the corporation who will not reverse a finding of fact if any evidence supports the hearing officer's conclusion. The CEO may only reverse a finding of law if it is clearly erroneous.

**Authored By:** Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
**House Committee:** Regulated Industries

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-24-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Committee Actions

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

### Education Committee

#### SB 89 "Digital Classroom Act"; require instructional materials and content to be in digital or electronic format after a certain date

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 89, the "Digital Classroom Act", would allow local boards to use digital and electronic software instead of just physical textbooks. The bill also encourages local boards, by July 1, 2020, to purchase all instructional materials in digital or electronic format and to provide an electronic device for students starting in 3rd grade.

The bill also creates the 'Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act.'. This bill requires the Department of Education to create a centralized data system that would be available to students and their parents, authorized staff, and authorized teachers and administrators. The bill allows parents the right to review their child's education record including the student data recorded.

**Authored By:** Sen. John Albers (56th)

**House Committee:** Education

**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

#### SB 191 Blasting and Excavating Near Utility Facilities; prohibit local governing authorities from adopting ordinances

Bill Summary: This bill, relating to blasting or excavating near utility facilities, prohibits local governing authorities from adopting or enforcing ordinances which mandate marking requirements or standards which are different from those contained in state law or the rules and regulations of certain departments of this state.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)

**House Committee:** Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

### Health & Human Services Committee

#### HR 767 House Study Committee on Provision of Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) services, including the NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver Services; create

Bill Summary: HR 767 creates the House Study Committee on Provision of Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) services, including the NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver Services. The committee will be composed of three members of the House of Representatives and two additional non-legislative members. If the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations, the chairperson shall file a report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The committee shall be abolished on December 1, 2015.

**Authored By:** Rep. Dustin Hightower (68th)

**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

#### HR 805 House Study Committee on the Certificate of Need Program; create

Bill Summary: HR 805 creates the House Study Committee on the Certificate of Need (CON) Program. The committee will study and evaluate the effectiveness of the CON Program and identify whether the program should be continued, discontinued, or modified. The committee will be composed of nine members of the House of Representatives and five additional non-legislative members. In the event that the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations, the

chairperson must file a report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The committee will be abolished on December 1, 2015.

**Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do NOT Pass

## Higher Education Committee

### HR 71 House Study Committee on the HOPE Scholarship Program Award Amount for Critical Fields of Study; create

**Bill Summary:** House Resolution 71 creates the House Study Committee on the HOPE Scholarship Program Award Amount for Critical Fields of Study. The study committee members will study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems where workforce shortfalls occur in critical career fields.

**Authored By:** Rep. J. Craig Gordon (163rd)  
**House Committee:** Higher Education  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### SB 18 Technical College System of Georgia; establish policies for granting academic credit for college level learning from military service, work experience

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 18 requires the Technical College System of Georgia to establish policies for granting academic credit to students for college level learning acquired prior to their enrollment. Prior learning could be from military service, work experience, service in the community, or independent study.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
**House Committee:** Higher Education  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

### SB 58 'Georgia Leadership and Service Admission Act'

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 58 creates the 'Georgia Leadership and Service Admissions Act'. Each member of the General Assembly, the governor, and the Lieutenant Governor may select an eligible student for public designation as a Georgia Leadership and Service Scholar. To be eligible, the scholar must commit to serve in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program for the entirety of the student's enrollment in a University System of Georgia institution.

**Authored By:** Sen. Hunter Hill (6th)  
**House Committee:** Higher Education  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

## Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

### HB 632 South Cobb Development Authority Act; change definition of certain terms

**Bill Summary:** A Bill to amend the "South Cobb Development Authority Act," so as to change the definition of certain terms.

**Authored By:** Rep. David Wilkerson (38th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

### HB 640 Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; salary supplements for judges; change provisions

**Bill Summary:** A Bill to amend an Act creating the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit, so as to change provisions relating to the salary supplements for judges of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit.

