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**Weekly Legislative Report # 10**

**Week Ending March 18, 2016**

It’s that time of the session when bills that haven’t been able to travel the entire legislative obstacle course on their own are looking for a vehicle to carry them across the finish line. Our report this week starts with a couple of the significant measures that have hitched a ride on another bill.

**Tax Credits for Rural Hospitals**

A House bill that was voted down in the Senate HHS committee last week has found a vehicle to give it new life. HB 919, by Geoff Duncan (R-Cumming), would have set up a tax credit regime where individuals and corporations could get a state tax credit for contributions to approved rural health providers. The bill was capped at $100 million in funds and individuals/couples would get only an 80% state income tax credit for a maximum donation of $2,500/$5,000. Corporations could get credits up to 75% of their state income tax liability. However, both could also claim federal tax deductions for the donations to rural hospitals. The language has been added to [SB 258](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/258) by Fran Millar (R-Sandy Springs), an ad valorem tax bill impacting disabled veterans. Millar voted for Duncan’s bill in committee when it was defeated 7-4 and agreed to allow his bill be used as a vehicle to save it. SB 258 has been passed by the House Ways & Means Committee and is pending in the Rules Committee.

**MARTA Funding for Rail Expansion**

Sen. Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) couldn’t persuade the Senate to support his legislation to provide tax funding options via local referenda for MARTA’s rail expansion. The idea seemed lost until House Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones devised a strategy to give it new life. In a two-step process, she changed the language to make it more acceptable and then substituted it for language in a bill regulating fireworks taxes. The new bill would bring in $2.5 billion instead of $8 billion, and impact only the city of Atlanta, not the rest of Fulton County or DeKalb County. (Senators representing those areas had opposed the measure.) The restructured [SB 369](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/369) passed the full House and is now back in the Senate for another review.

**Incorporating New Cities**

Sen. Steve Gooch’s (R-Dahlonega) bill, [SB 375](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/375), that would reform the way Georgia creates new municipalities came out of his service on a study committee during the interim. The bill would require that “during the interim between the first and second regular sessions of the General Assembly, a financial viability, fiscal impact, and service delivery study shall be prepared by a public academic research institution regarding the incorporation of the proposed municipal corporation.” It passed the Senate easily enough, but ran into a road block in the House where Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Rynders (R-Albany) refused to hold a vote on it. Rynders insists that the current system, under which his committee vets such issues, works just fine. Gooch has attached the language from SB 375 to a House-passed bill supported by the Georgia Municipal Association dealing with the administration of city elections – [HB 980](http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/160726.pdf).

**Houston, We Have a Problem**

We haven’t reported this session on the “spaceport liability” issue, but perhaps a little publicity will land us an out-of-this-world client. Rep. Jason Spencer (R-Woodbine) wants to attract a spaceport to coastal Camden County. To encourage that development he introduced [HB 734](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/734), a bill that would make it nearly impossible to successfully sue a space flight company for injuries or damages incurred during an errant launch. Not surprisingly, the bill failed to get off the launching pad under its own power. Spencer has not given up, however, having thus far attempted docking maneuvers with three other vehicles. We’re predicting stormy lift-off conditions for this capsule-in-search-of-a-rocket.

**Droning On and On**

Speaking of spacecraft, [HB 779](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/779), by Rep. Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville) creates the Georgia Unmanned Vehicle Systems Commission to recommend rules for regulating drones (that are not satellites). The Senate stripped the bill down to basics and sent it back to the House (presumably by messenger, but it would have been cool to have used a drone). The bill’s language now prohibits weaponized drones and puts some prohibitions on local governments passing their own drone regulations. The Georgia Department of Agriculture has a significant interest in the bill because farmers are beginning to use the crafts for various crop inspection assignments. The House has the option to agree with the changes made by the Senate -- or disagree and send the bill to a conference committee.

**Status of the Big Three**

**Campus Carry:** [HB 859](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/859) (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R) is on the Governor’s Desk for signature. Will he or won’t he? He let it be known that he wasn’t completely satisfied with the bill, but stopped short of promising a veto. Can a “fix” be ushered through the process as part of another gun bill before adjournment? That’s hard to predict. Deal has until May 3rd to sign or veto a bill.

**Medical Marijuana**: [HB 722](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/722) (Rep. Allen Peake-R) would expand the list of diseases for which cannabidiol can legally be prescribed. It’s dead for this year, unless it finds its way onto a vehicle.

**Religious Liberty:** A re-write to [HB 757](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/757) (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R) was crafted behind the scenes last Wednesday and ushered through the House late in the afternoon with a vote just after 6:00 p.m. The Senate then approved the same bill around 8:00 p.m. Now on the Governor’s desk, the measure continues to engender controversy. The NFL and Atlanta’s three major sports teams have all made statements in opposition to it. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce and numerous major businesses are against it, fearing the backlash of an economic boycott. Meanwhile, numerous religious groups are rallying support for the bill. Seasoned observers are predicting the legislation, if signed, will definitely find its way into court proceedings.

