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Weekly Legislative Report #9

Week Ending March 12, 2021

Crossover Day

Monday of last week was crossover day when bills must pass their House of origin to get further consideration this session. (They are still eligible for consideration next year.) Of course, when we say a bill is dead for this year, it means that specific bill number is dead. The language from a dead bill can still find its way onto another bill as an amendment or complete substitution. That scenario is very likely with at least two major issues this session.

The first issue is election integrity with more than 70 bills introduced, the most high profile being [HB 531](#) and [SB 241](#). Most died for lack of action, but given the interest in the topic, we think features of various bills could be cobbled together on a so-called “vehicle.” The same scenario holds for gambling issues, where we expect sports wagering, destination resort gambling and perhaps even parimutuel betting on horses could end up in an omni-constitutional amendment. There will surely be others, but it usually requires a very interested committee chair or upper leadership involvement to pull it off.

Plus, there’s one more oft-employed technique to “perfect” a bill. Whatever legislation ends up passing both the House and Senate, if language is not exactly the same, may end up in a conference committee composed of three members from each body. A conference committee can make whatever changes to a bill it can reach agreement on, regardless of previous language. The bill is then sent back to each House for approval. Caveat: the presiding officer of each body appoints members to the conference committee, but they must have voted in favor of the bill as it came through.

The Hot Button Health Issue

The red hot, hot-button health issue this session comes out of the COVID pandemic. The debate is over whether it is better to mandate hospitals and nursing homes allow daily visitations, or in the case of a declared health emergency, permit such facilities to forbid visitors who might infect patients or take home a highly infectious disease. Currently, [HB 290](#) has passed the House and sits in the Senate HHS Committee. It now requires hospitals to allow a patient’s named “legal representative” to visit in person for at least one hour per day. A visit to a highly infectious patient

can be delayed for 48 hours, but no longer. The visiting representative must abide by all “reasonable” hospital safety requirements, but will have legal standing to sue if they think those requirements are not reasonable. (Nursing homes must allow the legal representative, but also two “essential caregivers” to visit daily.) Neither the legal representative nor the essential caregivers need have any formal qualifications. The bill appears not to address the situation where a patient names someone their “legal representative,” who subsequently gives instructions for the patient’s care that conflict with directives from a person holding a written Medical Power of Attorney. And, what of the potential for conflict with the patient’s own written advance directives? Legal minds are spinning.

The bill passed out of the lower chamber by a vote of 113-57, but only after a concerted push by Speaker David Ralston, who took to the well of the House himself to urge members’ support. (It appears the Speaker is open to amendments, just wants *something* to pass to mollify locked out family members.) The legislation has put elected officials between the “rock” of constituents who want to visit loved ones and the “hard place” of hospitals that feel an obligation to protect their patients and communities. This bill has changed considerably since being introduced, and it appears that metamorphosis remains incomplete.

Executive Order and Vaccine Eligibility Expanded

Governor Brian Kemp last week again expanded [guidelines](#) in his initial Executive Order emanating from the COVID pandemic. The most recent changes are highlighted below:

- Combines the restaurant and bar requirements to hold both types of establishments to the same standards.
- Streamlines requirements for Critical Infrastructure and Non-Critical Infrastructure organizations.
- Includes 2021 high school graduates, home study graduates, and GED recipients in previously ordered HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship testing requirement modifications.

The Governor also announced expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations last week. As of March 15, vaccination criteria is expanded to include Georgians aged 55 and older and individuals with disabilities and certain medical conditions. The complete list of those eligible can be found at dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine.

Dead Bill Walking

It’s not very often that a piece of legislation gets clobbered on the floor. Bills unlikely to pass most often get torpedoed during the committee vetting process. Often, there’s no vote at all, the Chairman simply says, “hearing only today,” and the concept never makes another agenda. [HB 520](#) (Phillip Singleton-R) was an exception last week. The freshman’s bill (fortunately, not his first) seemed simple enough, changing only one word. The measure struck the term “terrestrial” from the definition of broadband services, thereby, according to the debate, incorporating satellite services. It made it out of the Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee and through the Rules Cmte process, but then collapsed on the floor, losing 51-108. Evidently, a detractor was able to convince the chamber that allowing satellite services to be inherent in the meaning of broadband services would risk putting a lot of unknowns into law. “Terrestrial” apparently is a more grounded term.

Another Dead Bill Walking

A 2017 compensation study concluded that Georgia's elected officials are underpaid. A bill, [SB 252](#) (Valencia Seay-D) to give members of the General Assembly 70% raises effective in 2023 isn't going to change that. It was defeated on the Senate floor, 33-20. The bill would have also given constitutional officers raises (except for the Governor who got one in 2019). Legislators' pay has not been increased in more two decades, and the argument goes that soon only the independently wealthy will be able to represent their fellow citizens. On the other hand, who wants to run their next campaign against an opponent who can use a pro pay-raise vote as a bludgeon? State legislators are paid \$17,342 per year, plus per diem expenses of \$173 on days they attend session or participate in official legislative functions such as off-season committee meetings. The per diem expense is intended to reimburse out-of-town legislators for lodging and meals, but those who commute receive it, too.

