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**Weekly Legislative Report # 2**

Week ending January 22, 2016

**Legislative Calendar**

The General Assembly traditionally reserves the MLK holiday week solely for budget hearings. However, this year they met in regular session for three legislative days in an effort to accelerate their journey to completion. The one significant resolution they approved has set the schedule for the entire remainder of the session. Under what’s referred to as the adjournment resolution, legislative day 30 (aka crossover day) will be on Monday, February 29 and adjournment sine die is scheduled for Thursday, March 24. As the next day is Good Friday, an extension of the current time table seems quite unlikely.

**Budget/Economy Discussions**

While the legislature was able to burn three legislative days, the main focus of the past week remained on the budget. Gov. Nathan Deal told members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees that he based his spending proposals on a conservative revenue estimate of 5.8% growth for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30. The FY 2017 budget has been pegged to a rate of 4.2% growth in state revenues.

The state’s official fiscal economist, Georgia State University Research Professor Kenneth Heaghney, testified that Georgia’s economy is now growing at a “moderate” pace. That’s a rate he anticipates for the foreseeable future thanks to increased consumer spending, an upswing in jobs and a better (although not yet back to pre-recession levels) housing market. In short, Heaghney said consumers are simply taking advantage of higher real disposable incomes and spending at a rate that is good for Georgia’s economy.

There was a dark side to Heaghney’s presentation. Manufacturing is trending down nationwide and the stock market is showing significant volatility. China’s weakening economy and the effect of low oil prices on countries such as Russia, Brazil and Canada are all worrisome, although Heaghney doesn’t anticipate an immediate spill-over to Georgia’s economy.

**Religious Freedom Debate**

Sen. Greg Kirk (R-Americus), a former Baptist minister, made a big splash this week by introducing [SB 284](http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/155218.pdf), another foray into the religious freedom discussion brought on by the advent of gay marriage. Kirk’s bill would allow employees to sue a governmental body that fires or disciplines them for refusing on religious or moral grounds to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples. A bill with similar intent [(SB 129)](http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/150262.pdf) by Sen. Josh McKoon (R-Columbus) passed the Senate last session, but stalled in a House committee when an amendment was added to prevent discrimination against same sex couples.

**Congressional Race**

When Third District Congressman Lynn Westmoreland announced recently that he would not seek re-election, there was rampant speculation that we would see at least several elected officials leaving the legislature to pursue a desk in Washington. However, Sen. Mike Crane (R-Newnan) held a press conference this week to announce his candidacy and two of those rumored to be contemplating the same race were seen standing at his side. Sen. Josh McKoon (R-Columbus) and Sen. Marty Harbin (R-Tyrone) lined up behind Crane for the post. House Majority Whip Matt Ramsey (R-Peachtree City) has made it clear he does not intend to run for the seat. On the other hand, former legislator Jeff Brown of LaGrange has said he is giving it consideration.

Crane can be objectively described as very conservative and has been at visible odds with fellow Republicans, especially Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle. He once tried to wrap the Senate chamber in yellow crime scene tape to protest new Senate rules restoring Cagle’s power to appoint committee chairmen.

**Tuition Hikes Rankle**

University tuition hikes have garnered the ire of any number of legislators over the past couple of years and at least one has now called for changing the way the Board of Regents is selected. Rep. David Stover (R-Newnan) introduced [HR 1112](http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/155069.pdf), a constitutional amendment that would place candidates for the Board of Regents on the November general election ballot – one from each Congressional District, plus five positions from the state at large. Regents are currently appointed by the Governor.

Stover specifically cited tuition increases as the motivation for his proposal and was quoted as saying, “We’re pricing the poorest students out of college,” and “It’s time that we give control of the Board of Regents to the people.”

University Chancellor Hank Huckaby responded to questions from lawmakers at a hearing on Tuesday, saying, “If we don’t increase pay for our best faculty, we’re going to lose our best faculty. If we lose our best faculty, we’re not going to make our obligation to have an educated and prepared workforce.”

**Next Week**

Given the tight time table for this year’s session, we expect both Houses to hit the ground running next week. They will be in session Monday through Thursday with a recess day on Friday, but the real work will be occurring in committee meetings.

**Tracking List**

Here are the bills we are tracking. New activity is noted in red. Click on the Bill Number to access the current version of the bill.

The 2016 Legislative Session is the second session of the 2015-2016 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated last session are carried over to the 2016 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2015 session have been recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

**Aging and Adult Services**

[HB 92, Family Leave Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/92) (Rep. Tommy Benton-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to labor and industrial relations, so as to allow employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members; to provide for definitions; to provide for conditions to take leave; to provide that retaliatory actions are unlawful. **Status:** Referred to Industrial Relations Cmte.

[HB 684, Access to Oral Health](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/684) (Rep. Chuck Martin-R)

Relating to dental hygienists, so as to provide for delegable services and procedures that may be performed by dental hygienists; to revise provisions regarding direct supervision of dental hygienists by dentists in certain settings. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[SB 242, Family Leave Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/242) (Sen. Michael Williams-R)

So as to allow employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Withdrawn from Insurance Committee and Recommitted to the Health Cmte.