**Authored By:** Rep. Joyce Chandler (105th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 646 Clayton Judicial Circuit; judges of superior court; increase county supplement to state salary**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for a supplement to the salaries of the judges of the superior court of the Clayton Judicial Circuit.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sandra Scott (76th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 647 Clayton County; chief magistrate; change salary**

Bill Summary: A Bill to providing for the appointment of the chief magistrate of Clayton County.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sandra Scott (76th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 648 Clayton County; sheriff; change provisions relating to compensation**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act placing the sheriff and clerk of the Superior Court of Clayton County on an annual salary.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sandra Scott (76th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 650 Atlanta, City of; public safety access assessments; provide**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Atlanta.

**Authored By:** Rep. Keisha Waites (60th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 658 DeKalb County; community improvement districts may be created within municipalities; change certain provisions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in DeKalb County.

**Authored By:** Rep. Billy Mitchell (88th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 661 Clarkston, City of; change corporate limits**

Bill Summary: A Bill to reincorporate the City of Clarkston, so as to change the corporate limits of the city by annexing certain territory.

**Authored By:** Rep. Karla Drenner (85th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 662 Avondale Estates, City of; change corporate limits**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Avondale Estates, so as to change the corporate limits of the city.

**Authored By:** Rep. Karla Drenner (85th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 663 Decatur, City of; change corporate limits**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Decatur, so as to change the corporate limits of the city.

**Authored By:** Rep. Karla Drenner (85th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 664 Griffin, City of; levy an excise tax**

Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Griffin to levy a hotel/motel tax.

**Authored By:** Rep. David Knight (130th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 668 Peachtree City Public Facilities Authority; add an additional power**

Bill Summary: A Bill to create the Peachtree City Public Facilities Authority, so as to add an additional power.

**Authored By:** Rep. Matt Ramsey (72nd)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 669 Chatham County; provide for compensation of certain officials**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for the compensation of certain officials in Chatham County.

**Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 670 Decatur, City of; ad valorem tax; residents 62 years of age or older; provide homestead exemption**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Decatur ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes except for ad valorem taxes levied to pay interest on and to retire municipal bonded indebtedness in the amount of \$15,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are 62 years of age or older and whose income does not exceed \$50,000.00.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rahn Mayo (84th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 671 Decatur, City of; ad valorem tax; local constitutional amendment; repeal**

Bill Summary: A BILL to be entitled an Act to repeal a former local constitutional amendment, which former local constitutional amendment was continued in effect as statutory law pursuant to Article VII, Section II, Paragraph IV of the Constitution of Georgia and which provides for a homestead exemption from certain city ad valorem taxes for residents of the City of Decatur in an

amount to be fixed by the governing authority of the city at not more than \$2,000.00 for the first year, and which may be increased periodically, but which exemption shall not exceed \$10,000.00.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rahn Mayo (84th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

### **HB 672 Decatur, City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Decatur ad valorem taxes.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rahn Mayo (84th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

### **HB 673 Decatur, City of; ad valorem tax; modify amount of homestead exemption**

Bill Summary: A Bill to modify the amount of a homestead exemption from City of Decatur ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes except for ad valorem taxes levied to pay interest on and to retire municipal bonded indebtedness in the amount of \$25,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rahn Mayo (84th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

### **HB 674 Catoosa County; State Court; create**

Bill Summary: A Bill to create the State Court of Catoosa County.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom Weldon (3rd)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

### **HB 675 Gilmer County; coroner and deputy coroner; provide compensation**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for compensation of the coroner and deputy coroner of Gilmer County.

**Authored By:** Rep. David Ralston (7th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

## **Judiciary Committee**

### **SB 34 Torts; provide immunity from liability; persons entering a parked motor vehicle; purpose of removing a child from motor vehicle; definitions**

Bill Summary: SB 34 amends the Good Samaritan statute, which provides immunity from civil liability to any person rendering good-faith emergency care to victims at the scene of an accident or emergency. The bill specifies that the term "emergency care" includes, but is not limited to, the rescue or attempted rescue of an incapacitated or endangered individual from a locked motor vehicle.

