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Governmental Affairs

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Weekly Legislative Report # 2

Week Ending January 24, 2020

The General Assembly was technically in recess last week, so there was no activities on bills, but the Gold Dome was by no means vacant. Joint House and Senate appropriations hearings were conducted over a three-day period midweek, featuring an initial address by the Governor followed by testimony from the state economist and 32 state agency heads. (There are 133 members when the two budget committees are combined – 83 desks in the meeting room, plus two rows of seats for the press and public. Members of the legislature who were not on an appropriations committee were asked to give up their seats for legislators who were.)

Kicking things off with a brief address Tuesday morning, Kemp assured legislators, “This budget demonstrates to taxpayers that we are good stewards of their hard-earned money.” He credited state agencies for coming up with innovative ways to reduce spending without compromising the quality of service provided to citizens. The \$28.1 billion FY21 recommendation most notably contains a \$2,000 raise for school teachers, and a \$1,000 raise for state employees currently making \$40,000 or less annually. But, Georgia always passes two budgets, one for next year and one to fine-tune the current budget to ensure it balances on June 30. The Governor had required most state agencies to provide a schedule of cuts amounting to 4% for the FY20 amended budget and 2% on top of that for the FY21 budget. Some programs, such as Medicaid and K-12 education, were allowed to maintain current funding formulas to keep up with the reality of enrollment growth. Some agencies were cut more than others.

The state’s official fiscal economist, UGA Professor Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman, pointed out that several of Georgia’s top trading partners are in recession or experiencing a slowing economy. Dorfman, who last fall predicted we had 50-50 chance of entering a recession, said he was 100% sure Georgia is NOT now in a recession, and he doesn’t think we’re headed for one in the near future. He did predict slow economic growth for the state or possible shrinkage over the next nine to 12 months. He explained that unemployment is so low at this point, we have essentially run out of workers, slowing the job growth rate.

The FY21 budget assumes 2.7% new revenue growth, but the Governor’s spending plan does not take into account the \$500 million or more revenue hit the state would absorb if the General Assembly passes a 0.25% income tax cut to follow the one approved in 2018. According to

Dorfman, a second income tax cut is not needed to help the economy. “A quarter-percent one way or the other just doesn’t move the bar,” he said. Senate Finance Chair Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) has subsequently opined that the promise of a second 0.25% income tax cut will be hard to fulfill at the same time nearly \$400 million is designated for teacher raises and bumps for lower level state employees.

Agency heads generally tried to explain to legislators that the cuts recommended for their budgets could be achieved through greater efficiencies and by trimming currently unfilled positions. However, several agency heads, especially elected officials such as Ag Commissioner, Labor Commissioner and PSC Chairman, cited instances where they would have to reduce services and/or personnel. Even the Department of Economic Development Commissioner said he would have to cut back on travel and marketing efforts to meet budgetary constraints.

It did not escape legislators’ notice that the recommendations dramatically reduce funding for priorities the General Assembly had recently championed. They made their disappointment and displeasure apparent during brief Q&As with agency leaders. House Appropriations subcommittees will begin next week drilling down into the FY20 amended budget that must be balanced by June 30.

Here are some selected increases found in the Governor’s full-year FY21 proposal.

- \$1.1 billion total in new spending (enrollment growth in Medicaid, schools, etc. a big factor)
- \$357 million for \$2,000 raises for certified school teachers
- \$44.3 million for \$1,000 raises for state employees earning \$40,000 or less
- \$12.5 million in bonds for buses for local school districts (down from \$20 million)
- \$169 million added for Medicaid and PeachCare, includes \$79.8 million to offset a reduction in matching federal funds
- \$2.7 million for 125 slots for New Options Now program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- \$50.5 million to increase funding provided to charter schools
- \$56 million in additional lottery funds to meet projected need for HOPE scholarships
- \$50 million in GO bonds for bridge repair and replacement
- \$154,000 to the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission created last session, (\$200,000 in FYA20)

Proposed FY21 program cuts include:

- \$7.6 million in cuts to UGA’s Agricultural Experiment Station and Coop. Extension Service
- \$3.1 million in cuts to public libraries
- \$2.1 million cut in grants to accountability courts
- \$7.5 million cut to Revenue Department for Tax compliance
- \$11 million cut to Child Welfare Services
- \$1.8 million cut to remove 101 child support services agent positions

- FY21 agency level reductions include:
 - Community Affairs - \$5.5 million
 - Public Health - \$16 million (includes \$9.2 million cut in grants to county health depts)
 - Transportation - \$11 million (not related to projects funded by motor fuel tax)
 - Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities - \$35 million
 - Human Services - \$29 million
 - Juvenile Justice - \$19 million
 - Natural Resources - \$9 million (includes \$1.8 million cut to EPD)
 - Education - \$12 million
 - Corrections - \$54 million
 - Agriculture - \$6.5 million

Deciphering the state budget precisely can be tricky. Category totals and even line items don't always reveal the program specifics you desire. Things like employee raises can be divided among various agencies and programs. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget organizes his [Budget Report](#) in one format, while the House releases a different "[tracking](#)" format focused on changes from the previous year and differences between political bodies. The Senate adds a twist later using the same general tracking format as the House, but a different line numbering system. The appropriations bill itself ([FY21 is HB 793, but not yet posted](#)) won't provide comparison numbers from the previous year. But, you can certainly dive in and explore for more details yourself by clicking on the above links. (If you interpret the whole compilation without blunder, we'll award you an honorary degree from the Terry Coleman School of Budget Ciphering at Gold Dome University!)

Next Week

The legislature will operate at full speed ahead next week, meeting all five days with committee hearings each afternoon (save Friday). House appropriations subcommittees will begin their work sorting out the FY20 amended budget ([hearing schedule](#)). Check for [live streaming](#) schedule.

Tracking List

Here are the bills we are tracking. **New activity is noted in red.** Click on the [Bill Number](#) to access the current version of the bill.