**Budget**

[HB 773, Increase the Outstanding Bond Limit](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/773) (Rep. Penny Houston-R)

Relating to the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority, so as to increase the outstanding bond limit. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte.

**Business**

[HB 81, Limits on Lien Creditor’s Remedies](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/81) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to the effect of redemption of property, so as to require the confirmation of certain redemptions; to limit the lien creditor’s remedies. **Status:** Referred Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 500, Revises the Definition of Employment](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/500) (Rep. Ronnie Mabra-D)

Relating to employment security, so as to change certain provisions of a definition in order to provide that services performed by an individual for wages shall be deemed to be employment unless the Department of Labor makes a contrary determination based upon evidence submitted of certain factors demonstrating that such individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance of such services. **Status:** Referred to Industry & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Industry & Labor Cmte.

[HB 756, To Protect Certain Sellers Against Infringement on Religious Liberty](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/756) (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R)

Relating to selling and other trade practices, so as to protect certain sellers of goods or services against infringement on religious freedom. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte.

[HB 757, Religious Protection from Performing Certain Marriage Ceremonies](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/757) (Rep. Kevin Tanner- R)

Relating to marriage generally, so as to provide that religious officials shall not be required to perform marriage ceremonies in violation of their legal right to free exercise of religion. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte.

[SB 129, Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/129) (Sen. Josh McKoon- R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for the preservation of religious freedom; to provide for legislative findings. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Passed Senate, Referred to House Judiciary Cmte.

**City/County, Regional Commissions & State Planning**

[HB 318, Regional Commission Dues](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/318) (David Stover-R)

To provide that membership in regional commissions is optional for counties and municipalities. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 433, MPO Process](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/433) (Rep. Kevin Cooke-R)

Relating to the Department of Community Affairs, so as to provide for the formation of a metropolitan planning process for the Atlanta Urbanized Area and Atlanta Air Quality region. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 581, Atlanta Urbanized Area and Air Quality Region](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/581) (Rep. Dustin Hightower-R)

Relating to the Department of Community Affairs, so as to provide for the formation of a metropolitan planning process for the Atlanta Urbanized Area and Atlanta Air Quality region. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 749, Councils to Meet by Teleconference](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/749) (Rep. Bill Werkheiser-R)

Relating to councils of regional commissions, membership, terms of membership, voting, officers, and powers, so as to authorize such councils to meet by teleconference or similar means; to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to State Planning and Community Affairs Cmte.

[HB 781, Eligibility and Qualifications for Public Office](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/781) (Rep. Brad Raffensperger-R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities; general provisions regarding eligibility and qualifications for public office. So as to require that individuals appointed to authorities, boards, councils, and commissions be United States citizens. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 785, Provide for a Creation of Townships](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/785) (Rep. Mike Dudgeon-R)

relating to local government, so as to provide for the creation of townships; to conform related laws. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HR 1051, Townships, Zoning and Land Use Development](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/1051) (Rep. Mike Dudgeon-R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that the General Assembly may provide by law for townships for the limited purposes of exercising the power of zoning and the regulation of land use development within the boundaries of such townships and provide for the funding and operation of such townships; to provide for submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[SB 258, Ad Valorem Tax](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/258) (Sen. Fran Millar-R)

Relating to creation of county boards of equalization, duties, review of assessments, and appeals, so as to provide that the assessed value established by the board of tax assessors during an appeal of such valuation for such taxable year by the taxpayer but may be reduced as a result of the appeal of the taxpayer. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte.

[SB 259, Provide for a Homestead Exemption from Ad Valorem Taxes](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/259) (Sen. Fran Millar-R)

Relating to Property Tax Exemptions and Deferral, so as to provide for a homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes for state, county, municipal, or school purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted base year assessed. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte.

[SB 272, Georgia Townships Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/272) (Sen. William Ligon-R)

Relating to local government, so as to provide for a short title; to revise other provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to provide for conformity. **Status:** Referred to State & Local Governmental Operations Cmte.

[SR 724, Creation of Townships for the Purpose of Zoning](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/724) (Sen. William Ligon-R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that the General Assembly may provide by law for the creation of townships for the limited purposes of exercising the power of zoning and the regulation of land use and development within the boundaries of such townships and provide for the funding and operation of such townships. **Status:** Referred to State & Local Governmental Operations Cmte.

[SR 730, Coastal Regional Commission to Support the Coastal Georgia Greenway](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/730) (Sen. William Ligon-R)

A Resolution encouraging the Coastal Regional Commission and other entities to support the implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources and the Environment Cmte.