No Pay at All for Suspended Officials

A different pay-related piece of legislation sailed through the Senate on Crossover Day. [SR 134](#) (Larry Walker-R) would amend the Constitution to prevent taxpayers from footing the salary of elected officials who have been suspended from their jobs under felony indictments. Georgia will have paid suspended Insurance Commissioner Jim Beck an estimated \$400,000 by the end of the fiscal year according to a story in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He was indicted by federal authorities in May 2019, only a few months after taking office, accused of financing his campaign by swindling a former employer out of \$2 million. In addition, the state, of course, must also pay his replacement, John F. King, who was appointed by the Governor.

About that Tax Break

Republicans and Democrats couldn't even work up a squabble about [HB 593](#) by Ways & Means Chairman Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire). The bill to increase the amount of the standard deduction on the state income tax form passed the full House 171-0. But, alas, nothing is quite that simple. On Thursday, President Joe Biden signed into law the COVID Relief package that sends \$4.7 billion to Georgia . . . but has a caveat that the money cannot be used to offset tax cuts. Does that mean the standard deduction increase shouldn't pass the General Assembly? If Georgia passes the bill, will it lose all of the relief money, or just the amount of the tax reduction (estimated at \$140 million, but that won't be known until April of 2022). And, what about another bill in process that gives a tax break to those who provide foster care for orphaned children? Surely that's not the intended target of the restriction. Speaker Ralston has sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, asking that her department write regulations that do not penalize Georgia when such tax cuts were clearly already moving through the system. Time will tell.

Next Week

The General Assembly will meet four days next week, taking us through Legislative Day 35 on Thursday. Look for news from the Senate Appropriations Committee about the FY22 budget mid-week.

Tracking List

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

Bills that are "DEAD" for the 2021 session failed to pass at least one chamber by the 28th day and are noted in red.

The 2021 Legislative Session is the first session of the 2021-2022 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated during this session will be carried over to the 2022 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2021 session will be recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

Sections:

[Aging](#)

[Business](#)

[City & County Governments & Regional Commissions](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Elections](#)

[Ethics](#)

[Gaming](#)

[Government](#)

[Health – General](#)

[Hospitals](#)

[Insurance](#)

[Pharmaceuticals](#)

[Taxes](#)

[Transportation](#)

Aging

[HB 290](#), Relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions (Rep. Ed Setzler-R)

Relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to prohibit hospitals and nursing homes from instituting any policy during a declared public health emergency that limits patients' abilities to be visited by designated family members or friends as a condition precedent to obtaining or maintaining a permit to operate a hospital or nursing home. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations & Aging Cmte, Hearings Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

[HB 363](#), Relating to elderly protections (Rep. John LaHood-R)

Relating to crimes and offenses, so as to revise definitions relative to the protection of elder persons; to remove enhanced penalties for certain offenses against persons 65 years of age or older or employees, agents, or volunteers at long-term care facilities; and to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Judicial Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 605](#), Relating to care and protection of indigent and elderly patients (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to care and protection of indigent and elderly patients, so as to provide for authorized electronic monitoring in long-term care facilities. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations & Aging Cmte, Hearing Only, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, **Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

[HB 618](#), Elderly abuse protections regarding wills (Rep. Bert Reeves-R)

Relating to execution and attestation, so as to provide for elder abuse protections regarding wills; to provide for a definition; to provide for requesting a judgment of validity; and to provide for the admissibility of facts; to provide for revocation. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 628](#), Central caregiver registry (Rep. John LaHood-R)

Relating to the central caregiver registry, so as to provide for criminal background checks on individuals independently retained to provide personal care services for elderly persons who reside in a personal care home or assisted living facility; to revise definitions; to provide for procedures and notification; and to provide for limited liability. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations and Aging, **DEAD**

Business

[HB 112](#), To provide for certain immunities from liability claims (Rep. Trey Kelley-R)

To provide for certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19; extend for one year. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Access to the Civil Justice System, Passed Cmte, Sent to Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[SB 55](#), To create the Family Medical Leave Fund (Sen. Gloria Butler-D)

To create the Family Medical Leave Fund; to provide for contributions to such fund; to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations by the Department of Labor. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 189](#), Civil Practice; separate trials for issues of liability and damage (Sen. Bill Cowsert-R)

Relating to civil practice, so as to provide for separate trials for issues of liability and damages under certain circumstances; to provide considerations for making determinations as to whether to provide for separate trials. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 190](#), Relating to torts, so as to provide for the recovery and admissibility (Sen. Bill Cowsert-R)

Relating to torts, so as to provide for the recovery and admissibility of special damages for medical and health care expenses. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, **DEAD**

City & County Governments and Regional Commissions

[HB 60](#), Georgia Educational Scholarship Act (Rep. Wes Cantrell-R)

Relating to education, so as to provide for the establishment of educational scholarship accounts; to provide for qualified education expenses; to provide for qualifications for students to participate in the account program. **Status:** Referred to Educational Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Withdrawn from Rules Calendar, Recommitted to Rules Cmte**