The bill also includes language (passed by the House in HB 303) relating to recovery under an insured's uninsured motorist coverage when the insurer makes a bad faith refusal to pay for a loss within 60 days after a demand has been made by the insured. Currently, upon a finding of bad faith, the insurer is liable to the insured (in addition to any recovery under the insured's policy) for not more than 25 percent of the recovery and all reasonable attorneys' fees. The bill amends the insurer's

liability in the event of a bad faith refusal to pay to allow for a penalty of \$25,000 or 25 percent of the insured's recovery, whichever is greater. The judge may also award the insured reasonable attorney's fees and expenses of litigation that were incurred in prosecuting the case after the 60th day of the insured's demand. The bill also provides that the insured's demand for payment from the insurer must be in writing.

**Authored By:** Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)

**House** Judiciary

**Committee:**

**Committee** 03-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute

**SB 129 "Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act"; provide for the preservation of religious freedom**

Bill Summary:

**Authored By:** Sen. Joshua McKoon (29th)

**House** Judiciary

**Committee:**

**Committee** 03-26-2015 Tabled  
**Action:**

**SB 138 Social Services; provide for various reforms regarding the state's child welfare system**

Bill Summary: SB 138 provides for various reforms to the state's child welfare system pursuant to a comprehensive review by the Governor's Child Welfare Reform Council.

The bill gives the Governor the authority to appoint the director of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). The bill outlines qualification for the DFCS director and states that the director will serve at the Governor's pleasure and report directly to the Governor, while remaining an employee of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

SB 138 also establishes the DFCS State Advisory Board, consisting of 20 members appointed by the Governor as follows: one representative from each of the 15 state DFCS regions, and five members who are either state legislators or representatives from the fields of child welfare, foster care, public health or behavioral health and developmental disabilities, or juvenile justice. The advisory board shall meet at least quarterly to review and make recommendations to the DFCS director regarding issues related to the protection of children and DFCS' welfare and public assistance functions.

The bill also amends provisions regarding county DFCS boards, providing that such boards will consist of between five and seven members. Appointments made to county boards on or after the bill's effective date should be made from enumerated categories of persons from fields related to child welfare. The bill outlines the purpose and duties of county boards, providing that they will serve as an active liaison between the county departments and the local community and report no less than annually to the DFCS director regarding service delivery, community needs, and recommendations for operational improvements on the county level.

SB 138 clarifies that the purpose of county DFCS departments is to protect children, and outlines what county departments must do to achieve this primary purpose: investigate reports of abuse and neglect; assess, promote, and support the safety of a child in a safe and stable family or other appropriate placement in response to allegations of abuse or neglect; work cooperatively with law enforcement regarding reports that include criminal conduct allegations; and without compromising child safety, coordinate services to achieve and maintain permanency on behalf of the child, strengthen the family, and provide prevention, intervention, and treatment services.

The bill also establishes a DFCS Regional Advisory Board in each of the 15 state DFCS regions, to meet at least quarterly. Each board would be composed of at least five members and shall include the director and at least one board member of each county DFCS department within the region as selected by the DFCS regional director. The regional director may appoint additional members who are representatives from enumerated fields related to child welfare. The purpose of the regional advisory boards is to improve communication and coordination between the county departments within the region, improve and streamline service delivery by the county departments within the

region, and provide for consistent application of state DFCS policy within the county departments within the region.