**Developmental Disabilities & Mental Health**

[HB 179, License Requirements for Pain Management](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/179) Clinics (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to licensure requirements for pain management clinics, so as to revise a provision relating to the health care professionals who must be on-site at a pain management clinic in order for the clinic to provide medical treatment or services. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 359, Relating to Separate Standard Cmtes](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/359) (Rep. Beth Beskin-R)

Relating to professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, so as to change certain provisions relating to separate standards committees for the professional counseling specialty, the social work specialty, and the marriage and family therapy specialty. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 498, Revise Definition of Professional Counselor](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/498) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to definitions relative to professional counselors, social workers, and others, so as to revise the definition of "professional counseling." **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries.

[HB 705, Require a Care Provider to Provide Periodic Opportunities etc.](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/705)  (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

Relating to general provisions relating to the governing and regulation of mental health, so as to require a mental health care provider to provide periodic opportunities for a patient to designate a family member or other individual he or she chooses as a person with whom the provider may discuss the patient’s medical condition and treatment plan. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[SB 87, Limit Use of Specialty Board Designations by Physicians](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/87) (Sen. Judson Hill-R)

Relating to physician profiles, dissemination to public, content and maintenance requirements, corrections, judgments prior to April 11, 2001, sealed judgments, arbitration awards, and settlements prohibited, so as to limit the use of specialty board designations by physicians. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services.

**Economic Development**

[HB 677, Casino Gaming](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/677) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for casino gaming in this state at a limited number of licensed resort facilities in counties and municipalities that have approved by public referendum the establishment of such facilities; to provide for the comprehensive regulation of such activities; to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Lottery and Casino Gaming Commission. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte.

[HR 807, Casino Gaming](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/807) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for local authorization of a limited number of licensed casino resorts within the state; to authorize the operation and regulation of casino gaming within the state; and to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[SB, 264, Horse Racing; Provide for Pari-mutuel Wagering](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/264) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing; to provide for definitions; to provide for conditions for horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering; to provide for the regulation and operation of horse racing; to provide for licensing of facilities and persons participating in horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte.

**Environment & Natural Resources**

[HB 4, Interbasin Transfers Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/4) (Rep. Harry Geisinger-R)

Relating to water supply and water conservation management plan and interbasin transfers relative to the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, so as to provide an exemption to the prohibition on interbasin transfers from certain rivers. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte.

[HB 116, Prohibits Ground Water into Floridan Aquifer](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/116) (Rep. Alex Atwood-R)

Relating to wells and drinking water, so as to prohibit the injection of ground water into the Floridan aquifer in certain counties. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte.

[SB 36, Prohibits Ground Water into Floridan Aquifer](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/36) (Sen. William Ligon-R)

Relating to wells and drinking water, so as to prohibit the injection of ground water into the Floridan aquifer in certain counties. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte, Hearing Only Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Natural Resources Cmte, Passed Environmental Quality Subcmte, Pending Cmte.

**Governmental Affairs & Regulations**

[HB 14, Approving of Federal Funds by the General Assembly](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/14) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to participation in federal programs, so as to provide that no local authority or local government shall accept federal funds in any form or for any purpose unless the acceptance of such federal funds has been approved by an Act of the General Assembly. Relating to general provisions regarding state government, so as to provide that no state authority, agency, board, bureau, commission, department, office, public corporation, or other entity of state government shall accept federal funds in any form or for any purpose unless the acceptance of such federal funds has been approved by an Act of the General Assembly. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte.

[HB 351, Relating to Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machines](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/351) (Rep. Ben Harbin-R)

Relating to bona fide coin operated amusement machines, so as to change certain provisions relating to master licenses and requirements and restrictions for licensees; to change certain provisions relating to the Class B accounting terminal, communication networks, and other procedures and policies. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 358, Establish Legislative Oversight Cmte for State Contracts](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/358) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

To establish the Legislative Oversight Committee for State Contracts. **Status:**  Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 462, Classification of Sale Leaseback Transactions](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/462) (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to leases, so as to provide for the classification of sale leaseback transactions under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Withdrawn and Referred to Banks and Banking Cmte, Hearing Held.

[HB 485, Access Cards for Lobbyists](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/485) (Rep. “Rusty” Kidd-I)

Relating to registration required of lobbyists, application for registration, supplemental registration, expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, so as to provide for access cards for lobbyists. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 569, Licensure of Durable Medical Equipment](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/569) (Rep. Jesse Petrea-R)

Relating to Pharmacists and Pharmacies, so as to provide for the licensure of durable medical equipment suppliers. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[SB 155, Georgia Lottery Benefitting Veterans](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/155) (Sen. Ed Harbison-D)

Relating to lottery for education, so as to provide a short title; to provide that the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall offer one or more games to benefit veterans; to provide for the deposit of proceeds into the general fund. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte.

[SB 191, Blasting or Excavating Near Utility Facilities](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/191) (Sen. Lindsey Tippins-R)

Relating to blasting or excavating near utility facilities, so as to prohibit 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. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte.

**Health – General**

[SB 86, Patient Compensation Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/86) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to torts, so as to create an alternative to medical malpractice litigation whereby patients are compensated for medical injuries; to establish the Patient Compensation System and the Patient Compensation Board. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services.