[HB 98](#), Conditions for meetings to be held by teleconference (Rep. Eddie Lumsden-R)

To provide conditions for meetings and public hearings to be held by teleconference in emergency conditions. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed General Government Subcmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Government Affairs

[HB 107](#), Workforce Development Board Meetings (Rep. Carolyn Hugley-R)

Local workforce development board to conduct meetings via teleconference. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 150](#), Public utilities and public transportation (Rep. Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to prohibit governmental entities from adopting any policy that prohibits the connection or reconnection of any utility service based upon the type or source of energy or fuel. **Status:** Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte

[HB 286](#), Relating to police departments (Rep. Houston Gaines-R)

Relating to county police, so as to restrict the ability of county governing authorities to reduce funding for county police departments; to amend Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions applicable to municipal corporations, so as to restrict the ability of municipal or consolidated government governing authorities to reduce funding for municipal police departments. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Government Oversight Cmte

[HB 374](#), Public water or sewer providers tax exempt (Rep. Houston Gaines-R)

Relating to sales and use taxes, so as to exempt from taxation local authorities providing public water or sewer service. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Hearing Only, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, [Passed Cmte](#), [Pending Rules Cmte](#)

[HB 511](#), Relating to dedication of fees and taxes (Rep. Bert Reeves-R)

Relating to conservation and natural resources, domestic relations, game and fish, General Assembly, health, motor vehicles and traffic, public officers and employees, revenue and taxation, and social services, respectively, so as to provide for the establishment or revision of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund, Solid Waste Trust Fund, Hazardous Waste Trust Fund, State Children's Trust Fund, Wildlife Endowment Trust Fund, Trauma Care Network Trust Fund, Transportation Trust Fund, Georgia Agricultural Trust Fund, Fireworks Trust Fund, and Georgia Transit Trust Fund as funds within the state treasury; to dedicate the proceeds of certain fees and taxes to such funds as authorized and subject to the conditions imposed by Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(r) of the Constitution of Georgia. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte

[HR 130](#), Transfer of Forsyth County from Georgia Mountains RC to the ARC (Rep. Lauren McDonald-R)
A Resolution ratifying the action of the Board of the Community Affairs approving of the transfer of Forsyth County from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to the Atlanta Regional Commission. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte; Passed Governmental Affairs State and Local Government Subcmte, Pending Full Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Government Oversight Cmte, [On Cmte Agenda for Monday](#)

[HR 222](#), House Study Committee on annexation (Rep. Victor Anderson-R)

A Resolution creating the House Study Committee on Annexation. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[SB 59](#), Charter School funding for full-time equivalent students (Sen. John Albers-R)

Relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for additional QBE funding for each full-time equivalent student within a local charter school; to provide for a maximum amount of such funding available to each local charter school. **Status:** Referred to Education and Youth Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Education Cmte

[SB 95](#), Conditions for meetings to be held by teleconference (Sen. Frank Ginn-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide conditions for meetings and public hearings to be held by teleconference in emergency conditions; and to provide conditions for certain agency members to participate in nonemergency meetings by teleconference. **Status:** Referred to Government Oversight Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Passed, Sent to House, Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[SR 26](#), An amendment to the Constitution to authorize GO Bonds (Sen. Tyler Harper-R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution to authorize the state to incur general obligation debt in order to make loans or grants to certain counties, cities, local authorities and local commissions that own airports. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte, Passed by the Appropriations Transportation Subcmte, Pending Appropriations Cmte, Passed Cmte, Sent to Rules Cmte, On Senate Rules Calendar, Senate Tabled, **DEAD**

Economic Development

[HB 359](#), Projects of regional significance sales tax exemption (Rep. Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to exemptions from state sales and use taxes, so as to extend the sunset date for the exemption for projects of regional significance. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 500](#), Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act (Rep. James Burchett-R)

Relating to the "Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act," so as to provide for a second round of funding and period for applications; to increase an application fee and provide for an annual maintenance fee. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 520](#), Deployment of Broadband Services (Rep. Phillip Singleton-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding promotion and deployment of broadband services. **Status:** Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **House Rules Calendar, Defeated in House**

[SB 65](#), Universal Access Fund (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Relating to public utilities so as to provide for funding of the deployment for certain communication services throughout the state, so as to allow for funds to be used for deployment of broadband services. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 255](#), To support border region retail and tourism (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to the "OneGeorgia Authority Act," so as to provide for a grant program to support border region retail and tourism projects; and to provide for criteria. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte

Elections

[HB 62](#), Relating to primaries and elections generally (Rep. Joseph Gullett-R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to prohibit boards of elections, boards of elections and registration, local election superintendents, and county boards of registrars from accepting or expending private funds; to provide that such local elections officials can only accept lawful appropriations of public funds or authorized fees. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 64](#), Relating to primaries and elections generally (Rep. Houston Gaines-R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for the manner of handling the death of a candidate prior to a nonpartisan election; to provide that no candidate shall take or be sworn into any elected public office unless such candidate has received a majority of the votes cast for such office except as otherwise provided by law. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, Hearing Held, **DEAD**