SB 138 also expands the authorization of DHS to provide casework services and care to children where the parent, custodian, or guardian has placed his or her child in the custody of DHS by voluntary agreement until such agreement is revoked by the parent, custodian, or guardian or the agreement expires. DHS is also empowered with preparing, educating, and training foster parents to provide them with the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the needs of foster children, including knowledge and skills relating to the reasonable and prudent parent standard for the participation of the child in age or developmentally appropriate activities. Additionally, DHS is authorized to provide each youth aging out of foster care (unless the child has been in foster care less than six months and provided the child is eligible to receive such documents) with an official birth certificate, social security card, health insurance information, a copy of the child's medical records, and a state-issued driver's license or ID card.

The bill provides for immunity from civil liability for any foster parent, caregiver, or child welfare agency or other entity under contract with DHS as a result of the caregiver's approval of the participation of a child in DHS custody in an age or developmentally appropriate activity, so long as the caregiver acts in accordance with the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

SB 138 brings certain statutes in compliance with federal laws in order for the state to continue to receive federal funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

The bill also states that the General Assembly supports interagency efforts to gather comprehensive data and to actively share and disseminate data among agencies responsible for making informed decisions about the treatment, care, security, and protection of Georgia children. The bill requires DHS, working with DFCS, the Department of Early Care and Learning, the Department of Community Health, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education, and the Georgia Crime Information Center, to develop and implement a workable state-wide system for sharing data relating to the care and protection of children between such agencies to streamline access to such data. DHS, working with the above agencies, must also establish an interagency data protocol to enable each agency to accurately and efficiently collect and share data with the other agencies in the most effective and expeditious manner. The bill allows for specific interagency agreements to be executed between or among agencies to further delineate the parameters for the sharing of data with one or more agencies. If a federal law or regulation impedes necessary data sharing between agencies, the appropriate agency or agencies must make all reasonable attempts to be granted a waiver or exemption from the applicable law or regulation.

SB 138 also allows DHS or a county or other state or local agency to release information about records concerning reports of child abuse to any school official of a school that a child who was the subject of a report of suspected child abuse attends in which there is an ongoing investigation of the reported abuse. Any ongoing investigation must include contact with the school to obtain any relevant information from school personnel regarding the report of suspected child abuse. The bill also gives foster parents access to the medical and educational records of a child in their care in the same manner and to the same extent as DHS itself would have, and to the fullest extent allowable by law, to ensure the proper care and education of foster children.

The bill provides that DFCS must create and maintain a confidential central child abuse registry known as the Child Protective Services Information System (CPSIS), which will receive notice of substantiated cases of child abuse occurring on and after July 1, 2016, and of persons convicted of child abuse crimes on and after July 1, 2016. The registry will be operated in a manner that enables abuse investigators to immediately identify and locate substantiated cases of child abuse and convicted child abusers and to maintain and produce aggregate statistical data of substantiated cases of child abuse and cases of child abuse in which a person was convicted. The bill also includes procedures for allowing a person to determine whether his or her name is included in the registry, and for removing his or her name from the registry.

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

**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 168 State Symbols; designate the Old Governor's Mansion as the official state historic house**

Bill Summary: SB 168 designates the Old Governor's Mansion located at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville as the official state historic house. The bill encourages the Department of Economic Development and other public agencies and leaders in the tourism industry to work together to maximize advertising programs that permit citizens of other states and nations to learn about the Old Governor's Mansion and to visit Georgia for tourism purposes.

**Authored By:** Sen. Burt Jones (25th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary

**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

**Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee**

**SB 141 Juvenile Proceedings; provide that minor violations of weapons in school safety zones are not considered Class B designated felonies**

Bill Summary: The House committee substitute to SB 141 amends Title 16 in several areas. This legislation revises the unauthorized locations to provide that carrying in a government building as a non-license holder is unlawful. This section is further revised to provide that the prohibition on polling places is only in effect when elections are being conducted and polling places are being used for that purpose.

A new subsection states that nothing in said sections are to affect, repeal, or limit the exemptions provided for in 16-11-130. Those sections are those relating to: carrying in places other than homes, motor vehicles, public property; carrying in unauthorized locations; carrying in school safety zones, at school functions, or on a bus or transportation provided by the school; or weapons on the premises of a nuclear power facility.

