



Terry Mathews: 404-310-4173  
terry.mathews@comcast.net  
Scott Maxwell: 404-216-8075  
maxwell.lobbyist@gmail.com

The following information is intended for the sole use of the clients of Mathews & Maxwell, Inc. Please contact the principals above to learn more about the services of the firm.

## **Weekly Legislative Report #6**

**Week Ending February 19, 2021**

### **Post-Election Controversy Continues**

Nearly 60 pieces of legislation relating to how Georgia holds elections have now been introduced in the General Assembly. These bills come at the issue from nearly every conceivable angle, but an all-day hearing was held Friday on [HB 531](#) (Barry Fleming-R), an omnibus bill incorporating many Republican positions into one document. Among other things, this 48-page bill would:

- require a driver's license or state ID number to obtain an absentee ballot, which can be requested no less than 11 days prior to the election;
- reduce advance voting on weekends to only one Saturday and no Sundays;
- move absentee ballot drop boxes inside buildings where advance voting is held and limit their access to the same hours as advance voting;
- prohibit providing food or drink to people waiting in lines to vote;
- limit in-person voting on any day to the 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. timeframe;
- prohibit counties from accepting funds to expand voting capacity from non-profits.

Democrats were particularly offended by the prohibition of advance voting on Sunday, reasoning there is no evidence that Sunday voting is less secure than weekday or Saturday voting. Opponents say the feature is directly intended to prevent "souls-to-the-polls" get-out-the-vote efforts popular with black churches. Roughly 71,000 people voted on Sundays during last November's election. Joe Biden outpolled Donald Trump in Georgia by only 11,000 votes.

Testimony presented by the Secretary of State's office maintained that no evidence of widespread fraud in the last general election was ever demonstrated despite repeated claims of such from Donald Trump and his supporters. We understand that a not-yet-posted substitute, now 60 pages long, will be voted on in committee, where Republicans hold a 10-4 margin, Monday.

### **Visitation Rights Expanding**

Another issue of wide-spread interest is a bill requiring hospitals and nursing homes to allow daily "visitors" under certain restrictions. The bill has continued to morph as it is debated, although the various versions are not posted on line until passed by a committee. At the most recent two-hour committee debate, "visitors" had mutated into a patient's "representative," plus two "personal

caregivers” who would be allowed daily access. Hospitals have pointed out that requirements in the bill are at odds with regulations handed down by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, thus putting them in jeopardy of either being excluded from such federal programs or losing their state license. A vote on some version of [HB 290](#) (different from the one now posted) has been promised by the committee chairman for Wednesday.

### **State Paid Parental Leave**

By a vote of 155-2, the House passed [HB 146](#) (Houston Gaines-R) this week mandating paid parental leave of up to 120 hours for 423,000 state employees and local school teachers. The bill’s author is from Athens and the three weeks paid leave would cover university employees and faculty, and both mother and father, following the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child. A very similar bill passed the House last year, but got derailed on the Senate side during the COVID pandemic-interrupted session. Private companies would not be affected by the legislation.

### **Defense Against Defund the Police**

Another bill by Gaines, [HB 286](#), is designed to blunt “defund the police” efforts. The legislation would prohibit cities or counties from reducing their police department’s budget by more than 5% from the previous cycle over a rolling 10-year period. Exceptions are included for years following a large purchase of equipment or software that tallies at least 4% of the budget. It also allows local governments to exceed the 5% if they experience or “anticipate” a dip in revenues of more than 5%. Police forces with 10 or fewer employees are exempted. The legislation does not affect Sheriffs’ Departments, which are in a separate section of legal code. The bill passed out of the Governmental Affairs Committee on Thursday.

### **Reaction to a Volatile Year**

Two pieces of legislation this year are direct reactions to high-profile news events that occurred during 2020. Gov. Brian Kemp is behind [HB 479](#), a bill that would re-write Georgia’s current “citizen’s arrest” law following the death of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick. Kemp referred to the law as “an antiquated law that is ripe for abuse.” Citizen arrests are not completely obliterated; there are exceptions such as permitting a retail merchant to “arrest” a suspected shoplifter, or a private security guard to detain an intruder.

[SB 171](#) (Randy Robertson-R) may be a bit more controversial as it addresses crimes committed during protests such as the ones in Atlanta following the death of George Floyd at the hands of police. It would make blocking a highway during an unlawful assembly a felony with jail time from one to five years. Any groups of seven or more people who damage property or are violent against another person could be charged with a felony as well as racketeering. Both bills have been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

### **Rental Assistance to be Available**

Georgia’s Department of Community Affairs will distribute more than \$552 million in federal dollars to landlords and utilities to prevent housing instability and homelessness as a result of the COVID pandemic. The U.S. Department of the Treasury is still developing guidelines for the program but the basic parameters for eligibility would include those with household incomes below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), with priority for those below 50% AMI or who have been unemployed for 90 days or longer. Rental payments would be made directly to landlords

on behalf of qualified tenants. DCA expects distributions to begin in early March and will launch a public application portal at that time.

### Next Week

The General Assembly will be in session all five days next week. Monday is Legislative Day 20, the halfway point of the session. The House has 12 bills on its calendar for floor debate Monday, while the Senate will consider only two resolutions.

### 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.

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](#)

[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, Hearing Held, **Hearing Held**

[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

### 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

[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

[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

### **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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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](#)

[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; [On agenda for State and Local Government Subcommittee Monday afternoon.](#)

[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

[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

[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

### **Economic Development**

[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

[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](#)

[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](#)

[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](#)

[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](#)

[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

[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

[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, On Next Week's Cmte Agenda](#)

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

To provide for pari-mutuel betting in this state. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities

## 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

[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](#)

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[HB 531](#), Relating to elections and primaries generally (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

[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

[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](#)

[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

[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](#)

[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

[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

[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

[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, Pending Cmte](#),

[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

[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

[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

[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](#)

[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](#)

[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

[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

[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](#)

[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](#)

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

[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](#)

## **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

## **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](#)

[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](#), [On House Rules Calendar for Monday House Vote](#)

[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**

[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

[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**

[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**

## 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

[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

[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

[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

## 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

[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

[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

[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

[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

[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

## 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

[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**

## 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

[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

[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 Ways & Means Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[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

[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**

[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

[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**

[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**

## 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**

[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

[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

[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**