[HB 113](#), Relating to primaries and elections generally (Rep. Kimberly Alexander-D)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for same day registration and voting. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 132](#), Relating to primaries and elections generally (Rep. Mesha Mainor-D)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for written operating procedures for elections and voter registration activities in each county; to provide for State Election Board approval; to provide for contents and scope of procedures; to provide for sanctions for failure to submit acceptable operating procedures. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 136](#), Relating to primaries and elections generally (Rep. Eddie Lumsden-R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for the appointment of acting election superintendents in the event of a vacancy or incapacitation in the office of judge of the probate court of counties without a board of elections. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 227](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to elections and primaries so as to provide for submission of identification in connection with absentee ballot applications; to provide for the submission of photocopies of voter identification for absentee ballot applications. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 228](#), Relating to presentation of identification to poll worker (Charlice Byrd-R)

Relating to presentation of identification to poll workers, form of proper identification, so as to require the term Bearer Not a U.S. Citizen. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 267](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Brad Thomas-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that persons who register to vote by mail shall vote for the first time in person. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 270](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Barry Fleming-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for the time periods for the mailing and issuance of absentee ballots. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 280](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Rep. William Boddie-D)

Relating to primaries and elections, so as to eliminate certain electors list maintenance activities. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 284](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Wes Cantrell-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that counties and municipalities may choose to utilize instant run-off voting under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 285](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Rep. Wes Cantrell-R)

Relating to elections and primaries, so as to provide for instant-run-off voting in the election of presidential electors; to provide for the implementation of the instant run-off voting. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 325](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Martin Momtahan-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to revise the definition of "absentee elector"; to provide for reasons for voting by absentee ballot; and to provide for certain exceptions. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 326](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Martin Momtahan-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that voting devices or systems used in primaries, elections, and runoffs in this state shall not utilize any form of wireless network cards or wireless technology; to provide for the removal or disabling of such cards or technology before using such systems or devices in voting. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 365](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Rick Williams-R)

relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that printed absentee ballot applications shall have the election cycle for which they are to be used printed on the application. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 366](#), Relating to primaries and elections generally (Rep. Martin Momtahan-R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that persons desiring to register to vote or update their voter registration through an application for a driver's license or identification card shall be required to affirmatively indicate such desire on such application. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 373](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that county registrars shall obtain monthly from the coroner, judge of the probate court, and funeral homes in the county identifying information about

persons who died in the county during the previous month. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 406](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Will Wade-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for audits of certain primaries and elections; to provide for access to election records for such auditors; and to provide for public access to the results of such audits. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 491](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Shaw Blackmon-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide additional requirements on the State Election Board's power to adopt emergency rules and regulations. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 492](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Shaw Blackmon-R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to make the Secretary of State a nonvoting ex officio member of the State Election Board; to provide for the appointment, confirmation, term, and removal of the chairperson of the State Election Board; to revise provisions relating to a quorum of such board; to require the Secretary of State to support and assist the State Election Board. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 493](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Shaw Blackmon-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for the State Election Board to assume temporary control over local election and voter registration administration; to provide a definition; to provide for the appointment of the Secretary of State to carry out such local election and voter registration duties. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 494](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. James Burchett-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for the submission of photocopies of voter identification documents for absentee voting. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 501](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Shaw Blackmon-R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that recounts shall count the text portions of ballots; to provide for discretionary recounts in certain circumstances; and to provide certain procedures for conducting recounts in partisan elections. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 506](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Matthew Gambill-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that the State Election Board shall promulgate minimum standards for voting equipment; to provide that the Secretary of State shall test and certify such equipment; to provide that each county shall be authorized to obtain whichever certified voting equipment it chooses. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 507](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Rick Williams-R)

relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to regulate the distribution of absentee ballot applications by third-party entities; to provide for disclaimers and the use of proper forms by certain persons in distributing absentee ballot applications. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 512](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to revise the times for advance voting. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 531](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally and local elections (Rep. Barry Fleming-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that no election superintendents or boards of registrars shall accept private funding. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, Hearing

Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Ethics Cmte

[HB 537](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Mitchell Scoggins-R)

So as to provide for removal from office for boards of registrars and county boards of elections and registration under certain circumstances; to provide that absentee ballots shall be printed on safety paper; to provide for the submission of certain forms of identification by electors with absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots; and to provide for audio and video recordings of ballot processing and counting.