**Health – Public Health**

[HB 15, Regulation of Fireworks](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/15) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to regulation of fireworks, so as to allow for the sale of consumer fireworks not prohibited under federal law, relating to definitions relative to crimes related to explosives and other devices, relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to allow for local regulation of fireworks. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 53, HIV Test Consent](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/53) (Rep. Keisha Waites-D)

To provide that a person consenting to the provision of medical or surgical care by a health care provider operates as consent for such provider to perform and HIV test; to provide for withdrawal of consent for an HIV test. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 105, Meningococcal Disease Vaccinations and Disclosures](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/105) (Rep. Joe Wilkinson-R)

Relating to meningococcal disease vaccinations and disclosures, so as to revise provisions regarding vaccination against meningococcal disease of college students. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 111, Advertising on School Buses](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/111) (Rep. Wendell Willard-R)

Relating to powers of state and local school officials with respect to school buses, so as to provide for commercial advertising on school buses by local boards of education. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte.

[HB 119, AIDS Disclosure](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/119) (Rep. Bert Reeves-R)

Relating to disclosure of AIDS confidential information, so as to change provisions relating to disclosure of such information under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Judiciary Cmte.

[HB 129, Public Water Fluoride Removal](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/129) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to fluoridation of public water systems, state funds for cost of fluoridation equipment, chemicals, and materials, and tax deduction for fluoride-removing devices, so as to provide that communities may impose or remove fluoridation by referendum under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 155, Requiring Vaccine Registration by Those Who Administer Them](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/155) (Rep. Nikki Randall-D)

Relating to the control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to require registration with the vaccination registry by persons who administer vaccines and by pharmacies, agencies, or businesses employing persons who administer vaccines; relating to medical practice, so as to provide that certain pharmacists and nurses who enter into an influenza vaccine protocol agreement with a physician shall register with the vaccination registry. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services.

[HB 219, Exempt Certain Private Swimming Pools from Inspection and Licensing](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/219) (Rep. Jeff Jones-R)

Relating to health and public swimming pools, so as to exempt certain privately owned swimming pools from inspection and licensing requirements; to authorize inspection requests to board of health by residents or owners. **Status:** Referred to State Planning & Community Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to State Planning & Community Affairs Cmte.

[HB 362, Prescribing Albuteral Sulfate for Schools](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/362) (Rep. Valerie Clark-R)

Relating to pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to authorize licensed health practitioners to prescribe albuterol sulfate for schools.  **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Rules Calendar, House Postponed, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Education & Youth Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree – Disagree.

**Note:** SB 115, Physician Assistant’s authorization to prescribe level II substances by Senator Hufstetler was added to HB 362 on the Senate Floor.

[HB 391, Exempt Sales Tax for Certain Nonprofit Health Centers](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/391) (Rep. Richard Smith-R)

Relating to exemptions from sales and use tax, so as to provide a new exemption from state sales and use tax only for a limited period of time regarding the sale or use of tangible personal property to certain nonprofit health centers; to provide a new exemption for a limited period of time with respect to certain nonprofit volunteer health clinics. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 649, Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/649) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to physicians, acupuncturists, and others, so as to require licensure of lactation consultants; to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for an advisory committee; to provide for licensure application and qualifications; to provide for license renewal; to provide for statutory construction. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 726, Excise Tax; Tobacco Products; Clarify Certain Charges](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/726)  (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R)

Relating to taxes on tobacco products so as to clarify that certain charges are not subject to state excise tax. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 774, Regulation of Fireworks and Local Government Provisions](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/774) (Rep. Alex Atwood-R)

Relating to regulation of fireworks and general provisions regarding local government provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, respectively, so as to revise provisions relating to the sale, use, or explosion thereof; to revise the days, times, and locations in which consumer fireworks may be lawfully used or exploded; to revise places within this state where the use or explosion of consumer fireworks are prohibited; to provide for exceptions; to authorize counties and municipal corporations to further regulate the use or explosion of consumer fireworks. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety & Homeland Security Cmte.

[SB 29, Firefighters and Occupational Diseases](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/29) (Sen. John Albers-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to compensation for occupational diseases; to provide for a rebuttal presumption that certain medical conditions suffered by firefighters are occupational diseases; to provide for applicability; to provide for benefits. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 32, State Employee Election of Coverage Under Different Administrator](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/32) (Sen. Valencia Seay-D)

Relating to the State Employees’ Health Insurance Plan, so as to require that the Board of Community Health shall reopen the 2014 open enrollment period to permit any employee whose elected medical claims administrator declared a major medical facility to be out of such administrator’s network to elect coverage under a different administrator. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 34, Immunity if Rescuing Child in Motor Vehicle](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/34) (Sen. Greg Kirk-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to torts, so as to provide immunity from liability under certain circumstances for persons entering a parked motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a child from such motor vehicle. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Judiciary Cmte.