Here are key features of the final product:

* Allows non-profit, faith-based organizations to deny services that violate their “sincerely held religious beliefs.”
* Preserves the right of such organizations to fire (or not hire) employees who don’t hold the same beliefs.
* However, faith-based organizations would have to honor any contract signed with a governmental entity – such as one prohibiting discrimination in adoption services.
* No pastor or person could be forced to participate in or attend a wedding ceremony.
* Requires government to have “a compelling governmental interest” before it interferes with a person’s exercise of religion.
* Does not allow any discrimination that is banned by state or federal law. (City or county requirements are not mentioned.)

**Anyone You know Running for Office?**

Last week we reported that 18 seats in the General Assembly would go undefended by the incumbent for various reasons. Make that 19. Rep. Tom Weldon, (R-Ringgold) a popular 8-year House veteran and Chairman of the Juvenile Justice Committee, has announced he will withdraw from the race that he qualified for on March 7th. An attorney, Weldon said that some family and work concerns had come together all at the same time to convince him to pull out of the race and focus on non-political matters back home. That leaves the position open for Dewayne Hill who signed up to run as a Republican on the last day of qualifying. A former Catoosa County Commissioner who lost reelection by 27 votes two years ago, he is also a cousin of Speaker David Ralston. Hill told his local newspaper that while they are distantly related, he had never actually met Ralston until he visited the state Capitol as a county commissioner.

To run down a complete list of those who qualified for office in your area and around the state, visit the [Secretary of State's web page](http://elections.sos.ga.gov/GAElection/CandidateDetails).

**Next Week**

We are told that work on the FY 2017 budget has been completed and the conference committee report will be submitted on Tuesday, the 39th Legislative Day. Adjournment sine die is scheduled for Thursday. The Senate Rules Committee meets Monday at 1:00 p.m. to set the floor debate calendar for Legislative Day 39. No separate calendar will be set for LD 40, but bills not considered on LD 39 may be carried over to the last day. House Rules allow for supplemental calendars; thus, new bills may be added for floor debate several times during the last days of the session. Much of the activity Monday through Thursday will involve conference committees trying to resolve differences between House and Senate versions of the same bill. Such six-person committee meetings are frequently the venue for last-minute mischievous amendments, because it ain’t over until . . . it’s over . . . the fat lady sings . . . the cat has been put out . . . the lights turned off . . . and the paperwork completed.

**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. Bills “dead” for the session and the 2015–2016 term because they failed to pass at least one house by the 30th day are noted in green ink.

**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. **DEAD**

[HB 509, Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council; Create](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/509) (Rep. Jesse Petrea-R)

Relating to health care facilities, so as to implement initiatives to improve quality and delivery of patient centered and family focused palliative care in this state; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to create the Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council; to establish a state-wide Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program. **Status:** Referred to House Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Passed by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed to Senate Amendment/Substitute, On to the Governor.

[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, Two Cmte hearings held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Vote to move it out of Rules Cmte Failed. **DEAD**

[HB 920, Restrict Civil Actions Against Passive Investors in Nursing Homes](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/920) (Rep. Trey Kelley-R)

Relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to restrict civil actions against passive investors in nursing homes and intermediate care homes; to provide for definitions; to provide for procedure; to provide for insurance or self-insurance trusts as a condition precedent to obtaining or maintaining a permit to operate a nursing home or intermediate care home. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree.

[HB 934, Website Providing Kinship Caregivers with Access; Public Benefits](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/934) (Rep. Tom Kirby-R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to social services, so as to authorize the Department of Human Services to provide a separate link or portal on its website providing kinship caregivers with information and access necessary to apply for public assistance benefits. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations & Aging Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House and Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 961, Provide Subsidies Available to Kinship Caregivers](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/961) (Rep. Stacey Abrams-D)

Relating to general provisions applicable to social services, so as to authorize units of state government to provide all subsidies available to kinship caregivers or to the children in their care based on the eligibility of such children and not on the income or age of the kinship caregiver. **Status:** Referred to Juvenile Justice Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 962, Duties of a Kinship Care Enforcement Administrator](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/962) (Rep. Stacey Abrams-D)

Relating to the Department of Human Services generally, so as to provide for the creation, appointment, removal, and duties of a kinship care enforcement administrator. **Status:** Referred to Juvenile Justice Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Passed Senate, Sent to House Agree/Disagree.