The 2020 Legislative Session is the second session of the 2019-2020 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated last session are carried over to the 2020 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2019 session have been recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

Aging

[HB 77, Food Stamp Fraud](#) (Rep. David Clark-R)

Relating to fraud and related offenses and general provisions relative to public assistance, respectively, so as to redesignate Code Section 49-4-15, relating to fraud in obtaining public assistance, food stamps, or Medicaid, penalties, and recovery of overpayments. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte

[HB 135, “Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-term Care Facilities Act”](#) (Rep. Douglas Demetrius-D)
Relating to health care facilities, so as to provide for authorized electronic monitoring in long-term care facilities; to provide consent requirements; to provide for notice to the facility; to provide for cost and installation; to provide for an assistance program for Medicaid recipients; to provide for notice to visitors; to prohibit obstruction of electronic monitoring devices; to limit the dissemination of recordings; to provide for admissibility into evidence; to provide for limited liability. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations and Aging Cmte

[HB 402, Protection of disabled adults and elder persons](#) (Rep. Houston Gaines-R)
Relating to the protection of disabled adults and elder persons, so as to include abuse and neglect in the items to be reported by a financial institution. **Status:** Referred Human Relations & Aging Cmte

[HB 722, Actions Against Nursing Homes & Personal Care Homes](#) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)
Relating to actions against certain applicants or licensees of nursing homes and personal care homes, so as to increase fine amount limits. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HR 533, House Study Committee on Innovative Financial Options for Senior Living](#) (Rep. John LaHood-R)
A Resolution creating the House Study Committee on Innovative Financial Options for Senior Living. **Status:** Referred Human Relations & Aging Cmte, House Adopted by Substitute

[SB 113, Nursing homes and personal care homes; backup power sources in the event of power outage](#) (Sen. Lindsey Tippins-R)
Relating to regulation and construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, so as to require nursing homes and personal care homes with a minimum number of residents to have backup power sources in the event of power outages; to provide for requirements for uninterrupted services; to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations. **Status:** Referred Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 185, Medicare Beneficiary Program](#) (Sen. Elena Parent-D)
Relating to public assistance, so as to provide for a qualified Medicare beneficiary program; to provide for eligibility requirements. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

Business

[HB 545, Relating to treatment of agricultural facilities and operations and forest land as nuisances](#) (Rep. Tom McCall-R)
Relating to treatment of agricultural facilities and operations and forest land as nuisance, so as to provide for legislative intent and to limit circumstances under which agricultural facilities and operations may be sued for a nuisance. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte, Hearing Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Agriculture Cmte

[SB 20, Counties and Municipal Corporations; Establishment of banking improvement zones in underserved areas](#) (Sen. Michael Rhett-D)
Relating to general provisions relative to provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to provide for the establishment of banking improvement zones to encourage opening of banks in areas underserved by banks; **Status:** Referred Banking and Financial Institutions Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Banks and Banking Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, House Passed by Substitute, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree

City & County Governments and Regional Commissions

[HB 15, Develop and implement policies granting housing preferences to veterans who are homeless](#) (Rep. Sandra Scott)
Relating to powers of housing authorities generally, so as to require housing authorities to develop and implement policies granting housing preferences to veterans who are homeless individuals. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 34, Taxpaying business owners to be appointed to development authorities](#) (Rep. Rhonda Burnough-D)
Relating to development authorities directors, officers, compensation, adoption of bylaws, delegation of powers and duties, conflicts of interest, and audits, so as to provide for taxpaying business owners to be appointed to development authorities; to provide for removal of directors from development authorities. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 57, Eligible electors mailed an absentee ballot for each primary, election and runoff in which they are eligible to vote](#) (Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick-D)
Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that all eligible electors shall be mailed an absentee ballot for each primary, election, and runoff in which they are eligible to vote; to provide for procedures; to provide for cancellation of such ballots under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 65, Add that certain payments to cloud based software services may be funded via County special purpose local option sales tax](#) (Rep. Eddie Lumsden-R)
Relating to county special purpose local option sales tax, so as to add that certain payments to cloud based software services may be funded. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 76, Counties and municipalities may regulate alcohol licenses as to certain distances in a manner that is less but not more restrictive than those distances specified by the state](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)
Relating to alcoholic beverages, so as to specify that counties and municipalities may regulate alcohol licenses as to certain distances in a manner that is less but not more restrictive than those distances specified by the state. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree

[HB 123, Department of Labor; Designate as the administrator of all programs pursuant to Public Law 105-220 and the policies and methods by the State Workforce Development Board](#) (Rep. Bill Werkheiser-R)
Relating to the creation of the State Workforce Development Board, federal composition requirements, meetings, authorization for the promulgation of rules and regulations, and administration of programs, so as to provide for the Department of Labor to be designated as the administrator of all programs. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Referred back to Industry and Labor Cmte,

[HB 126, Establishment of the GeorgiaBest program and an employability skills training curriculum](#) (Rep. Randy Nix-R)
Relating to the Department of Labor, so as to provide for the establishment of the "GeorgiaBest" program and an employability skills training curriculum. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Referred back to Industry and Labor Cmte

[HB 208, Local government; contracts for utility services; change the terms](#) (Rep. Tom McCall-R)
Relating to local government, so as to change the terms for contracts for utility services. **Status:** Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[HB 219, General provision regarding ad valorem taxation of property](#) (Rep. Lynn Smith-R)
Relating to general provisions regarding ad valorem taxation of property, so as to further define the fair market value of certain property and require the tax assessor to include certain information with the assessment. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 243, Public utilities and public transportation; limitations on fees that may be charged for installation of telephone facilities](#) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)
Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to provide limitations on fees that may be charged for installation of telephone facilities; to provide for the due compensation to be paid to municipal

authorities by telephone companies that do not have certain end user customers; to revise terminology for purposes of conformity. **Status:** Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte

[HB 302, Adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations relating to or regulating building design elements as applied to one or two-family dwellings; prohibit](#) (Rep. Vance Smith-R)

Relating to buildings and housing and local government, respectively, so as to prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations relating to or regulating building design elements as applied to one or two-family dwellings; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to revise the term "zoning" as it relates to zoning procedures. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Referred back to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte

[HB 348, Application for limited paid leave for the purpose of volunteering and providing nonprofit support in this state](#) (Rep. Chuck Martin-R)

Relating to leaves of absences for certain public employees, so as to authorize the application for limited paid leave for the purpose of volunteering and providing nonprofit support in this state. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 428, Georgia Communications Services Tax Act](#) (Rep. Bill Werkheiser-R)