[SB 35, Penalty Leaving Child in Certain Motor Vehicles](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/35) (Sen. Donzella James-D)

Relating to cruelty to children, so as to provide that leaving certain children in vehicles under certain circumstances constitutes cruelty to children in the third degree. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte.

[SB 41, Georgia Family Planning Initiative](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/41) (Sen. Horacena Tate-D)

Relating to the Department of Public Health, so as to enact the "Georgia Family Planning Initiative"; to authorize public and private funding; to provide for distribution of funds for family planning services; to provide for priority of patients and cost of services. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services.

[SB 43, Provide Employee Breast Feeding Time](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/43) (Sen. Donzella James-D)

To change certain provisions relating to an employer's obligation to provide time for an employee to express breast milk for an infant child. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor.

[SB 55, Immunity When Rescuing Child in Motor Vehicle](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/55) (Sen. Vincent Fort-D)

Relating to general provisions regarding torts, so as to provide for civil immunity for a person who causes property damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a minor from such vehicle due to the belief of imminent danger to the minor. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte.

[SB 130, Bans Smoking in Vehicle with a Passenger Under 15](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/130) (Sen. Bruce Thompson-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to the uniform rules of the road, so as to provide that any person in control of a motor vehicle who smokes or permits another occupant to smoke when a person under the age of 15 is in the vehicle shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte. Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte.

**Hospitals**

[HB 247, CON Exemptions for Mental Health Facilities](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/247) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to exemptions from certificate of need requirements, so as to revise an exemption relating to mental health facilities. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 248, Regulation and Licensure of Short-term Mental Health Facilities](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/248) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to the powers and duties of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities regarding the regulation of mental health, so as to provide for the regulation and licensure of short-term mental health facilities by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; to provide for a transfer of duties and obligations from the Department of Community Health. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 249, Repeal the CON Program](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/249) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to health, so as to repeal the certificate of need program. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 321, Regarding Costs for Providing Copies of Health Records](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/321) (Rep. Kevin Cooke-R)

Relating to health records, so as to revise provisions regarding imposition of costs for providing copies of health records; to authorize certain charges for producing records in various forms. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 349, Physician Assistant Ability to Authorize Schedule II](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/349) (Rep. Jason Spencer-R)

Relating to delegation of authority to physician assistants, so as to authorize a physician to delegate to a physician assistant the authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances under certain conditions. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Subcmte as Amended, Pending Cmte.

[HB 354, Must Cover Certain Trauma Centers with the State Health Benefit Plan](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/354) (Rep. Barry Fleming-R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to require an insurer providing services under the state health benefit plan to include certain trauma centers in its provider network; to provide for a mechanism to resolve disputes between insurers and hospitals. **Status:** Referred to Judicial Cmte. Passed Subcmte as Amended, Pending Cmte.

[HB 362, Prescribing Albuteral Sulfate for Schools](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/362) (Rep. Valerie Clark-R)

Relating to pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to authorize licensed health practitioners to prescribe albuterol sulfate for schools.  **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Rules Calendar, House Postponed, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Education & Youth Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree – Disagree.

**Note:** SB 115, Physician Assistant’s authorization to prescribe level II substances by Senator Hufstetler was added to HB 362 on the Senate Floor.

[HB 399, Regarding County and Municipal Hospital Authorities](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/399) (Rep. Jason Spencer-R)

Relating to county and municipal hospital authorities, so as to revise various requirements and provisions relative to county and municipal hospital authorities. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[HB 482, Revises CON Requirements for a Destination Cancer Hospital](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/482) (Rep. Wendell Willard-R)

Relating to state health planning and development, so as to revise the requirements for a destination cancer hospital for purposes of certificate of need. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 501, Relating to a State-wide Health Care Data System](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/501) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to health care data system established and departmental authority, so as to remove the authority of the Department of Community Health to use existing data collection systems in establishing and operating a state-wide health care data system. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 727, Fireworks; Further Regulations by Counties and Municipal Corporations](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/727) (Rep. Paul Battles- R)

Relating to regulation of fireworks, so as to revise provisions relating to the sale, use, or explosion thereof. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 732, Super Speeder Law](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/732) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to speed restrictions of motor vehicles, so as to provide for "super speeder" classification upon conviction of driving a commercial motor vehicle at a speed of ten or more miles per hour above the posted speed limit. **Status:** Referred to Motor Vehicles Cmte.

[SB 114, Protocol Agreements Between Physicians and RNs](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/114) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurses, so as to revise provisions relating to the number of advanced practice registered nurses a delegating physician can enter into a protocol agreement with at any one time. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health Cmte.

[SB 115, P.A. Authority to Prescribe Schedule II](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/115) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to delegation of authority to physician assistants, so as to authorize a physician to delegate to a physician assistant the authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances; to provide for additional continuing education requirements regarding Schedule II controlled substances. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health Cmte.

**Note:** SB 115, Physician Assistant’s authorization to prescribe level II substances by Senator Hufstetler was added to HB 362 on the Senate Floor, Sent to House, Speaker Never Called for a Vote.