[HB 971, Health Coverages to Kinship Caregivers and Children in their Care](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/971) (Rep. Tommy Benton-R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to social services, so as to authorize the Department of Human Services to provide the same medical assistance and health insurance coverages to kinship caregivers and the children in their care that are provided to foster parents and the children in their care. **Status:** Referred to Juvenile Justice Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 1037, Expand Certified Nurse Aide Registry; Services in Private Residences](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1037) (Rep. Valerie Clark-R)

Relating to the Department of Community Health, so as to expand the certified nurse aide registry to nurse aides who provide services in private residences; to provide for inquiries and complaints; to provide that the registry be easily located on the department's website. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, On to Governor.

[HB 1085, Transfer Oversight, Aging Services; Dept. of Community Health](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1085) (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

Relating to services for the aging, so as to transfer the oversight of such services to the Department of Community Health; to provide for the department to establish a community care unit within the Division of Medical Assistance; to delete certain provisions related to the implementation of a community care system; to provide for an annual community care plan to be incorporated into the State Plan for Medical Assistance; to change references to agency to department. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules 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. **DEAD**

[SB 248, Access to Oral Health via Substitute](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/248) (Sen. Valencia Seay-D)

Relating to dental hygienists, so as to provide for practice agreements between a dental hygiene therapist and a primary supervising dentist to be submitted and approved by the Georgia Board of Dentistry. Subcmte gutted bill and passed out substitute similar to HB 684 above. Full Cmte made additional amendments and passed out a new substitute. Pending in Rules Cmte. **DEAD**

**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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Appropriations Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules 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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, House Passed by Cmte Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Sent to the House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed as Amended by the House, Sent to Senate, Senate Agreed as Amended, On to the Governor.

**Note:** SB 284 language was added to HB 757.

[HB 812, Military Consumer Protection Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/812) (Rep. Brian Prince-D)

Relating to industrial loans, payday lending, and pawnbrokers, respectively, so as to provide for the enforcement of the federal John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 818, Workers' Compensation; Insurance, Awards, Benefits and Administration](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/818) (Rep. Jason Shaw-R)

Relating to workers' compensation, so as to change certain provisions relating to workers' compensation insurance, awards, benefits, and administration; to provide that administrative law judges are subject to the Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct; to change provisions related to an employer's duties to provide the State Board of Workers' Compensation with certain information. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 824, The Paid Sick Leave Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/824) (Rep. Kimberly Alexander-D)

Relating to labor and industrial relations, so as to require all employers to implement paid sick leave for employees; to specify purposes for which paid sick leave may be taken and the rate at which paid sick leave accrues; to require advance notice of intention to use sick leave under certain circumstances; to provide for verification of the need for sick time in certain circumstances; to provide for record keeping; to prohibit discrimination against an employee for inquiring about or using paid sick leave; to make a violation of an unlawful practice subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor; to authorize a civil action for any violation. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte. **DEAD**

[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 by Substitute, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred to House Judiciary Cmte.

[SB 284, Religious Freedom Restoration](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/284) (Sen. Greg Kirk-R)

Relating to state government, so as to prohibit discriminatory action against a person who believes, speaks, or acts in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman or that sexual relations are properly reserved to such marriage; to provide for the granting of relief; and to provide for waiver of sovereign immunity under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Rules Cmte.

**Note:** SB 284 language was added to HB 757.

**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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations 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, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Senate Ethics 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. **DEAD**

[HB 946, Qualifying Times for Nonpartisan Municipal Elections](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/946) (Rep. Jason Spencer-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to revise the qualifying times for nonpartisan municipal elections. **Status:** Referred to Government Affairs Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 949, Illegal Use of Financial Transaction Cards](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/949) (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to illegal use of financial transaction cards, and Chapter 80 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions applicable to counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities, so as to revise a definition; to revise provisions of law relating to government purchasing cards and government credit cards; to provide for the issuance of government purchasing cards and government credit cards; to provide for the conditions for such issuance. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Senate Judiciary- Non Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 1005, Joint County and Municipal Sales and Use Tax](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1005) (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Relating to the joint county and municipal sales and use tax, so as to lengthen the period before such tax can be re-imposed after it is not extended; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to provide for automatic repeal. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Assigned to Ways & Means Income Tax Subcmte, Hearing Held in Subcmte. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[HR 1312, Houston County; Property Currently Dedicated as Heritage Preserve](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/1312) (Rep. Barbara Sims-R)

A resolution authorizing the change of use of certain property located in Houston County currently dedicated as a heritage preserve; authorizing the granting of a nonexclusive easement for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities and ingress and egress in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through certain state owned real property located in Houston County. **Status:** Referred to State Properties Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to State Institutions & Property Cmte, Senate Adopted.

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte.