Relating to local government and revenue and taxation, respectively, so as to provide for state and local excise taxes on communications services and to eliminate certain other state or local taxes, charges, or fees related to such services; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations; to exempt certain broadband equipment from sales and use tax; to provide for powers, duties, and authority of the Department of Revenue and the state revenue commissioner. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 443, Water and sewer projects and costs tax \(MOST\); allow for levy of such sales and use tax to last up to five years the term "municipality"](#) (Rep. Boddie Williams-D)

Relating to water and sewer projects and costs tax (MOST), so as to redefine the term "municipality"; to allow for the levy of such sales and use tax to last up to five years. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 757, Elections; determination of qualifying periods for special elections](#) (Rep. Barry Fleming-R)

Provides for the determination of qualifying periods for special elections and for voter registration deadlines for special primary runoffs and any other election or runoff held in conjunction with a special primary runoff. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 777, DCA Review of International Building Codes](#) (Rep. John Corbett-R)

Relating to standards and requirements for construction, alteration, etc., of buildings and other structures, so as to direct the Department of Community Affairs to undertake a review of the 2021 edition of the International Building Code so as to consider amending the state minimum standard codes to allow tall mass timber construction types: **Status:** Referred to Agriculture Cmte

[SB 30, State Election Board shall provide by rule or regulation for the electronic return of absentee ballots of Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act by fax or email](#) (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick-R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that the State Election Board shall provide by rule or regulation for the electronic return of absentee ballots of Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act electors by fax or by email, in addition to regular mail; to update a cross-reference; to provide for requirements and procedures; to provide for the counting of such ballots. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte

[SB 172, Buildings and Housing and Local Government; local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances; building design elements](#) (Sen. John Wilkinson-R)

Relating to buildings and housing and local government, respectively, so as to prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations relating to or regulating building design elements as applied to one or two-family dwellings; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to revise the term "zoning" as it relates to zoning procedures. **Status:** Referred to Government Oversight Cmte

[SB 181 Department of Labor; designated as the administrator of all programs for which the state is responsible pursuant to Public Law 105-220](#) (Sen. Burt Jones-R)

Relating to the creation of the State Workforce Development Board, federal composition requirements, meetings, authorization for the promulgation of rules and regulations, and administration of programs, so as to provide for the Department of Labor to be designated as the administrator of all programs for which the state is responsible pursuant to Public Law 105-220 and of the policies and methods of implementation promulgated by the State Workforce Development Board **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

[SB 240, Incorporation of Municipal Corporations; no municipal charter shall be enacted where a portion of the proposed corporate boundary was ever part of existing municipality](#) (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to incorporation of municipal corporations, so as to provide that no municipal charter shall be enacted where a portion of the proposed corporate boundary was ever part of an existing municipality. **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee

[SB 292, State-Wide Application of Minimum Standard Codes; local governments prohibiting the use of wood in construction](#) (Sen. Sally Harrell-D)

Relating to state-wide application of minimum standard codes, codes requiring local adoption and more stringent requirements by local governments, adoption of standards for which state code does not exist, and exemptions for certain farm building and structures. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte

CON (Certificate of Need)

[HB 89, Integrated ambulatory surgery centers; provide exemption from certificate of need requirements](#) (Rep. Chuck Martin-R)

Relating to state health planning and development, so as to provide for an exemption for integrated ambulatory surgery centers from certificate of need requirements. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Added to House Calendar, House Postponed

[HB 198, Eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services](#) (Rep. Matt Hatchett-R)

Relating to health, so as to eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services; to amend Code Section 50-18-70 of the O.C.G.A., relating to legislative intent and definitions relative to open records laws, so as to revise definitions; to amend Code Section 48-7-29.20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to tax credits for contributions to rural hospital organizations, so as to revise provisions relating to the rural hospital tax credit program; to amend other provisions in various titles of the O.C.G.A., for purposes of conformity. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Withdrawn and Recommitted to Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Defeated on the House Floor 72 to 94, House Voted to Reconsider its Action, Reconsideration vote never called by the Speaker

[SB 61, Health Planning and Development; integrated surgery centers from certificate of need requirements](#) (Sen. John Albers-R)

Relating to state health planning and development, so as to exempt integrated surgery centers from certificate of need requirements. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[SB 74, Eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term facilities and services](#) (Sen. Matt Brass-R)

Relating to health, so as to eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services; to amend Code Section 50-18-70 of the O.C.G.A., relating to legislative intent and definitions relative to open records laws, so as to revise definitions; to amend Code Section 48-7-29.20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to tax credits for contributions to rural hospital organizations, so as to revise provisions relating to the rural hospital tax credit program; to amend other provisions in various titles of the O.C.G.A., for purposes of conformity. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Hearing Held

[SB 114, Certificate of need requirements; provisions; revise; Health Strategies Council](#) (Sen. Dean Burke-R)

Relating to health, so as to revise provisions relating to certificate of need requirements; to revise and provide for new definitions relative to health planning and development; to establish the Health Strategies Council; to amend Code Section 45-7-21 of the O.C.G.A., relating to expense allowance and travel cost reimbursement for members of certain boards and commissions, so as to provide for reimbursement for members of the Health Strategies Council; to amend Code Section 48-7-29.20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to tax credits for contributions to rural hospital organizations, so as to provide for undesignated contributions. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Hearings Held

[SB 151, Improvements to the state's health care system](#) (Sen. Dean Burke-R)

Relating to health, so as to provide for improvements in the state's health care system and coordination of state health related entities; to provide for legislative findings and declarations; to provide for definitions; to provide for duties and responsibilities; to provide for the creation of the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination; to provide for a director of health strategy and coordination; to provide for the creation of the Board of the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination; and to amend other provisions of the O.C.G.A. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services

Economic Development

[HB 22, Public Utilities and Public Transportation; telephone cooperatives and their affiliates to provide broadband services](#) (Rep. Penny Houston-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to specifically authorize telephone cooperatives and their broadband affiliates to provide broadband services; to authorize certain financing and partnerships for the provision of broadband services. **Status:** Referred Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 23, Public utilities and public transportation; electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services](#) (Rep. Penny Houston-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to specifically authorize electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services; to authorize certain financing and partnerships for the provision of broadband services; to prohibit cross-subsidization between the provision of broadband services and an electric membership corporation's natural gas activities or electricity services activities. **Status:** Referred Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Withdrawn and Recommitted to Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, On Rules Calendar for Monday, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled

[HB 100, Public utilities and public transportation; electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services](#) (Rep. Don Parsons-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to specifically authorize electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services; to provide for definitions; to authorize certain financing and partnerships for the provision of broadband services; to prohibit cross-subsidization between the provision of broadband services and an electric membership corporation's natural gas activities or electricity services activities **Status:** Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte

[HB 184, Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act](#) (Rep. Brett Harrell-R)

Relating to local government, so as to enact the "Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act"; to streamline the deployment of wireless broadband in the public rights of way; to address any perceived conflicts between this Act and Chapter 66B of Title 36. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte

[HB 244, Electric membership corporations; comply with certain requirements in determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to corporate purposes and powers of electric membership corporations, so as to require electric membership corporations to comply with certain requirements in determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

[HB 499, Permit Public utilities and public transportation; use of electric easements for broadband services](#) (Rep. Trey Kelley-R)

Relating to electric membership corporations and foreign electric cooperatives, so as to permit the use of electric easements for broadband services; to provide for a definition; to provide for legislative findings and declarations as to certain utility easements. **Status:** Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte, Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled

[HB 570, To provide for sports betting in Georgia and sports betting director and regulations](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to the lottery for education, so as to provide for sports betting in this state; to provide for a Georgia sports betting director; to provide for the comprehensive regulation of sports betting and related activities; to provide for the issuance, renewal, denial, and revocation of permits; and to provide for restrictions and penalties; to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries

[HR 327, Constitutional amendment authorizing licensed destination resort casinos](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for the local authorization of a limited number of licensed destination resort facilities casino resorts within the state; to authorize the operation and regulation of limited casino gaming within the state; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Economic Development Cmte

[HR 380, Sports Betting Constitutional Amendment](#) (Rep. Craig Gordon-D)

An amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for sports betting; to provide for the disposition of licensing and taxation revenues from such activities; and to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte

[SB 45, "Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act"](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for pari-mutuel horse racing in this state at a limited number of licensed equestrian centers; to create the Georgia Horse Racing Commission; to provide for the comprehensive regulation of pari-mutuel and related activities; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to enter into the Interstate Compact on Licensure of Participants in Live Racing with Pari-mutuel Wagering. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Economic Development Cmte

[SB 162, Disaster mitigation improvements and broadband services infrastructure; downtown development authorities](#) (Sen. Matt Brass-R)

Relating to local government, so as to provide for disaster mitigation improvements and broadband services infrastructure in projects of downtown development authorities and development authorities. **Status:** Referred Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Energy, Utilities & Communications Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Energy, Utilities & Communications Cmte

[SR 84, Pari-mutuel betting on horse racing](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for pari-mutuel betting on horse racing; to provide for the disposition of licensing and taxation revenues from such activities. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Economic Development Cmte

[SR 184, Local authorization of a limited number of licensed destination resort facilities casino resorts within the state; authorize to provide – CA](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for the local authorization of a limited number of licensed destination resort facilities casino resorts within the state; to authorize the operation and regulation of limited casino gaming within the state; to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection.

Status: Referred Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

Environmental & Natural Resources

[HB 49, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District; certain interbasin transfers shall be included in water supply and water conservation management studies and plans](#) (Rep. Marc Morris-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 that certain interbasin transfers shall be included in water supply and water conservation management studies and plans. **Status:** Referred Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

[HB 93, Control of Water Pollution and Surface-Water Use](#) (Rep. Jeff Jones-R)

Relating to control of water pollution and surface-water use, so as to provide notice to local governing authorities prior to the dewatering of coal combustion residual surface impoundments. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Natural Resources Cmte

[HB 94, Relating to Solid Waste Management](#) (Rep. Jeff Jones-R)

Relating to solid waste management, so as to provide for safe disposal of coal ash in municipal solid waste and commercial industrial solid waste landfills. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

[HB 422, County and municipal governing authorities to approve erosion and sediment control plans in lieu of approval by soil and water conservation commission districts](#) (Rep. Timothy Barr-R)

Relating to control of soil erosion and sedimentation, so as to authorize in certain circumstances county and municipal governing authorities to approve erosion and sediment control plans in lieu of approval by soil and water conservation commission districts; to provide that counties and municipalities can contract with qualified personnel to implement land disturbance activity ordinances. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

[HB 592, Georgia Forest Land Protection Act](#) (Rep. Steven Meeks-R)

Relating to the "Georgia Forest Land Protection Act of 2008," so as to provide that short-term mineral surface mining shall not constitute a breach of a covenant for forest land conservation use property. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte, Hearing Only

[SB 123, Waste Management; the coal ash surcharge imposed by host local governments; eliminate](#) (Sen. William Ligon-R)

Relating to waste management, so as to eliminate the coal ash surcharge imposed by host local governments regarding municipal solid waste disposal facilities operated by private enterprise. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

[HB 756, Conservation and natural resources; conditions for the issuance of a permit for solid waste or special waste handling for a coal combustion](#) (Rep. Robert Trammell-D)

Relating to solid waste management, so as to provide for conditions for the issuance of a permit for solid or special waste handling for a coal combustion unit or landfill. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

Government -- General

[SB 221, "The Religious Freedom Restoration Act"](#) (Sen. Marty Harbin-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for the protection of religious freedom; to provide for the granting of relief; to provide for applicability; to provide for definitions; to provide for waiver of sovereign immunity under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[SR 364, Lieutenant Governor; no person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms](#) (Sen. Greg Dolezal-R)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that no person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms as Lieutenant Governor; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection. **Status:** Referred to Government Oversight Cmte

[SR 459, Request all persons testifying to tell the truth; providing bans on persons found to have lied from the Senate](#) (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

A Resolution requesting that all persons testifying before the Senate tell the truth; providing for bans on persons found to have lied to the Senate from providing future testimony to the Senate. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte

Health – General

[HB 37, Expand Medicaid Now Act](#) (Rep. Robert Trammell-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

[HB 42, Professional licensing boards; refuse to issue a license of a person who is a borrower in default under an educational loan](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

To prohibit professional licensing boards from refusing to issue a license or suspending or revoking the license of a person who is a borrower in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation or through a federal agency. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, House Withdrawn and Recommitted to Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Higher Education Cmte