[SB 143, Inclusion of Certain Trauma Centers in a Provider Network](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/143) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to require an insurer providing services under the state health benefit plan to include certain trauma centers in its provider network; to provide for a mechanism to resolve disputes between insurers and certain hospitals. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte as Amended, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[SB 158, Consumer and Provider Protections on Health Insurance](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/158) (Sen. Dean Burke-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide certain consumer and provider protections regarding health insurance; to provide for health insurer transparency; to provide for health care providers' right to choose; to provide for health care provider stability. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 271, Reasonable Standards for Providing Patients with Rights](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/271) (Sen. Dean Burke- R)

Relating to examination and treatment for mental illness, so as to provide for reasonable standards for providing patients and their representatives notice of their rights upon each such patient’s admission to an emergency receiving facility; to provide for procedure for continued involuntary hospitalization of a mentally ill patient when a discharge has been planned and is deemed unsafe; to change the time frame for certain notices related to the procedure for continued involuntary hospitalization; to provide for reasonable standard for diligent efforts to secure the names of a mental patient’s representatives. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte.

**Insurance**

[HB 193, Written Notice to Certain Life Insurance Policyholders](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/193) (Rep. Carl Rogers-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for the "Life Insurance Consumer Disclosure Model Act"; to provide for written notice to certain life insurance policyholders that request the surrender of, a loan against, or accelerated death benefit, nursing home benefit, critical illness benefit, or any other living benefit under a life insurance policy. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Referred to Life & Health Subcmte.

[HB 224, Regulation of Transportation Referral Services - Uber](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/224)  (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to preserve existing certificates of public necessity and convenience and medallion systems for taxicabs and to restrict the future use thereof; relating to motor vehicles, so as to provide for the comprehensive regulation of transportation referral services, transportation referral service providers, ride share network services, and ride share drivers. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 226, Regarding Chauffeur License Endorsements - Uber](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/226) (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to local government and motor vehicles and traffic, respectively, so as to change certain terminology regarding chauffeur license endorsements; to provide that drivers must have an endorsement in order to carry passengers for hire. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 303, Uninsured Motorist Coverage Recovery](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/303) (Rep. Dustin Hightower-R)

Relating to uninsured motorist coverage under motor vehicle liability policies, so as to change provisions relating to the recovery when an insurer refuses to pay for a loss within 60 days after a demand has been made by the insured and a finding has been made that such refusal was made in bad faith. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary, Referred to Subcmte, Passed Subcmte by Cmte Substitute, Pending Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Hearing Only Held

[HB 306, Conversion of Life Insurance to Fund Long-Term Care Services](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/306) (Rep. Jesse Petrea-R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for the conversion of life insurance policies for funding for long-term care services to delay medical assistance; to provide that the proceeds of the conversion through a life settlement contract be used only for long-term care services. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 484, Certain Premium Increases for Life Insurance](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/484) (Rep. Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for certain premium increases. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 519, Notice of Certain Life Insurance Premium Increases](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/519) (Rep. Buzz Brockway-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for notice of certain premium increases. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 591, Premium Tax on MV Liability and Casualty Insurance Policies](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/591) (Rep. Bill Hitchens-R)

To provide for a premium tax on motor vehicle liability and casualty insurance policies; to provide for payment of such funds to the retirement fund. **Status:** Referred to Retirement Cmte

[HB 703, Georgia Captive Insurance Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/703) (Rep. Jason Shaw-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for extensive changes to the captive insurance company provisions of this title. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 784, Advertising To Not Be Considered Unfair Trade Practice](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/784) (Rep. John Carson-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide that certain insurer advertising and promotional items not exceeding $100.00 in value will not be considered an unfair trade practice or an unlawful inducement. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[SB 136, “Life Insurance Consumer Disclosure Act”](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/136) (Sen. Marty Harbin-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for the "Life Insurance Consumer Disclosure Act"; to provide for written notice to certain life insurance policyholders that request the surrender of, a loan against, or accelerated death benefit, nursing home benefit, critical illness benefit, or any other living benefit under a life insurance policy. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 137, Regarding Value of Property Covered Against Loss by Fire](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/137) (Sen. Marty Harbin-R)

Relating to property insurance, so as to expand the ownership restriction as it relates to the application of the value of the property covered against loss by fire. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte as Amended, Pending Rules Cmte.

[SB 196, Insurance Requirements for Transportation Network Companies](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/196) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to provide insurance requirements for transportation network companies and their drivers; to provide for definitions; to provide for minimum liability limits. **Status**: Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 204, Reorganization of Mutual Insurers](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/204) (Sen. Burt Jones-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide a short title; to define certain terms; to provide for reorganization of mutual insurers and formation of mutual insurance holding companies; to provide that capital stock of the reorganized stock insurer shall be issued to the mutual insurance holding company or to an intermediate stock holding company; to provide for the requirements of any reorganization plan; to provide for mergers of mutual insurers or other entities with mutual insurance holding companies; to provide that capital stock of the merged insurer shall be issued to the mutual insurance holding company or to an intermediate stock holding company; to provide for approval of the reorganization plan or merger plan by the Commissioner of Insurance. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte.