**Note:** HB 919, by Geoff Duncan (R-Cumming) was added to SB 258 in House Cmte. It sets up a tax credit regime where individuals and corporations could get a state tax credit for contributions to approved rural health providers. The bill was capped at $100 million in funds and individuals/couples would get only an 80% state income tax credit for a maximum donation of $2,500/$5,000. Corporations could get credits up to 75% of their state income tax liability.

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte. **DEAD**

[SB 323, Public Disclosure Not Required for Certain Documents](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/323) (Sen. Mike Dugan-R)

Relating to state printing and documents, so as to provide for public disclosure not to be required for any documents pertaining to an economic development project by any agency. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[SB 326, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation; Shorten Time Period for Permit Issuance](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/326) (Sen. Rick Jeffares-R)

Relating to the control of soil erosion and sedimentation, so as to shorten the time period for permit issuance or denial by local issuing authorities; to clarify qualification standards for erosion and sediment control plan designers and reviewers. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Tabled in Cmte. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Natural Resources Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending House Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House.

[SR 876, Joint High-Speed Broadband Communications; Create](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/876) (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Creating the Joint High-Speed Broadband Communications Access for all Georgians Study Committee; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Special Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House.

**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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

**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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, On Calendar Friday, Postponed until Monday’s Calendar, Remitted back to Rules Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 921, Provide Tax Credit; Promote Revitalization of Rural Downtowns](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/921) (Rep. Penny Houston- R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxation, so as to provide tax credit incentives to promote the revitalization of vacant rural Georgia downtowns by encouraging investment, job creation, and economic growth in long-established business districts; to provide for definitions; to delineate procedures, conditions, eligibility, and limitations; to provide for powers, duties, and authority of the commissioner of community affairs, the commissioner of economic development, and the revenue commissioner. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, Passed Rules, On Calendar Friday, Postponed until Monday’s Calendar, Remitted back to Rules Cmte. **DEAD**

[SB 264, Horse Racing; Provide for Parimutuel 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 parimutuel wagering on horse racing; to provide for definitions; to provide for conditions for horse racing and parimutuel wagering; to provide for the regulation and operation of horse racing; to provide for licensing of facilities and persons participating in horse racing and parimutuel wagering. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte. **DEAD**

[SR 135, Parimutuel 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 parimutuel wagering on horse racing. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules 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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[HB 1001, Pawnbrokers Involving Motor Vehicle Pledge](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1001) (Rep. Tom McCall-R)

Relating to pawnbrokers and liens by pawnbrokers, factors, bailees, acceptors, and depositories, respectively, so as to provide for installment pawn transactions with a fixed term for such transactions involving the pledge of a motor vehicle or a motor vehicle certificate of title as security. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte, Hearing Held. **DEAD**

[SB 371, Installment Pawn Transactions with a Fixed Term](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/371) (Rep. Rick Jeffares-R)

Relating to pawnbrokers and liens by pawnbrokers, factors, bailees, acceptors, and depositories, respectively, so as to provide for installment pawn transactions with a fixed term for such transactions involving the pledge of a motor vehicle or a motor vehicle certificate of title as security; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations for such pawn transactions; to provide for a definition; to provide for permitted charges, term length, and prepayment of such pawn transactions; to provide for acceleration of such pawn transactions and permitted grace periods. **Status:** Referred to Banking and Financial Institutions Committee. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree.

**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. **DEAD**

**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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Cmte Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Agriculture Cmte, Subcmte Hearing Held, Passed Subcommittee, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree.

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Hearing Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree.

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, On to Governor.

[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. **DEAD**

[HB 834, Establish Charity Healthcare Organizations for the Uninsured](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/834) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-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 definitions; to provide for tax credits for contributions to charity care organizations. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 853, Coverdale-Murphy Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/853) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to the "Coverdell-Murphy Act," so as to update the current system of levels of certified stroke centers to reflect advances in stroke treatment and therapy; to authorize the Department of Public Health to establish additional levels; to provide for national certification; to provide for rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 859, Authorize Certain Weapons on Postsecondary Education Property](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/859) (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)

Relating to carrying and possession of firearms, so as to authorize the carrying and possession of certain weapons by weapons carry license holders in or on certain buildings or real property owned by or leased to public institutions of postsecondary education. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Hearing Held, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, On to the Governor.

[HB 873, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/873) (David Clark-R)

Relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to enact the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act"; to provide for guidelines and other relevant materials to inform students participating in athletic activities about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest; to provide for definitions; to provide for informational meetings; to provide for removal from an athletic activity under certain circumstances and to establish return to play policies; to require annual review by coaches; to provide for limited liability. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 885, Repeal Statute; Counties to Create a County Board of Health and Wellness](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/885) (Rep. Jan Jones-R)

Relating to county boards of health, so as to repeal a statute relating to the option for certain counties to create a county board of health and wellness by ordinance. Restores Fulton County to same status as all other counties in Georgia **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 902, Influenza Disease Education in Assisted Living Communities](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/902) (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to provide for educational information on influenza disease to residents of assisted living communities; and to provide for statutory construction. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Rules, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Senate Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, On to the Governor.