[HB 370, Number of advanced practice registered nurses with which a delegating physician can enter into a protocol agreement for nurses practicing in an emergency medical services system](#) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurses, so as to revise the exception to the number of advanced practice registered nurses with which a delegating physician can enter into a protocol agreement for nurses practicing in an emergency medical services system. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health Cmte

[HB 546, Criminal Offense of Abortion](#) (Rep. Jodi Lott-R)

Relating to offenses against health and morals, so as to provide for the offense of criminal abortion; to provide for penalties; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for affirmative defenses to prosecution. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 672, Free Market Solutions to Insure all Georgians Act](#) (Rep. Jesse Petrea-R)

A Bill to be entitled an Act to amend Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance, so as to provide for an assigned risk plan for individual health insurance coverage; to provide for the creation of a standard health benefit plan; to provide for the Commissioner's responsibilities and duties; to provide for the creation of the Georgia Preexisting Condition Individual High Risk Pool; to repeal the High Risk Health Insurance Plan; to repeal the Commission on the Georgia Health Insurance Risk Pool. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[HB 693, Expanding Medicaid to Improve Health Outcomes for New Mothers Act](#) (Rep. Renitta Shannon-D)

A Bill to be entitled an Act to amend Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to social services, so as to require the Department of Community Health to allow mothers giving birth to newborns to retain Medicaid eligibility for one year following such birth; to provide for amendments to the state plan if necessary. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte

[HB 739, Georgia Composite Medical Board requirements for surgical technologist](#) (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)
To amend Article 1 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Composite Medical Board, so as to provide for requirements for surgical technologists. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[HR 261, Creating a Joint Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers](#) (Rep. Mark Newton-R)

A resolution creating the Joint Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 36, Authorization of appropriations for purposes of obtaining federal financial participation; Medicaid expansion](#) (Sen. Steve Henson-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. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 92, Refuse to issue a license; borrower in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

To prohibit professional licensing boards from refusing to issue a license or suspending or revoking the license of a person who is a borrower in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation or through a federal agency. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Appropriations Cmte

[SB 218, Woman's Right to Know Act](#) (Sen. Bruce Thompson-R)

Relating to abortion; to amend Chapter 9A of Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to the "Woman's Right to Know Act;" to amend Chapter 9B of Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to physician's obligation in performance of abortions; and to amend Chapter 7 of Title 19 of the O.C.G.A., relating to parent and child relationship generally. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

Hospitals

[HB 409, Advanced practice registered nurse acts](#) (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurse, so as to authorize the delegation by a physician to an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations; to revise definitions; and to increase the number of advanced practice registered nurses with whom a delegating physician can enter into a nurse protocol agreement and supervise at one time. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care

[HB 484, Provide for the resolution of disputes in which a medical funding provider has provided payment to a consumer's health care provider](#) (Rep. Andrew Welch-R)

Relating to liens, so as to provide for the resolution of disputes in which a medical funding provider has provided payment to a consumer's health care provider; to provide for definitions; to prohibit certain activities of medical funding provider. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[SB 56, "Consumer Coverage and Protection for Out-of Network Medical Care Act"](#) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to establish standards for carriers and health care providers with regard to payment under a managed care plan in the provision of emergency medical care; to provide for applicability; to provide for definitions; to provide for certain patient or prospective patient disclosures; to

provide for insurer disclosures; to provide for requirements regarding the provision of emergency medical care for covered persons under a managed care plan; to provide for requirements for managed care plan contracts between carriers and covered persons. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance Life and Health Subcmte, Passed Subcmte, Pending Insurance Cmte

Note: The language of SB 56 was added to [HB 540](#) in Senate Finance Cmte. HB 540 passed the Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree

[SB 71, Relating to sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority](#) (Sen. Ben Watson-R)

Relating to county and municipal hospital authorities, so as to revise provisions relating to the sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority; to provide for the investment of funds by certain hospital authorities.

Status: Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, On House Rules Calendar, House Postponed, House withdrawn and recommitted, CON language added, Pending Rules, Recommitted to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[SB 109, Delegation by a physician; order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations](#) (Sen Larry Walker III-R)

Relating to delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurse, so as to authorize the delegation by a physician to an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations; to revise definitions; to increase the number of advanced practice registered nurses with whom a delegating physician can enter into a nurse protocol agreement. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled

[SB, 189 Health Records; costs for copying medical records](#) (Sen. Bill Cowsert-R)

Relating to health records, so as to provide for costs for copying medical records; to provide for electronic delivery of records unless paper is requested; to provide for penalties for not providing records in a timely fashion. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

Insurance

[HB 606, Require life insurers to provide certain policy information to funeral homes within 24 hours of receipt of the funeral home's notification of an insured's death](#) (Rep. Patty Bentley-D)

Relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to require life insurers to provide certain policy information to funeral homes within 24 hours of receipt of the funeral home's notification of an insured's death. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[SB 88, Georgia taxpayers; voluntary contributions through the income tax payment and refund process; qualified service disabled veterans benefit organization](#) (Sen. Michael Rhett-D)

Relating to tax returns and furnishing of information, so as to authorize Georgia taxpayers to make certain voluntary contributions through the income tax payment and refund process to aid and assist service disabled veterans through a qualified service disabled veterans benefit organization; to provide for definitions; to provide for conditions and limitations; to require surety; to provide for the remittance of recovered funds to the general fund; to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations. **Status:** Referred Finance Cmte

[SB 179, License Plate and Registration; adoption of a real-time internet services model; provide; Data Base Advisory Council](#) (Sen. John Albers-R)

Relating to administration and enforcement of chapter, so as to provide for the adoption of a real-time internet services model to provide for the electronic transmission of minimum motor vehicle insurance coverage; to create the Data Base Advisory Council; to provide for council membership, duties, and reporting; to provide for an online application to connect systems between insurers and state agencies; to provide for a third-party contractor as a designated agent for administration of the system; to provide that insurers shall provide certain information to the system **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

[SB 195, "Prescription Drug Benefits Freedom of Information and Consumer Protection Act"](#) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for consumer protections and freedom of information regarding prescription drug benefits; to provide for intent and applicability; to provide for definitions; to provide for requirements; to provide for an advisory committee. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, Senate Disagreed