**Pharmaceuticals**

[HB 34, Georgia Right to Try Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/34) (Rep. Mike Dudgeon-R)

Relating to health so as to provide for investigational drugs, biological products, and devices for patients with advanced illnesses; to allow manufacturers to make such drugs available; to provide that health benefit coverage is not mandatory; to prohibit sanctions against a physician’s license. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 47, Dispensing of Topical Ophthalmic Products](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/47) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to dispensing prescription drugs, so as to authorize certain refills of topical ophthalmic products under certain conditions. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 195, Interchangeable Biological Products](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/195) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to provide for substitutions of interchangeable biological products. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte by Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

Note: SB 51, Senate companion bill was passed in the 2015 session and signed by Governor Deal.

[HB 407, Opioid Education by Pain Management Clinics](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/407) (Rep. Ronnie Mabra-D

Relating to pain management clinics, so as to require Opioid Education and Pro-Active Addiction Counseling for patients who are prescribed Schedule II or III controlled substances for chronic pain for extended periods; to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 473, Regulation and Licensure of Pharmacy Benefits Managers](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/473) (Rep. David Knight-R)

Relating to the regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to provide that a pharmacy benefits manager owes a fiduciary duty to a covered entity; to require certain notices and disclosures by pharmacy benefits managers to covered entities. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 491, Emergency Public Access Stations and Auto-Injectable Epinephrine](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/491) (Rep. Wes Cantrell-R)

To provide for emergency public access stations to allow a lay rescuer to consult with a medical professional to administer or make available auto-injectable epinephrine under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 564, Continuing Ed. Training on Prescribing](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/564) (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)

Relating to medical practice, so as to require physicians to complete continuing education training on prescribing controlled substances and development of addiction. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 588, Regulation of Ephedrine Products](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/588) (Valerie Clark-R)

Relating to regulation of controlled substances, so as to change provisions relating to possession of substances containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine and restrictions on sales of products containing pseudoephedrine; to provide for real-time tracking of sales of products containing ephedrine, norpseudoephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Withdrawn, Recommitted to Health & Human Service Cmte.

[HB 783, To Change Certain Provisions Relating to Controlled Substances](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/783) (Rep. Bruce Broadrick-R)

Relating to controlled substances, so as to change certain provisions relating to Schedules I and IV controlled substances. To change certain provisions relating to the definition of dangerous drug; to provide for restricted dangerous drugs; to provide for penalties for certain violations relating to restricted dangerous drugs and nonprescription injectable insulin. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[SB 245, Regarding Opioid Analgesics](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/245) (Sen. Rick Jeffares-R)

Relating to general provisions of insurance, so as to provide for access to opioid analgesics with abuse-deterrent properties; to provide for coverage as a preferred drug; to provide for utilization management. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte.

**Study Committees**

[HR 787, Diabetes Control Grant Program Advisory Board](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/787) (Rep. Pat Gardner-D)

A Resolution encouraging Governor Nathan Deal to establish a Diabetes Control Grant Program Advisory Board and to fund the proposed grant programs outlined in the Diabetes Health and Improvement Act of 2010. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[HR 808, Tax to Fund Autism Spectrum Disorder](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/808) (Rep. Richard Smith-R)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that funds derived from an additional .2 percent increase in the general state sales and use tax shall be appropriated for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HR 828, Study Cmte for Indigent and Charity Health Care Services](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/828) (Rep. Penny Houston-R)

A Resolution creating the House Study Committee on the Provision of Indigent and Charity Health Care Services. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[HR 978, House Study Committee on Historic Site Preservation](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/978) (Rep. Debbie Buckner-D)

A Resolution creating the House Study Committee on Historic Site Preservation; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte.

[SR 43, Study Committee on Tax Exemptions](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/43) (Sen. John Albers-R)

A Senate Study Committee to examine tax exemptions and deliberately assess the value of such exemptions in order to gain a clear understanding of which tax exemptions will help stimulate our state’s economy. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Finance Cmte.

[SR 65, Study Committee on Special Tax Exemptions](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/65) (Sen. Harold Jones-D)

A Senate Study Committee to perform cost-benefit analysis on tax credits for companies. **Status:** Referred to Government Oversight Cmte.

[SR 97, Motor Fuel Tax for Public Transportation Only](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/97) (Sen. Curt Thompson-D)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that taxes on motor fuels shall be appropriated for any or all public transportation purposes. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte.

[SR 123, Allow Casino Gambling](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/123) (Sen. Horacena Tate-D)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by general law for casino gambling within each county and each municipal corporation where such activities have been approved by referendum. **Status:** Referred to Government Oversight Cmte

[SR 135, Pari-mutuel Wagering on Horse Racing](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/135) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte.

[SR 143, Pari-mutuel Wagering on Horse Racing](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/143) (Sen. Curt Thompson-D)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte.