[HB 905, Courts and Child Abuse](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/905) (Rep. Mandi Ballinger-R)

Relating to exchange of information, domestic relations, and programs and protection for children and youth, so as to change provisions relating to child abuse; to correct a cross-reference; to change and provide for defined terms; to change provisions relating to protocol committees on child abuse; to remove certain reporting requirements to the child abuse registry. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Referred to Subcmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 907, Tobacco and Vapor Pens Sale and Possession by Minors](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/907) (Rep. Paulette Rakestraw-R)

Relating to sale or distribution to, or possession by, minors of cigarettes and tobacco related objects and food, drugs, and cosmetics, respectively, so as to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare by controlling and regulating the manufacture, production, distribution, and sale of e-liquids and vapor pens. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 997, Deduction for Certain Physicians, Nurses, and Physician Assistants](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/997) (Rep. Geoff Duncan-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, composition, and exemptions from income taxes, so as to delete an income tax deduction for certain physicians serving as community based faculty physicians; to create a new income tax credit for taxpayers who are licensed physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, or physician assistants who provide uncompensated preceptorship training to medical students, advanced practice registered nurse students, or physician assistant students for certain periods of time; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 1058, Revise Various Statutes Relating to HIV and AIDS](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1058) (Rep. Betty Price-R)

Relating to control of venereal disease, clinical laboratories, and the disclosure of AIDS confidential information. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, To House for Agree/Disagree.

[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, **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte, Withdrawn and Recommitted.

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Public Safety Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree.

[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. **DEAD**

[HB 810, Costs for Providing Copies of Health Records](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/810) (Rep. Spencer Frye-D)

Relating to health records, so as to revise provisions regarding imposition of costs for providing copies of health records. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 823, Expand Medicaid Now Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/823) (Rep. Stacey Abrams-D)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for the authorization of appropriations for the purposes of obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers of Medicaid expansion under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; to provide for a maximum percent of the federal poverty level. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 826, Requirements for Advertisements for Board Certifications of Physicians](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/826) (Rep. Betty Price-R)

Relating to medical practice relative to physicians, assistants, and others, so as to provide for certain requirements for advertisement or publication of representations of board certification by physicians. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Service Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Cmte Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte.

[HB 827, Pursuing Justice For Rape Victims Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/827) (Rep. Scott Holcomb-D)

Relating to general provisions for law enforcement officers and agencies, so as to provide requirements for submitting certain evidence collected from a forensic medical examination to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte, Passed Rules, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 910, Costs of Copying and Mailing Patient Records](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/910) (Rep. Spencer Frye-D)

Relating to health records, so as to provide that provisions relating to the costs of copying and mailing patient records apply to psychiatric, psychological, and other mental health records; to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, On House Floor Monday, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree.

[HB 916, Remove an Exception Relating to Certain Audits](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/916) (Rep. Dustin Hightower-R)

Relating to "The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights;" so as to remove an exception relating to certain audits conducted by the Department of Community Health; to amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the O.C.G.A., relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide that clerical or other errors do not constitute a basis to recoup payments made by providers of medical assistance; to provide for a correction period; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions regarding state government, so as to provide that clerical or other errors do not constitute a basis to recoup payments made by providers of medical assistance; to provide for a correction period. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 919, Approve Rural Health Care Organizations](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/919) (Rep. Geoff Duncan-R)

Relating to health and revenue and taxation, respectively, so as to approve rural health care organizations which provide health care services to underserved areas in this state; to provide for definitions; to provide for tax credits for contributions to rural health care organizations; to provide for the amount, nature, limits, and procedures for such tax credit. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Hearing Held, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Cmte, Defeated in Cmte by 7 to 4 Vote.

**Note:** HB 919 language was added to SB 258, by Sen. Fran Millar-R. The new substitute passed the Ways & Means Cmte and is pending in Rules Cmte.

[HB 979, Increase the Punishment for Aggravated Assault and Battery](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/979) (Rep. Johnny Caldwell-R)

Relating to assault and battery and related offenses against persons, so as to increase the punishment for aggravated assault and aggravated battery committed upon hospital emergency department personnel and emergency medical services personnel. **Status:** Referred **to** Judiciary Non-Civil, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, On to the Governor.