[SB 293, Balance Billing Consumer Protection Act](#) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for certain consumer protections against balance billing; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the O.C.G.A., relating to selling and other trade practices, so as to provide the Attorney General with new enforcement authority against providers. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities

[HB 178, Examination and treatment for mental illness](#) (Rep. Don Hogan-R)

Relating to examination and treatment for mental illness, so as to provide for assisted outpatient treatment programs; to create a unit within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability to provide support and coordination; to provide for an advisory council; to provide for applicability; to provide for a pilot program; to provide for procedures, standards, and criteria; to provide for due process; to provide for services and treatment plans; to provide for evaluative information and reports; to provide for training; to provide for patient's right to refuse medication; and to provide for an annual report. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health Cmte

[HB 544, Involuntary treatment for substance abuse](#) (Rep. Chuck Efstoration-R)

Relating to hospitalization and treatment of alcoholics, drug dependent individuals, and drug abusers, so as to revise procedures regarding emergency involuntary treatment; to require the affidavits of the persons upon which an emergency involuntary treatment order is based to be made part of the patient evaluation and among the documents that influence treatment. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 760, Mental health: authorization of peace officers to take a person to a physician or emergency receiving facility for emergency examination under certain circumstance](#) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to examination and treatment of mental illness, so as to provide for authorization of peace officers to take a person to a physician or emergency receiving facility for emergency examination under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Cmte

Military Base Support

[HB 60, Dependent children of active duty military members shall be classified as in-state for purposes of tuition and fees by the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia](#) (Rep. Dave Belton-R)

Relating to postsecondary education and vocational, technical, and adult education, respectively, so as to provide that dependent children of active duty military members shall be classified as in-state for purposes of tuition and fees by the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte

[HB 231, Military Service Tax Exemption](#) (Rep. Heath Clark-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to exempt from state income tax certain income received by taxpayers as retirement benefits from military service in the armed forces of the United States or the reserve components thereof. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 232, Children of active duty military classified as in-state for purposes of tuition](#) (Rep. Heath Clark-R)

Relating to postsecondary education and vocational, technical, and adult education, respectively, so as to provide that dependent children of active duty military members shall be classified as in-state for purposes

of tuition and fees by the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte

[HB 498, Income received as personal compensation for full-time duty in the active military service of the United States](#) (Rep. Mike Cheokas-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to exempt from state income tax income received as personal compensation for full-time duty in the active military service of the United States. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 735, Exempt military retirement income](#) (Rep. Shaw Blackmon-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, and computation of income taxes and exemptions, so as to exempt certain military retirement income. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 773, Reciprocal licensing of professions, occupations, and trades for individuals licensed outside of Georgia](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to professions and businesses, so as to provide for reciprocal licensing of professions, occupations, and trades for individuals licensed outside of the State of Georgia. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte

[SB 94, Personal compensation for full-time duty in the active military service of the United States; exempt](#) (Sen. Ellis Black-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to exempt from state income tax income received as personal compensation for full-time duty in the active military service of the United States. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte

[SB 126, State Income Tax; certain income received by taxpayers as retirement or disability benefits from military service in the armed forces of the United States](#) (Sen. Zahra Karnishak-D)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to exempt from state income tax certain income received by taxpayers as retirement or disability benefits from military service in the armed forces of the United States or the reserve components thereof; to repeal certain expired provisions; to clarify certain language. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte

Pharmaceuticals

[HB 158, Medicaid recipients have the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drugs Assistance Programs](#) (Rep. Deborah Silcox-R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide that Medicaid recipients have the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drug Assistance Program; to prohibit utilization management tools for such regimens; to provide for submission of a state plan waiver if necessary. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 759, Annual Schedule IV Drug Bill](#) (Rep. Butch Parrish-R)

Relating to controlled substance, so as to change certain provisions relating to Schedule IV controlled substances. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte (Non-Civil)

Public Health

[HB 17, Smoking inside vehicle when person under 13 is present; provide for offense](#) (Rep. Sandra Scott-D)

Relating to general provisions regarding offenses against public health and morals, so as to provide for the offense of smoking inside any motor vehicle when a person who is under 13 years of age is present; to provide for a criminal penalty. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte Non-Civil

[HB 160, Bariatric Pilot Program](#) (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

Relating to the Department of Community Health, so as to reinstate a pilot program to provide coverage for bariatric surgical procedures for the treatment and management of obesity and related conditions under the state health insurance plan; to provide for eligibility, requirements, and evaluation report for the four-year pilot program; to provide for automatic repeal. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services

[HB 214, Relating to vaccine protocol agreements](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Removes the geographic limitation on pharmacists who are engaged with a physician in a vaccine protocol agreement. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 264, Persons promoting or opposing any matter regarding the EMSC Program are subject to transparency and lobbyist disclosure laws](#) (Rep. Bill Werkheiser-R)

Relating to public officials' conduct and lobbyist disclosure, so as to provide that any natural persons undertaking to promote or oppose any matter before a local coordinating entity regarding the Emergency Medical Systems Communications Program (EMSC Program) are subject to transparency and lobbyist disclosure laws; to amend Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to emergency medical services.

Status: Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Disagreed, Senate Insisted, House Insisted, Senate Conference Cmte: Sen. Jeff Mullis, Sen. Matt Brass and Sen. P.K. Martin; House Conference Cmte: Rep. Bill Werkheiser, Rep. Terry England and Rep. Sharon Cooper

[HB 328, Regulation and permissance of body artists and body art studios](#) (Rep. Karen Mathiak-R)

Relating to health, so as to provide for the regulation and permissance of body artists and body art studios; to provide for definitions; to provide for the issuance, denial, suspension, and revocation of permits; to authorize administrative review and the promulgation of rules and regulations; to provide for enforcement, inspection, and criminal penalties; to provide for the development and institution of a public education program on body art and for the collection and retention of fees related thereto. **Status:** Referred Regulated Industries Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Regulated Industries Cmte

[HB 369, Development of an educational fact sheet that provides information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs for youth athletes prescribed an opioid for a sport-related injury](#) (Rep. David Wilkerson-D)

relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, so as to require the development of an educational fact sheet that provides information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the event that a student-athlete or cheerleader is prescribed an opioid for a sports-related injury. **Status:** Referred Education Cmte

[HB 416, Create the State Vaccine Consumer Protection Office](#) (Rep. Rick Williams-R)