[SR 451, Alternatives to Transportation Funding Study Cmte](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/451) (Sen. Burt Jones-R)

A Resolution creating the Senate Alternatives to Transportation Funding Study Committee. **Status:** Referred to Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, Recommitted to Rules Cmte.

[SR 558, Fireworks Sales Revenue Dedicated to Fire Services, Burn Treatment, Etc](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/558) (Sen. Jeff Mullis)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that the proceeds of excise taxes on the sale of fireworks in this state be dedicated to the funding of trauma care, fire services, burn treatment, and local public safety purposes in the State of Georgia. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety Cmte.

**Tax**

[HB 20, Relating to State Income Taxes](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/20) (Rep. John Carson-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to clarify that certain allocations to owners of certain entities shall be governed by Georgia law. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Engrossed, Senate Tabled, Taken from the Table and Recommitted to Finance Cmte.

[HB 109, Changes Qualifications of an Investor](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/109) (Rep. Dar’shun Kendrick-D)

Relating to income taxes, so as to change the qualifications of an investor. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 120, Additional Purpose for SPLOST](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/120) (Rep. Dale Rutledge-R)

Relating to the procedure for implementing a special purpose local option sales tax, so as to provide for an additional purpose for the tax. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 221, Ad Valorem Taxation of Property](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/221) (Rep. Bruce Thompson-R)

Relating to ad valorem taxation of property, so as to change certain definitions regarding such taxation. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House by Substitute, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Engrossed, Senate Tabled, Taken from the Table and Recommitted to Finance Cmte.

[HB 445, Comprehensive Revision of Personal Income Taxes](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/445) (Rep. John Carson-R)

Relating, respectively, to revenue and taxation, local government, and public utilities, so as to provide for comprehensive revision of personal income taxes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 471, Ad Valorem Taxation of Heavy-Duty Motor Vehicles](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/471) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to ad valorem taxation of heavy-duty motor vehicles, so as to add a definition of certain vehicles. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 487, Sales and Use Taxes and Data Center Industry](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/487) (Sen. Don Parsons-R)

Relating to sales and use taxes, so as to provide for the comprehensive revision of sales and use tax provisions for all entities participating in the data center industry.  **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 710, ABLE Tax Exempt Program](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/710) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to disabled persons, so as to provide for the establishment of a qualified ABLE program in this state to enable the contribution of funds to tax exempt accounts to pay for the qualified expenses of eligible individuals with disabilities. **Status:** referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 768, ABLE Tax Exempt Program](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/768) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to disabled persons, so as to provide for the establishment of a qualified ABLE program in this state to enable the contribution of funds to tax-exempt accounts to pay for the qualified expenses of eligible individuals with disabilities. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, On Income Tax Subcommittee Agenda for Monday.

[SB 74, Establishing Charity Care Organizations for the Uninsured](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20152016/SB/74) (Sen. Judson Hill-R)

Relating to health and revenue and taxation, respectively, so as to establish charity care organizations to provide health care services to the uninsured in this state to provide for tax credits for contributions to charity care organizations. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte.

**Transportation**

[HB 21, Creation of Transit Authorities](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/21) (Rep. John Carson-R)

Relating to the creation of the transit authority by special legislation and the authority's attributes and powers, so as to repeal a population provision relative to creation of a transit authority within metropolitan areas; to provide for the establishment of intergovernmental agreements prior to the operation of service by a transit authority when it is being created in a geographical area where a transit service is already provided by an authority or county government.  **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte Recommitted to Transportation Cmte.

[HB 60, Motor Fuel and Flat Rate Income Tax](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/60) (Rep. Ed Setzler-R)

Relating to revenue and taxation, so as to exempt motor fuels from state sales and use taxes; to provide for increases in the second motor fuel tax and excise tax on motor fuel; to provide for the reduction of personal income taxes; to provide for a flat rate income tax structure; to amend the excise tax on distributors who sell or use motor fuel within this state. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte.

[HB 149, Regarding Weight of Vehicles and Loads](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/149) (Rep. Terry Rodgers-R)

Relating to dimension and weight of vehicles and loads, so as to provide authority to the Department of Public Safety to enter into agreements and take action regarding weight of vehicles and loads; to provide for authority of the Department of Public Safety to operate vehicle weigh stations. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte.

[HB 411, Vehicle Weights for Unfinished Wood Products](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/411) (Rep. Sam Watson-R)

Relating to weight of vehicles and loads, so as to provide for the maximum total gross weight for vehicles hauling unfinished wood products when traveling on non-interstate highways; to provide for no restrictions on the weight for vehicle axles hauling such products so long as certain restrictions are met; to provide for a variance for vehicles hauling such products. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Transportation Cmte.

[HR 830, Transit Community Improvement Districts](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/830) (Buzz Brockaway-R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide for the creation, purposes, administration, cooperation with local governments, and regulation by general law of transit community improvement districts in which property may be the subject of taxes, fees, and assessments for the accomplishment of the purposes of such districts. Status: Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, On Subcmte Agenda Monday.

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