[HB 1017, Georgia Civil Practice Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1017) (Rep. Barry Fleming-R)

The "Georgia Civil Practice Act," so as to change provisions relating to general provisions governing discovery; and to amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to provide for conforming cross-references to include the production of electronically stored information. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 1043, Vaccine Protocol Agreements; Influenza](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1043) (Rep. Trey Kelley-R)

Relating to vaccine protocol agreements, so as to exempt activities conducted by a hospital or health system with respect to influenza vaccinations from certain requirements; to provide for conditions. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 1055, Repeal of CON](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1055) (Rep. Wendell Willard-R)

To repeal the Certificate of Need program; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to provide that certain requirements relating to charity and indigent care previously imposed as a condition for a certificate of need are imposed as a condition of licensure. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Hearing Only Held, Cmte will study over interim. **DEAD**

[HR 502, Dedication of Revenues Derived from Fees to Public Purpose Imposed](http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HR/502) (Rep. Andrew Welch-R)

A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by general law for the dedication of revenues derived from fees or other assessments to the public purpose for which such fees or other assessments were imposed. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, On House Calendar, Recommitted back to Rules 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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules 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, Senate Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred 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, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to House Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, On House Floor Tuesday.

[SB 302, Require Health Carriers to Maintain Accurate Provider Directories](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/302) (Sen. P.K. Martin IV-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to require health carriers to maintain accurate provider directories; to provide for definitions; to provide for electronic and printed provider directories; to require certain information in provider directories; to grant enforcement authority to the Commissioner. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to House Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree.

[SB 314, Nurses; Advanced Nursing Practices; Revise Certain Provisions](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/314) (Sen. Renee Unterman-D)

Relating to nurses, so as to revise certain provisions relating to advanced nursing practice; to provide for changes to the roles and definitions of advanced nursing practice and advanced practice registered nurses; to provide for renewal of licenses; to revise certain criminal background check requirements; to provide that a criminal background check is part of the renewal process. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Service Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Health Cmte, Passed by Cmte Substitute.

[SB 350, Consumer Fireworks Tax for Trauma Care](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/350) (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to taxation of consumer fireworks, so as to dedicate moneys collected from the excise tax on the sale of consumer fireworks for trauma care, fire services, and local public safety purposes. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, but withdrawn and committed to Public Safety Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to House Ways & Means Cmte. Subcmte hearing held, Passed Subcmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree.

[SB 382, Surprise Billing and Consumer Protection Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/382) (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for consumer protections regarding health insurance; to provide for definitions; to provide for disclosure requirements of providers, hospitals, and insurers; to provide for billing and reimbursement of out-of-network services; to provide for procedures for dispute resolution for surprise bills for nonemergency services; to provide for payment of emergency services; to provide for an out-of-network reimbursement rate workgroup. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte. Hearing Held. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Adopted, Sent to House, Referred to House Ways & Means Cmte. Subcmte hearing held, Passed Subcmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, Passed House.

**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, Passed by Cmte. Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Cmte Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte as Passed House, Pending Rules Cmte.

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Assigned to Subcmte. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree.

[HB 1039, Insurance; Motor Vehicle Accident Reparations](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1039) (Rep. Jason Shaw-R)

Relating to motor vehicle accident reparations, so as to prohibit driver only policies; to provide for definitions; to provide for prohibition for issuance of named driver policies in this state; to provide for a certain named driver exclusion. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Recommitted to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Passed by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Governor to sign/veto.

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[SB 276, Georgia Personal Data Security Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/276) (John Albers-R)

Relating to identity theft, so as to enact the "Georgia Personal Data Security Act." **Status:** Referred to Science & Technology Cmte. **DEAD**

[SB 290, Clarify Individuals Not Required To Be Insurance Agents](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/290) (Sen. Charlie Bethel-R)

Relating to licensing, so as to clarify those individuals not required to be licensed as an insurance agent. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Governor to sign/veto.

**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, Passed House Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to Governor to sign/veto.

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree.

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Cmte Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 797, Repeal Motorcycle Helmet Law](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/797) (Rep. Tom Kirby-R)

So as to require only those riders who are under 18 years of age to wear protective headgear while operating a motorcycle; to require only those riders who are under 18 years of age to wear protective headgear while operating a moped; and to repeal conflicting laws. **Status:** Referred to Motor Vehicles Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 875, Patient Access to Specialty Tier Drugs Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/875) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to require issuers of health benefit policies to provide certain information to enrollees and establish certain processes and limits relating to specialty drugs. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 897, Drug Repository Program](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/897) (Rep. Betty Price-R)