The Code relating to renewals of licenses is amended. For license renewals, the bill requires the probate judge to investigate the applicant pursuant to Code. License applications will be considered for renewal if the applicant has a license with 90 or fewer days to expiration or 30 or fewer days past expiration. Applications for persons under 21 who are members of the armed forces must be accompanied by a letter from the applicant's commander and a copy of his/her orders. For renewals, the presentation of the current license is evidence to the judge of the probate that the applicant's fingerprints are on file. The background check for renewals will be a non-fingerprint check with GCIC and the FBI.

GCIC is to be notified immediately of the judge's revocation of a license but no less than ten days later.

If a person is convicted of a crime that would make it unlawful for him to maintain a weapons license, the judge will inquire whether such person has a license and in which county. The judge would then contact the probate in the county maintaining the license of the matter that makes the maintenance of such license is unlawful.

The bill adds political subdivisions and school districts to those entities that cannot regulate transport of firearms except as provided for in the Code. The instances where the municipality and the county can regulate are when it pertains to their employees; this bill also includes volunteers with the counties and cities. It revises the definition of "weapon" to mean any device designed or intended to be used, or capable of being used, for offense or defense, including but not limited to firearms, bladed devices, clubs, electric stun devices, and defense sprays.

**Authored By:** Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th)  
**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Small Business Development Committee

### SR 114 Joint Entrepreneur in Residence Study Committee; create

**Bill Summary:** This resolution creates the six-member Joint Entrepreneur in Residence Study Committee to review existing relationships between government and entrepreneurial businesses and make recommendations for improving the partnerships.

**Authored By:** Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
**House Committee:** Small Business Development  
**Committee Action:** 03-26-2015 Do Pass

## Transportation Committee

### SR 126 Bill T. Hardman Hospitality Highway; Dawson and Lumpkin counties; dedicate

**Bill Summary:** PART 1 - SR 126: Senator Steve Gooch  
 State Route 400 in Dawson and Lumpkin counties is dedicated as the Bill T. Hardman Hospitality Highway.

PART 2 - SR 355: Senator Jeff Mullis

The intersection of State Route 341 and Mission Ridge Road in Walker County is dedicated as the E-4 Roger Dorsey, United States Navy, Memorial Intersection.

PART 3 - SR 290: Senator Steve Gooch

The portion of new Cleveland Bypass from SR11/US129 at Donald E. Thurmond Drive extending northwest to SR11/US129 at Hulsey Road is dedicated as the Appalachian Parkway.

PART 4 - SR 410: Senator Steve Gooch

The portion of State Route 306 from GA 400 to State Route 53 in Forsyth County is dedicated as the Frank L. Danchetz Highway.

PART 5 - SR 411: Senator Steve Gooch

The bridge on State Route 8/North Avenue over the Interstate 75/Interstate 85 Connector in Fulton County is dedicated as the Paul V. Liles, Jr., Bridge.

PART 6 - SR 296: Senator Steve Henson

The bridge on the MARTA Indian Creek Station exit ramp to Interstate 285 southbound in DeKalb County is dedicated as the Senator Lawrence (Bud) Stumbaugh Bridge.

PART 7 - SR 40: Senator Mike Dugan

The new flyover ramp on Interstate 85 at Georgia 400 is dedicated as the Captain Herb Emory Flyover Ramp.

PART 8 - SR 159: Senator Gloria Butler

The intersection of Highway 78 and Rosebud Road in Gwinnett County is dedicated as Brooks-Foster Crossing.

PART 9 - SR 441: Senator Donzella James

State Route 9 in Fulton County from its intersection with Peachtree Street to 14th Street is dedicated as the Gladys Knight Highway.

PART 10 - HR 396: Representative Sheila Jones

The bridge on Interstate 20 over Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard in Fulton County is dedicated as the Willie A. Watkins Bridge.