Status: Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 659](#), Relating to primaries and elections generally (Rep. Shea Roberts-D)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for the scanning and publishing on a county website or the Secretary of State's website of paper ballots, unofficial precinct returns, and ballots from recounts; to provide for the inspection and copying of original ballots by certain persons following the completion of a recount. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 615](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Todd Jones-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for an automatic recount and recanvass under certain circumstances; to provide for certain reports. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[HB 701](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Rep. Barry Fleming-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to revise a definition; to provide additional powers of the State Election Board regarding suspending superintendents; to provide for the appointment of temporary and permanent replacement superintendents. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, **DEAD**

[SB 29](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Jason Anavitarte-R)

So as to provide for the submission of certain forms of identification by electors with absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 40](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Jen Jordan-D)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to revise the time and method for opening and tabulating absentee ballots; and to provide for an effective date. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity

[SB 62](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Sen. Lindsey Tippins-R)

Relating to elections and primaries, so as to provide the name and designation of the precinct appears on her ballot. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Rules Calendar, Senate Tabled, **Taken off Table, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity**

[SB 67](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Larry Walker-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for the submission of identification in connection with absentee ballot applications. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Subcmte, Pending Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity

[SB 68](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to elections and primaries, so as to revise the manner of delivery of voted absentee ballots. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 69](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to elections and primaries, so as to provide that persons desiring to register to vote through an application for a driver's license shall be required to affirmatively indicate such desire on such application. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, [Senate Rules Calendar](#), [Senate Tabled](#), [DEAD](#)

[SB 70](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to Elections and Primaries, so as to provide that a person who votes in a general election in another state and subsequently moves to this state shall be ineligible to vote in a runoff in this state. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, [DEAD](#)

[SB 71](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to Elections and Primaries, so as to revise the definition of "absentee elector" to provide for reasons for voting by absentee ballot and to provide for certain exemptions. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Subcmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [On Rules Calendar](#), [Senate Tabled](#), [DEAD](#)

[SB 72](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to Elections and Primaries, so as to provide that the county registrars shall obtain monthly from the coroner, probate judge and funeral homes in the county identifying information about who has died in the county during the previous month. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, [On Senate Rules Calendar](#), [Senate Tabled](#), [Taken off Table](#), [Senate Passed](#), [Sent to House](#), [Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity](#)

[SB 73](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to elections and primaries, so as to limit the distribution of absentee ballot applications. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, [DEAD](#)

[SB 74](#), Relating to elections and primaries (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to elections and primaries, so as to revise the ability of poll watchers at tabulating centers to observe the vote county process. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, [On Senate Rules Calendar](#), [Senate Table](#), [Taken off Table](#), [Senate Passed](#), [Sent to House](#), [Referred Special Cmte on Election Integrity](#)

[SB 89](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Butch Miller-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for a chief elections assistance officer; to provide for the qualifications, appointment, supervision, and duties of such officer; to provide for election assistance coaches; to provide for the identification of low-performing county election superintendents; to provide for comprehensive on-site evaluation of election management practices. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Subcmte, Pending Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity

[SB 93](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Randy Robertson-R)

elating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for the use of portable and movable polling facilities in certain circumstances; and to provide for standards for such facilities. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Subcmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, [On Senate Rules Calendar](#), [Senate Tabled](#), [DEAD](#)

[SB 99](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Elena Parent-D)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that all advance voting locations shall be open and available for voting on the day of a primary, election, or runoff for any elector of the county to vote; and to provide for procedures and requirements. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, [DEAD](#)

[SB 141](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Jason Anavitarte)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for immediate counting and tabulation of ballots after the close of the polls until such counting and tabulation is completed; and to provide notice of

number of ballots cast. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [On Senate Rules Calendar](#), [Senate Tabled](#), **DEAD**

[SB 184](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Bill Cowsert-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to revise the time for inputting credit for voting data; and to provide for sanctions for failure to meet deadlines. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity

[SB 188](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Bill Cowsert-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for an election results reporting system to be established and maintained by the Secretary of State; and to provide for the submission of certain information to such reporting system by county superintendents. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity

[SB 192](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Jason Anavitarte-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for hearings and procedures when the right of a person to register to vote, vote, or remain on the list of electors is challenged. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 202](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Max Burns-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide that persons or entities that mail absentee ballot applications shall mail such applications only to eligible registered electors who have not already requested, been issued, or voted an absentee ballot; to require certain comparisons to remove improper names from mail distribution lists. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, [Pending Rules Cmte](#), [On Senate Rules Calendar](#), [Senate Tabled](#), [Taken off Table](#), [Passed Senate](#), [Sent to House](#), [Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity](#)

[SB 241](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Mike Dugan-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for the establishment of a voter intimidation and illegal election activities hotline; to limit the ability of the State Election Board and the Secretary of State to enter into certain consent agreements; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 13 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions regarding administrative procedure, so as to provide for the submission and suspension of emergency rules by the State Election Board. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 242](#), Grand Juries; state grand jury; creation, selection, & composition (Sen. Bill Cowsert-R)

Relating to grand juries, so as to provide for a state grand jury; to provide for its creation, selection, composition, compensation, procedures, and term; to provide for a foreperson and deputy foreperson; to provide for certain disqualifications and recusals; to provide for certain oaths; to provide for a legal advisor; to provide secrecy of proceedings; to provide for sanctions for violations; to provide for subpoenas and compelling the production of evidence and testimony; and to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations by the Supreme Court. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [On Senate Rules Calendar](#), [Senate Tabled](#), [Taken off Table](#), [Passed Senate](#), [Sent to House](#), [Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity](#)

[SB 253](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Nikki Merritt-D)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for notice when polling places are relocated. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 273](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (Sen. Burt Jones-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to authorize local governments to conduct elections by paper ballot in 2021. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte, **DEAD**