To establish the State Vaccine Consumer Protection Office; to provide for its duties; to provide for the creation of a State Vaccination Information Sheet; to provide for rights of consumers to decline administration of vaccines; to provide for an annual report; and to provide for rules and regulations. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 442, Grant program to encourage certain physicians to practice in underserved areas of the state](#) (Rep. Kim Schofield-D)

Relating to scholarships, loans, and grants, so as to create a grant program to encourage certain physicians to practice in underserved areas of the state; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte

[HB 477, Public swimming pools; exempt pools located in condominium complexes](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to definitions regarding public swimming pools, so as to exempt pools located in condominium complexes. **Status:** Referred to State planning and Community Affairs Cmte

[HB 521, Temporary licenses for dentists licensed in other states to provide dental care to indigent populations in this state](#) (Rep. Houston Gaines-R)

Relating to licenses for the practice of dentistry, so as to authorize temporary licenses for dentists licensed in other states to provide dental care to indigent populations in this state; to provide for notice; to provide for length of validity of temporary licenses; to provide for application; to provide for specified dental care. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 615, Allow minors to receive vaccinations without parental consent](#) (Rep. Teri Anulewicz-D)

Relating to control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to authorize certain minors ages 16 or 17 to receive vaccinations without parental consent. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 717, The practice of midwifery](#) (Rep. Karen Mathiak-R)

Relating to the practice of midwifery; relating to professions and businesses, so as to provide for the licensure and regulation of midwives; to provide for definitions; to provide for the creation of the Advisory Board for Licensed Midwives; to provide for its membership and duties; to provide for licensure requirements. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 731, Tobacco excise tax increase](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to the excise tax on tobacco products, so as to increase the amount of such tax with respect to certain tobacco products. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 767, Commission on Veteran Suicide Prevention](#) (Rep. Sandra Scott-D)

Relating to vital records, so as to provide for the Department of Public Health to collect certain information regarding suicides in this state; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of Veterans Service, so as to provide for the creation of the Commission on Veteran Suicide Prevention. **Status:** Referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs Cmte

[SB 199, Testing of drinking water in child care learning centers and schools for lead contamination](#) (Sen. Nikema Williams-D)

Relating to general provisions relative to education, so as to require testing of drinking water in child care learning centers and schools for lead contamination; to provide for definitions; to provide for notice and reporting of test results and remediation plans. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[SB 226, Use of safety belts in passenger vehicles](#) (Sen. Randy Robertson-R)

Relating to use of safety belts in passenger vehicles, so as to provide that all occupants of a passenger vehicle, whether in a front seat or back seat, shall be restrained by a seat safety belt. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety Cmte

[SB 298, Smoking and Vaping Restrictions](#) (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

To provide protections for and education to minors regarding smoking and vaping; to provide certain definitions regarding the sale or distribution to, or possession by, minors of cigarettes, tobacco, tobacco related objects, and vapor products to include vapor products that do not contain nicotine; and to prohibit such sales or distribution to individuals under the age of 21. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte

Taxes

[HB 3, Repeal Hotel-Motel Excise Room Tax](#) (Rep. Matt Gurtler-R)

Relating to the excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, so as to repeal a certain tax on innkeepers. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 48, Reinstate exemption on public mass transit vehicle excise tax](#) (Rep. Carl Gilliard-D)

Relating to levy of excise tax, rate, taxation of motor fuels not commonly sold or measured by gallon, rate, but rather at a bulk purchase facility, prohibition of tax on motor fuel by political subdivisions, exception, and exempted sales, so as to reinstate excise tax exemptions for public mass transit vehicles, vehicles operated by a public campus transportation system, and school buses. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 132, Permit affiliated entities to apply certain transferable tax credits against payroll withholding](#) (Rep. Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, and computation and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to permit affiliated entities to apply certain transferable tax credits against payroll withholding. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte

[HB 189, Repeals Extra .04 cent on railroad diesel for locomotives](#) (Rep. Vance Smith-R)

Relating to sales and use taxes, so as to create an exemption from the state levy of sales and use tax on sales of fuel to a contract or common carrier regulated by the United States Surface Transportation Board for use exclusively in the operation of locomotives by such carrier. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 200, Repeal of hotel-motel excise tax exemption on rooms for non-profits](#) (Rep. Don Hogan-R)

Relating to excise tax on rooms, lodging, and accommodations, so as to exempt certain persons from the tax on hotel and motel rooms. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Hearing Only Held

[HB 219, Ad valorem tax: fair market value of certain property and require the tax assessor to include certain information with the assessment](#) (Rep. Lynn Smith-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding ad valorem taxation of property, so as to further define the fair market value of certain property and require the tax assessor to include certain information with the assessment. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 276, Requires remittance of sales tax by person facilitating the sale](#) (Rep. Brett Harrell-R)

Relating to state sales and use tax, so as to modify the definition of dealer; to require the collection and remittance of sales tax by certain persons that facilitate certain retail sales; to define marketplace facilitators and marketplace sellers; to provide for an effective date and applicability; and to repeal conflicting laws. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Disagreed, House Conference Cmte Appointed: 106th, 45th, 115th, Senate Conference Cmte Appointed: 52nd, 30th, 41st, Senate Adopted Conference Cmte Report, House Adopted Conference Cmte Report, On to Governor Kemp

[HB 335, Certain motor vehicles owned or leased by or to a nonprofit organization or entity](#) (Rep. Al Williams-D)

relating to alternative ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles, so as to provide an exclusion for motor vehicles owned or leased by or to a nonprofit organization or entity that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code which provides services in this state pursuant to a grant issued and overseen by the Office of Head Start. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 355, Earning a tax credit for establishing or relocating quality jobs; modify conditions](#) (Rep. Clay Pirkle-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to modify conditions for earning a tax credit for establishing or relocating quality jobs. **Status:** Referred Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 347, All expenditures of a production company's state certified productions may be combined to meet spending thresholds](#) (Rep. Josh Bonner-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to provide that all expenditures of a production company's state certified productions may be combined to meet spending thresholds; to lower spending thresholds; to increase the value of the tax credit; to provide for transferability of the tax credit; to provide for conditions and limitations. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 447, To exempt jet fuel from state sales and us tax](#) (Rep. Dominic LaRiccia-R)