PART 11 - HR 421: Representative William Werkheiser

The portion of U.S. Highway 301 beginning at the Georgia and South Carolina state line in Screven County through Bulloch, Evans, Tattnall, Long, Wayne, and Brantley counties to the Florida state line in Charlton County is dedicated as the Georgia Grown Trail: 301.

PART 12 - HR 528: Representative Brian Prince

State Route 24 in Jefferson County from its intersection with U.S. Highway 1 on the Louisville Bypass to the Burke County line is dedicated as the Ozzie M. Hannah Memorial Highway.

PART 13 - HR 547: Representative Jeff Jones

HR 547 dedicates the portion of Georgia Highway 99 from U.S. Highway 17 in Eulonia to U.S. Highway 17 in Darien as Veterans Memorial Highway.

PART 14 - HR 548: Representative Tom Kirby

The intersection of GA 81 and GA 78 in Walton County is dedicated as the Ethan Rutledge Memorial Intersection.

PART 15 - HR 564: Speaker David Ralston

The bridge on State Route 515 over Cherry Log Street in Gilmer County is dedicated as the J. H. "Bud" Holloway Memorial Bridge.

PART 16 - HR 565: Representative Terry Rogers

The bridge on State Route 385/Old Highway 441 over Camp Creek in Habersham County is dedicated as the Johnny Mize Memorial Bridge.

PART 17 - HR 566: Representative Jason Spencer

The bridge on State Route 177 at mile marker 16 in Ware County is dedicated as the Corporal Russell S. King Memorial Bridge.

PART 18 - HR 599: Representative Paul Battles

The bridge on Ga 113 over Richland Creek west of downtown Cartersville in Bartow County is dedicated as the Hoyt D. "Slick" Tatum Memorial Bridge.

PART 19 - HR 619: Representative Paul Battles

Ga. 133 from its intersection at Doughtit Ferry Road to Euharlee (Chulio) Road west of downtown Cartersville in Bartow County is dedicated as the Henry C. Floyd Memorial Highway.

PART 20 - HR 653: Representative Mack Jackson

Ga. 272 from Ga. 68 to Ga. 24 in Washington County is dedicated as the Jimmy B. Lord Highway.

PART 21 - HR 688: Representative Tonya Anderson

HR 688 dedicates the portion of Interstate 285 beginning east of Interstate 85 south of Atlanta to the top end of Interstate 75 north of Atlanta in Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton counties.

PART 22 - HR 707: Representative Jimmy Pruet

The bridge on US 280 over the Oconee River in Wheeler County is dedicated as the Lance Corporal Melvin Poole Memorial Bridge.

PART 23 - HR 725: Representative Robert Dickey

Ga. 341 in Monroe County from the Lamar County line to the Crawford County line is dedicated as the Michael Andrew Norris Memorial Highway.

PART 24 - HR 786: Representative Patty Bentley

The double bridge on East and West bound State Route 96 over Beechwood Swamp in Taylor County is dedicated as the Private John P. Dion Memorial Bridge.

PART 25 - HR 651: Representative Gloria Frazier

Ga. Hwy. 56 in the city of Midvale from mile marker 1 to the northern city limit is dedicated as the Samuel L. Cummings Highway.

PARTS 26 ' 41: HR 36

PART 42 ' SENATE ADDED LANGUAGE TO HR 36

PART 43 - HR 784: Representative Patty Bentley

The bridge on State Route 96 over Interstate 75 in Peach County is dedicated as the John David Duke Lane, Sr., Memorial Bridge.

**Authored By:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)

**House** Transportation

**Committee:**

**Committee**  
**Action:**

03-26-2015 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](#).*

### Friday, March 27, 2015

10:00 AM [FLOOR SESSION \(LD 38\)](#) HOUSE CHAMBER

9:00 AM [Jacobs Subcommittee of Judiciary Civil](#) 132 CAP

9:00 AM [RULES](#) 341 CAP