Ethics

[HB 333](#), Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission (Rep. Chuck Efstoration-R) Relating to ethics in government, so as to revise the powers and duties of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, [Referred to Ethics Cmte](#)

Gaming

[HB 86](#), Sports Wagering (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

To provide for the lottery game of sports wagering; to provide oversight of such lottery game by the Georgia Lottery Corporation. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Sent to Rules Cmte, Withdrawn and recommitted to the Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, On House Rules Calendar, House Postponed, [Withdrawn from House Rules Calendar and Recommitted to Rules Cmte](#), **DEAD**

[HB 538](#), To provide for pari-mutuel betting (Rep. Ron Stephens-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 definitions; to enter into the Interstate Compact on Licensure of Participants in Live Racing with Pari-mutuel Wagering. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 544](#), Relating to Lottery Board and COAM operators (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to lottery for education, so as to change the composition of the board of directors of the lottery; to comprehensively revise Article 3, relating to bona fide coin operated amusement machines. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte](#)

[HR 30](#), 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, Withdrawn from Economic Development & Tourism Cmte and Recommitted to Regulated Industries Cmte, Passed Lottery Oversight-Gaming Subcmte by Substitute, Pending Cmte, **DEAD**

[HR 184](#), To provide for pari-mutuel betting (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

To provide for pari-mutuel betting in this state; to provide for submission of a constitutional amendment for ratification. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Defeated in Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 30](#), To provide for pari-mutuel horse racing (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

To provide for pari-mutuel horse racing in this state at a limited number of licensed equestrian centers and create the Georgia Horse Racing Commission. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 142](#), Sports Wagering (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to lottery for education, so as to provide for the lottery game of sports wagering in this state; to provide for oversight of such lottery game by the Georgia Lottery Corporation. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Hearing Held, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House, [Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte](#)

[SB 212](#), To provide for pari-mutuel betting (Sen. Jeff Mullis-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 definitions; to enter into the Interstate Compact on Licensure of Participants in Live Racing with Pari-mutuel Wagering. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, **DEAD**

[SR 53](#), To provide for pari-mutuel betting (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

To provide for pari-mutuel betting in this state; to provide for submission of a constitutional amendment for ratification. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities, **DEAD**

[SR 131](#), To provide for pari-mutuel betting (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

To provide for pari-mutuel betting in this state; to provide for submission of a constitutional amendment for ratification. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities, **DEAD**

[SR 135](#), To provide for sports betting (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

To provide for sports betting in this state; to provide for submission of a constitutional amendment for ratification. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House, **Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte**

Government

[HB 608](#), Broadband Services (Rep. Marcus Wiedower-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for planning, deployment, and incentives of broadband services throughout the state; to provide for definitions; to provide for certain powers, duties, and responsibilities of the OneGeorgia Authority and the Department of Community Affairs relative to funding and contractual awards for the deployment of broadband services to unserved areas and unserved locations within such areas; to provide certain criteria and conditions for such awards. **Status:** Governmental Affairs Cmte, Hearing Only, **DEAD**

[HR 185](#), House Rural Development Council (Speaker David Ralston-R)

A Resolution reauthorizing the House Rural Development Council. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House

[SB 221](#), To provide for leadership committees (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to ethics in government; to provide for leadership committees; to provide for chairpersons; to provide that such committees may receive contributions and make expenditures; to provide for disposition of assets in certain circumstances; to provide for filings and reports; and to provide an exception from contribution limits. **Status:** Referred to Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Judiciary Cmte

Health – General

[HB 163](#), Express lane enrollment for medical assistance for children (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Instructs the Department of Human Services to submit a state plan amendment to federal officials to provide automatic enrollment in Medicaid of eligible children enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree**

[HB 245](#), Podiatry practice provision relating to background checks (Rep. John LaHood-R)

Relating to podiatry practice, so as to amend a provision relating to fingerprint and criminal background checks. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate with Floor Amendment, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree**

[HB 256](#), The reorganization of county boards of health (Sen. Dean Burke-R)

To provide for the reorganization of county boards of health; to revise the powers of county boards of health; to authorize the Department of Public Health to select district health directors; to provide for qualifications of district health directors; to authorize the commissioner of public health to select chief medical officers. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Hearing Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, **Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

[HB 307](#), Georgia Telehealth Act (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to revise the "Georgia Telehealth Act"; to revise definitions; to authorize health care providers to provide telemedicine services from home; to authorize patients to receive telemedicine services from their home, workplace, or school. **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

[HB 394](#), Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to revise the rate of taxation for tobacco products and vapor products; and to provide for the taxation of certain products that contain nicotine. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Mean Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 567](#), Newborn Screening & Genetics Advisory Committee (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

So as to revise provisions relating to newborn screening for various disorders; to create the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations to the department when a new disorder is added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel; and to provide for requests for appropriations to cover new disorders. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Service Cmte**

[HB 702](#), Professional licensing boards (Rep. Joseph Gullett-R)