Relating to the care and protection of indigent and elderly patients, so as to provide for the establishment and operation of a drug repository program to accept and dispense unused prescription drugs; to amend Chapter 4 of Title 26 of the O.C.G.A., relating to pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to repeal the "Utilization of Unused Prescription Drugs Act." **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 900, Electronic Data Base of Prescription Information](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/900) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to electronic data base of prescription information, so as to authorize the retention of data base information for two years; to provide for delegates of prescribers and dispensers to access data base information under certain conditions; to revise language relating to subpoenas and search warrants; to provide for accessing data base information for purposes of investigation of potential abuse; to provide for the release of non-patient specific data to the agency for instructional, drug abuse prevention, and research purposes. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 926, Regulation of Facilities; Wholesale, Manufacture, Distribution](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/926) (Rep. Bruce Broadrick- R)

Relating to pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to provide for the regulation of certain facilities and entities involved in the wholesale, manufacture, and distribution of drugs; to provide definitions; to provide for licensure and registration; to provide for temporary pharmacy licenses for service members; to revise provisions relating to the compounding of drug products to conform with federal law; to establish requirements relating to drug supply chain security; to revise a provision relating to the return of outdated drugs. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, House Cmte Passed by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 965, The Honorable Jimmy Carter Cancer Treatment Access Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/965) (Rep. Mike Cheokas-R)

Relating to general insurance provisions, so as to provide that no health benefit plan shall require an insured to fail to successfully respond to a drug or drugs for stage four advanced, metastatic cancer prior to the approval of a drug prescribed by his or her physician. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Passed, On to the Governor.

[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. **DEAD**

**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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte, Adopted by House.

[HR 1093, Joint Study Committee on Mental Illness Initiative](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/1093) (Rep. Kimberly Alexander-D)

A Resolution creating the Joint Study Committee on Mental Illness Initiative, Reform, Public Health, and Safety; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte. **DEAD**

[HR 1341, House Study Committee on Professional Employer Organizations](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/1341) (Rep. Richard Smith-R)

A Resolution creating the House Study Committee on Professional Employer Organizations. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed the House.

[HR 1366, House Study Committee on a Georgia Abuser Registry](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/1366) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

A resolution creating the House Study Committee on a Georgia Abuser Registry. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte.

[HR 1427, Study Committee on Electric Cigarettes](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/1427) (Rep. Paulette Rakestraw-R)

Resolution Creating the House Study Committee on Electronic Cigarettes, E-liquids, and other Vapor Products. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte.

[HR 1367, House Study Committee on Pharmacy Benefits Managers Process](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/1367) (Rep. Darlene Taylor- R)

A resolution creating the House Study Committee on the Pharmacy Benefits Managers Process; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte.

[HR 1684, House Study Committee On Casino Gaming](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HR/1684) (Rep. Rusty Kidd-I)

A resolution creating the House Study Committee On Casino Gaming. **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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[SR 143, Parimutuel 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 parimutuel wagering on horse racing. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte. **DEAD**

[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 974, Create; Senate Surprise Billing Practices Study Committee](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/974) (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

A resolution creating the Senate Surprise Billing Practices Study Committee. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[SR 1027, Joint Music Economic Development Study Committee](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/1027) (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Resolution Creating the Joint Music Economic Development Study Committee. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Special Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, House Adopted by Substitute.

[SR 1028, Senate Music Economic Development Study Committee](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/1028) (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Resolution creating the Senate Music Economic Development Study Committee. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[SR 1029, Joint Study Cmte on Health and Social Services Integrated Data Platform](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/1029) (Sen. Hufstetler-R)

Resolution creating the Joint Study Cmte on Health and Social Services Integrated Data Platform. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Senate Adopted, Sent to the House, Referred to Special Rules Cmte.

[SR 1056, Senate Study Cmte on the Premium Assistance Program](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/1056) (Sen. Michael Rhett-D)

Resolution creating the Senate Study Committee on Premium Assistance Program. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[SR 1085, Senate Regional Transit Solutions Study Cmte.](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/1085) (Sen. Gooch-R)

Resolution creating the Senate Regional Transit Solutions Study Cmte. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte.

[SR 1175, Abuse Registry Study Cmte](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/1175) (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

A Resolution creating the Senate Study Committee on a Georgia Abuser Registry. **Status:** Dropped in the Hopper, Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules 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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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 238, Sales Tax; Renovation, Aquarium Operated by Tax Exempt Organization](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/238) (Rep. Ben Harbin-R)

Relating to state sales and use tax exemptions, so as to provide a sales tax exemption for tangible personal property used for or in the renovation or expansion of an aquarium owned or operated by an organization which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute and Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree.

**Note:** Senate Finance Cmte Chairman Judson Hill substituted language providing for the revision of personal income tax rates; to eliminate itemized adjustments to Georgia taxable net income except for limited mortgage deductions, charitable contributions, and medical expenses; to increase the personal exemption from state income tax; to repeal the corporate net worth tax.