Relating to sales and use taxes, so as to exempt jet fuel from the state sales and use tax for a period of time and to levy an excise tax on jet fuel during such period; and to modify provisions for the use of proceeds of taxes on jet fuel. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute with language added to levy

10-cent tax on aviation and jet fuel and language for state take-over of Atlanta Airport, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Finance Cmte

[HB 448, Relating to Excise tax on room, lodgings and accommodations](#) (Rep. Matt Dollar-R)

Relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, so as to revise the definition of "innkeeper" to include lodging facilitators; to expand the levy of a nightly excise tax to include all rooms, lodgings, and accommodations furnished for value to the public by innkeepers; to define the term "lodging facilitator"; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 451, Historic Preservation Tax Credits](#) (Rep. Houston Gaines-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, and computation and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to revise procedures, conditions, and limitations relating to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures; to authorize promulgation of regulations; to provide for preapproval of additional tax credits for current recipients of tax credits; to provide for sharing and confidentiality of certain preapproval information; to provide for the submission of applications to the Department of Community Affairs; to revise provisions relating to assignment of corporate income tax credits. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 494, Rehabilitation of historic structures; change time when taxpayer is allowed a tax credit](#) (Rep. Debbie Buckner-D)

Relating to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures and conditions and limitations, so as to change the time when a taxpayer is allowed a tax credit; to change the projects earning limitation for the aggregate per calendar year cap; to provide for carry forward of credits for other certified structures; to change requirements for the transfer of credits. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 540, Housing tax credit; add to the list of tax categories eligible for an offset](#) (Rep. Trey Rhodes-R)

Relating to housing tax credit for qualified projects and rules and regulations, so as to add to the list of tax categories eligible for an offset by the housing tax credit. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, House Withdrawn and Recommitted to Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree

Note: The Senate Balance Billing language was added to HB 540 in Senate Finance Committee

[HR 164, Dedication of revenues derived from fees or taxes to the public purpose for which such fees or taxes were imposed.](#) (Rep. Jay Powell-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 taxes to the public purpose for which such fees or taxes were imposed; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations; to provide for the redesignation of a current subparagraph of the Constitution; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Appropriations Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute narrowing scope to solid and hazardous waste trust funds, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House For Agree/Disagree

Transportation

[HB 286, "Right to Repair Act"](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to selling and other trade practices, so as to require a manufacturer to provide certain items necessary for diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services on digital products. **Status:** Referred Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte

[HB 420, Revenue and taxation; tax on persons who enter certain rental agreements with certain equipment rental companies within a certain period of time; levy and impose](#) (Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to specific, business, and occupation taxes, so as to levy and impose a tax on persons who enter certain rental agreements with certain equipment rental companies within a certain period of time; to require such equipment rental companies to collect such taxes and remit them to county tax commissioners for

credit against such company's ad valorem tax liability for certain equipment; to provide that county tax commissioners shall retain excess fees; to provide for the reporting of certain statistical data related to such tax. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 457, Motor vehicles; safety belts and safety restraints; revise provisions](#) (Rep. Todd Jones-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding equipment of motor vehicles, so as to revise provisions for safety belts required as equipment, safety restraints for children, and the usage of safety belts in passenger vehicles; to provide for use or nonuse of a seat safety belt as evidence admissible in civil actions under certain circumstances; to provide a response to Reid v. Odom, 199 Ga. App. 146; Boatwright v. Czerepinski, 194 Ga. App. 697; Katz v. White, 190 Ga. App. 458; Sapp v. Johnson, 184 Ga. App. 603, and any other case law that has provided for limiting the purposes for which seat belt nonusage evidence may be admitted.

Status: Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 511, Rural Transit Coordinating Council](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R)

Relating to the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority; so as to redesignate Code sections relative to such authority to a new chapter to create a rural transit council and provide for funding mechanisms.

Status: Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Transportation Cmte, Hearing Only Held

Note: HB 511, the Rural Transit bill, was added to [SB 131](#) in House Rules Cmte. (SB 131 sponsored by Sen. Burt Jones is the Atlanta airport takeover bill). The House Rules Cmte removed Sen. Jones' airport language and substituted their own airport over-sight language and also added the jet fuel sales tax exemption. [SB 131](#) passed the House and was sent to the Senate for Agree/Disagree. Where upon the Senate leadership notified House Speaker Ralston that they would not consider the new [SB 131](#) Substitute and would not take any action on the bill this session. The House Rules Cmte then added HB 511 language to SB 200, but it too died in the Senate after having passed the House.

[SB 82, Transportation Department Director; appointment of a chief innovation officer to coordinate and develop technology](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to the appointment and responsibilities of the director of planning for the Department of Transportation, so as to provide for the appointment of a chief innovation officer to coordinate and develop technology based improvements and solutions to transportation needs. **Status:** Referred to Senate Science and Technology Cmte

[SB 148, Revise provision for safety belts as required equipment](#) (Sen. Randy Robertson-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding equipment of motor vehicles, so as to revise provisions for safety belts required as equipment, safety restraints for children, and the usage of safety belts in passenger vehicles; to provide a response to Reid v. Odom, 199 Ga. App. 146; Boatwright v. Czerepinski, 194 Ga. App. 697; Katz v. White, 190 Ga. App. 458; Sapp v. Johnson, 184 Ga. App. 603, and any other case law that has provided for limiting the purposes for which seat belt nonusage evidence may be admitted; and to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[SB 200, Georgia Department of Transportation; procedure for appealing the rejection of a contract bid](#) (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Relating to exercise of power to contract by the Georgia Department of Transportation, so as to require the department to develop a procedure for appealing the rejection of a contract bid. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, On House Rules Calendar, House Postponed

[SB 217, State Transportation Board; authority of the board to hire professional staff and clerical personnel](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to composition of the State Transportation Board, qualifications of members, terms of office, manner of selection of members, filling of vacancies, officers, meetings, and compensation of members, so as to provide for authority of the board to hire professional staff and clerical personnel; to provide for certain reporting to the board by the director of governmental affairs employed by the Department of Transportation. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte

Workers' Comp

[HB 474, Relating to Workers' Compensation](#) Rules (Rep. Tom Kirby-R)

Relating to workers' compensation, so as to require certain procedures prior to the adoption, amendment or repeal of any of the State Workers' Compensation. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte

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