Relating to appointment and general powers of division director, members and meetings of professional licensing boards, examination standards, roster of licensees, and funding, so as to provide that home addresses of licensees are treated as confidential. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, **DEAD**

[HR 236](#), House Study Committee on Safe Staffing of Nurses (Rep. Jodi Lott-R)

A Resolution creating the House Study Committee on the Safe Staffing of Nurses in Georgia. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations & Aging Cmte

[SB 5](#), To provide protection measures for patients undergoing sedation (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick-R)

To provide patient protection measures for patients undergoing sedation in certain settings, including dental settings and medispas; to provide for patients under varying levels of sedation in physician offices and medispas. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Withdrawn from Rules Cmte and Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte**

[SB 199](#), Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to permit the sale and delivery of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products by licensed manufacturers located outside of this state directly to individuals in this state under certain conditions. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **On Senate Rules Calendar, Senate Tabled, DEAD**

Hospitals

[HB 234](#), Relating an option for self-funded healthcare plans (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide an option for self-funded healthcare plans, to opt in Georgia's Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 261](#), Care and protection of indigent and elderly (Rep. Todd Jones-R)

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to conduct a simulated exchange for health care facilities to purchase and sell charity care credits to meet their charity care requirements. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Hearing Held, **DEAD**

[HB, 697](#), To require hospital data collection (Rep. Mark Newton-R)

Relating to health care data collection, so as to require hospitals to participate in a survey disclosing whether such hospitals maintain technology allowing the electronic sharing of certain patient information with other hospitals; to provide that the department shall collect the survey results and submit a report to the legislature; and to require the use of certified electronic health technology by certain hospitals. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Access to Quality Health Care, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

[SB 19](#), Surgical Smoke Evacuation Systems (Sen. Gloria Butler-D)

To require hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to utilize surgical smoke evacuation systems during surgical procedures to protect patients and health care works. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, **DEAD**

[SB 31](#), Care and protection of indigent and elderly (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to conduct a simulated exchange for health care facilities to purchase and sell charity care credits to meet their charity care requirements. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **DEAD**

Insurance

[HB 115](#), Relating to insurance, so as to prohibit certain information (Rep. Mike Wilensky-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to prohibit certain insurers from using information derived from genetic testing for any nontherapeutic purpose in the absence of a diagnosis of a condition related to such information. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 241](#), Relating to Property Insurance (Rep. Matthew Gambill-R)

Relating to property insurance, contract requirements, rules, regulations and exemptions, so as to revise the meaning of property insurance. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte

[SB 1](#), Georgia All-Payer Claims Database (Sen. Dean Burke-R)

Relating to the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database, so as to provide that entities that receive certain tax credits and that provide self-funded, employer sponsored health insurance plans are submitting entities and provide for related matter. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Hearing Only, **DEAD**

[SB 43](#), Noncovered Eye Care Services Act (Sen. Matt Brass-R)

Relating to the enumeration of unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices and penalty, so as to provide that certain actions by health care insurers offering eye care benefit plans constitute unfair trade practices. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance Cmte, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte**

[SB 112](#), Life insurance notification to policy owners and beneficiaries (Sen. Marty Harbin-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to require annual notification to policy owners and requested beneficiaries of the existence of such policies; to require insurers to review the National Association of Insurance Commissioners life insurance policy locator on a quarterly basis; and to provide for reporting. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Passed by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte

[SB 113](#), Life insurers' requirement to review national policy locator (Sen. Marty Harbin-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for life insurers' requirement to review the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' life insurance policy locator service; to provide for reporting; to provide for the Commissioner to prescribe reporting; to provide for a sunset provision for reporting requirements; and to provide for enforcement. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte

Pharmaceuticals

[HB 164](#), Prescription Drug Financial Protection Act (Rep. Demetrius Douglas-D)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to require all health insurers to pass along no less than 80 percent of all prescription drug rebates to enrollees that such insurer receives from third parties with regard to such enrollee's prescription drugs. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, Hearing Only, Passed Cmte by Substitute As Amended, Pending Rules, **DEAD**

[HB 367](#), Annual Drug Bill (Rep. Butch Parrish-R)

Relating to controlled substances, so as to change certain provisions relating to Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V controlled substances; and to change certain provisions relating to the definition of dangerous drug. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary-Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Public Safety Cmte, Passed Cmte, **Passed Senate, To Governor Kemp**

[HB 447](#), Disclosure of health insurance plan data (Rep. David Knight-R)

Relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, so as to require that all contracts for health care coverage or services under the state health benefit plan contain provisions relating to disclosure of cost related data. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, Hearing Only, **DEAD**

[HB 448](#), Disclosure of cost related data for PeachCare for Kids Program (Rep. David Knight-R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to require that all contracts for health care coverage or services under Medicaid and the PeachCare for Kids Program contain provisions relating to disclosure of cost related data. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, Hearing Only, **DEAD**

[HB 653](#), Georgia Pharmacy Practice to include COVID-19 test interpretation (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)

Relating to definitions relative to the "Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act," so as to revise the definition of pharmacy care to include COVID-19 test interpretation. **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**