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to the Finance 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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, On Senate Floor Monday, Passed Senate and Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Disagree on Senate Amendments/Substitute, Sent back to Senate for Insists or to Recede.

[HB 834, Tax Credits for Contributions to Charity Care Organizations](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/834). (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

To establish charity care organizations to provide health care services to the uninsured in this state; to provide for definitions; to provide for tax credits for contributions to charity care organizations; to provide for the amount, nature, limits, and procedures for such tax credits. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 836, Sales and Use Tax; Property Used in Renovation of Affordable Housing](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/836) (Rep. Amy Carter-R)

Relating to exemptions from sales and use tax, so as to provide a new exemption from state sales and use tax for a limited period of time regarding property used in renovation and rehabilitation of affordable housing. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 898, Delta Aviation Fuel Tax Break](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/898) (Rep. Matt Ramsey-R)

Relating to sales and use taxes, so as to change the rate and use of such taxes collected on aviation fuel and aviation jet fuel. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 956, Georgia Musical Recording and Synchronization Act](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/956) (Bert Reeves-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, and computation of and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to create an income tax credit for certain expenditures by music, film, television, or interactive entertainment production companies related to the incorporation of a recorded musical performance that was written, created, arranged, recorded, or synchronized in this state into a state certified production; to provide for rules and regulations and an application process related to such income tax credit; to provide for certain conditions and limitations. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 1014, Income tax; Exemption for Donation of Real Property for Conservation](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1014) (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to extend the sunset date of the existing exemption for donation of real property for conservation use. **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.

[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. **DEAD**

[SB 280, Provide Revision of Personal Income Tax Rates](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/280) (Sen. Judson Hill-R)

Relating to revenue and taxation, so as to provide for the revision of personal income tax rates; to eliminate itemized adjustments to Georgia taxable net income except for limited mortgage deductions, charitable contributions, and medical expenses; to increase the personal exemption from state income tax; to repeal the corporate net worth tax. **Status:** Read and Referred to Special Joint Cmte on Revenue Structure. **DEAD**

[SR 756, Provide for Prioritized Funding Requirements](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SR/756) (Sen. Judson Hill-R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide for prioritized funding requirements regarding certain appropriations Acts; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations; to provide for the authority of the General Assembly with respect to the foregoing. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Cmte Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred to Appropriations 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, Passed Cmte by Substitute.

[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. **DEAD**

[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. **DEAD**

[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, Subcmte Hearing Held, Cmte Hearing Held. **DEAD**

[HB 1032, "Transit Rail Expansion Commission Act"](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1032) (Rep. Buzz Brockway-R)

Relating to the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, so as to provide for the creation of the Transit Rail Expansion Commission for the purpose of providing oversight, funding, and support to transit rail expansion districts. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte. **DEAD**

[HB 1034, Dimensions and Weight of Vehicles on Roads](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1034) (Rep. Christian Coomer-R)

Relating to dimensions and weight of vehicles and loads, so as to provide for the issuance of an annual commercial wrecker tow permit. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte. **DEAD**

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

[SB 251, Exempt School Buses From Levy of Excise Tax](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/251) (Sen. Josh McKoon-R)

Relating to the levy of an excise tax on motor fuels, so as to exempt school buses from such levy.

**Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte. **DEAD**

[SB, 252 Repeal the Excise Tax on Hotel and Motel Rooms](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/252) (Sen. Josh McKoon-R)

Relating to an excise tax on hotel and motel room rentals, so as to repeal such provision.

**Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte. **DEAD**

[SB 253, Exempt School Systems, Counties, and Municipalities from Excise Tax](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/253) (Sen. Josh McKoon-R)

Relating to the levy of an excise tax on motor fuels, so as to exempt school systems, counties, and municipalities from such levy. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte. **DEAD**

[SB 330, Transit Expansion](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/330) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

To amend the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965," approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243), as amended, so as to provide for a definition; to provide for a referendum; to provide for an additional referendum under certain conditions; to provide for a procedure for conclusion of such tax; and to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte. **DEAD**

[SB 346, Exempt Projects for the Construction of Public Roads from Reports](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/346) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to definitions relative to the "Environmental Policy Act," so as to exempt projects for the construction or improvement of public roads from environmental effects reports in certain instances; to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Transportation Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended and Sent to House, Referred to House Transportation Cmte, Referred to Highway Regulations Subcmte, Passed Subcmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, On House Floor Tuesday.

[SB 366, Alternative Selection Process for the Dept. of Transportation](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/SB/366) (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Relating to exemptions from requirements of state agencies relative to the selection of and contracts with providers of professional services, so as to provide for an alternative selection process for the Department of Transportation. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Transportation Cmte, Hearings Held in Subcmte, Cmte Tabled, Issue will be examined by Cmte in the fall.

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