[SB 80](#), Ensuring Transparency in Prior Authorization Act (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for standards for utilization review; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for applicability; to provide for definitions. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Passed by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance Cmte

Taxes

[HB 100](#), Excise tax exemption for vehicles owned by public transportations systems (Rep. Carl Gilliard-D)

Relating to levy of excise tax, rate, taxation of motor fuels not commonly sold or measured by gallon, rate, prohibition of tax on motor fuel by political subdivisions, exception, and exempted sales, so as to provide for exemption from certain excise taxes on motor fuel and compressed natural gas for public mass transit vehicles owned by public transportation systems, certain vehicles owned by public campus transportation systems, and school buses operated by public school systems. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 104](#), Equipment Rental Tax (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

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. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 122](#), To Extend Sales Tax Exemption for manufacturers of concrete (Rep. John Corbett-R)

To extend the sunset for a manufacturers' sales tax exemption for concrete mixers to 2026. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

Note: The language from HB 122 was added to [HB 586](#), the Georgia Economic Recovery Act of 2021

[HB 304](#), Tax credit for medical equipment and pharmaceuticals (Rep. Jodi Lott-R)

Tax credit for medical equipment and supplies manufacturers and pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturers; provide tax credit. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 317](#), Relating to excise tax to revise definition of innkeeper. (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, so as to revise the definition of "innkeeper" to include marketplace facilitators; to define the term "marketplace innkeeper"; to expand the state levy of a nightly excise tax to include all rooms, and lodgings. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Referred to Ways & Means Tax Subcmte, Hearing Only, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte**

[HB 398](#), Relating to job tax credits (Rep. Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to conditions for taking job tax credit by business enterprises and calculating credit, so as to remove the job cap. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 469](#), Tax Credits for historic structures (Rep. Ron Stephens-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 provide for preapproval of additional tax credits for current recipients of tax credits. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Withdrawn from Rules Calendar and Recommitted to Rules Cmte, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte**

[HB 452](#), Tax Credit for Class III railroads (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)

Relating to tax credit for Class III railroads and reporting, so as to extend an income tax credit for expenditures on the maintenance of railroad track owned or leased by Class III railroads. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

Note: The language from HB 452 was added to [HB 587](#), Georgia Economic Renewal Act of 2021.

[HB 586](#), Georgia Economic Recovery Act of 2021 (Rep. Sam Watson-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding sales and use taxes, so as to extend the sunset date for the exemption for projects of regional significance. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Passed, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte

[HB 587](#), Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act (Rep. Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to revenue and taxation, so as to provide for a tax credits for various expenditures and manufacturers. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Passed, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte

[HB 593](#), Income Tax Cut (Rep. Shaw Blackmon-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to increase the amount of the standard deduction from state taxable income for individuals. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte

[SB 6](#), State Tax Exemptions (Sen. John Albers-R)

Relating to fiscal bills to provide for independent economic analyses to be procured by the Office of Planning and Budget for certain tax benefits upon request by the chairpersons of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Ways & Means

[SB 148](#), Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

To create the 2021 Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians and the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure; to state legislative findings and intent; to make provisions relative to legislative procedure for consideration of legislation recommended by the council and the special joint committee. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight Cmte

Transportation

[HB 496](#), Permits for vehicles of forest products for loads exceeding weight limit (Rep. James Burchett-R)

Relating to permits for vehicles and loads of excess weight and dimensions, so as to provide for issuance of an annual forest product permit for certain vehicles and loads exceeding weight and dimension maximums; to provide for fees for such permit. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, **DEAD**

[HB 588](#), Freight railroad P3 & locomotive fuel program of GDoT (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)

To provide for eligible expenditures for the Georgia Freight Railroad Program of the Georgia Department of Transportation; to amend Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., relating to revenue and taxation, so as to provide for an exemption to state sales and use tax; to amend Code Section 52-2-5 of the O.C.G.A., relating to composition of the Georgia Ports Authority; appointment, terms, and qualifications of members generally. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, House Passed by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte

[SB 98](#), Georgia Freight Railroad Program (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

To provide for eligible expenditures for the Georgia Freight Railroad Program of GDoT; relating to composition of the Georgia Ports Authority, so as to add the commissioner of transportation as an ex official member of the Georgia Ports Authority. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Hearing Only, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Rules Cmte**

[SB 118](#), Permits for vehicles of forest products for loads exceeding weight limit (Sen. Tyler Harper-R)

Relating to permits for vehicles and loads of excess weight and dimensions, so as to provide for issuance of an annual forest product permit for certain vehicles and loads exceeding weight and dimension maximums; to provide for fees for such permit. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Hearing Only, **DEAD**

[SB 203](#), Allow electronic device mounted on front windshield (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Allow electronic device mounted on front windshield. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **DEAD**

NOTE: Sen. Gooch removed the original language from SB 203 and substituted the following seat belt tort language in its place.

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.

[SR 102](#), Georgia Commission on E-Commerce and Freight Infrastructure Funding (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)
A Resolution creating the Georgia Commission on E-Commerce and Freight Infrastructure Funding; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Transportation Cmte**

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