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Weekly Legislative Report #12

Week Ending April 2, 2021 -- Adjournment Sine Die Edition

The Georgia General Assembly has banged its final gavel for 2021 (until it reconvenes in November(ish) for a special session to reapportion legislative and Congressional districts based on the 2020 census). Highlights of the session include a significant restructuring of election regulations that has already been signed by the Governor, and has just as quickly attracted three lawsuits charging discrimination. Another bill already signed into law increases the standard income tax deduction. On Wednesday, [SB 6](#), a separate omnibus tax bill, was passed that simultaneously provides tax credits for numerous special interests, while allowing the legislature to request up to five audits annually to check the ultimate efficiency of such breaks.

Below are some session highlights. And remember, as this is the first session of a biennial term, those bills that passed only one House, they do not have to start over next year, but generally return to the policy committee where they were last considered.

[FY22 Budget](#) Is in the Books

While the Governor may still use line-item veto authority at his discretion, it is traditionally exercised sparingly. Thus, for the most part, [the budget](#) has been negotiated and state spending has been set for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Points of interest include:

- A restoration of last year's \$567 million austerity cuts to public schools.
- \$10 million to expand broadband access in rural Georgia.
- Pay raises for high turnover positions at state agencies, including Agriculture, Banking, Driver Services and Juvenile Justice.
- Bonds to construct a new \$36.7 million convocation center at Georgia Southern University to be named for Sen. Jack Hill and his wife. Hill was the long-time Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Cmte. when he abruptly died last Spring. His wife passed two weeks later.
- \$168,437 to fund two Behavioral Health Housing Projects for seniors.
- A 10% increase for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services providers.

- Increase funds for personnel for 13 adult protective services caseworkers to investigate reports of abuse.
- \$1.5 million for new secure ballot paper required under new election law.
- \$125 million in grants to Georgia's 159 county health departments.
- \$1 million in one-time funding for a contract with consultants to assist in the development of a freight and logistics plan in conjunction with the Ga. Freight and Logistics Comm.
- \$1.6 billion in State Motor Fuel fund collections.
- \$100 million in GO Bonds for repair, renovation and replacement of bridges statewide.
- \$12.5 million in GO Bonds to update state-owned short line railroad track and bridges.

In addition to the state spending, Georgia will benefit from \$4.6 billion coming from the recently passed COVID-relief American Rescue Plan (ARP) and another \$6.9 billion the ARP has designated for the state's public schools.

State Places Prohibitions on Local Governments

Issues affecting local governments that engendered discussion this session included [HB 286](#) (Houston Gaines-R) that prevents local governments from reducing the budget of their police departments (not Sheriff's) by more than 5%, with some exceptions for small departments or following one-time major expenses. Another was [HB 150](#) (Bruce Williamson-R) that prevents local communities from passing an ordinance prohibiting new construction or rehabs from connecting to any specific kind of energy. This responds to a fear that communities might ban certain types or sources of energy or fuel in order to meet low-carbon environmental goals. Both bills passed and move to the Governor.

Citizen's Arrest Law Curtailed

A bill banning non-law enforcement citizens from detaining suspected criminals was passed by the Georgia General Assembly with bipartisan support and Governor Kemp is expected to sign quickly. [HB 479](#) (Bert Reeves-R) was fine-tuned at various stops on its journey and ended up with exceptions for situations such as a store-owner holding a shoplifter until police arrive. Local police officers become private citizens once they leave their jurisdiction, so exceptions were also made for them when chasing a suspect across boundaries or helping out at a large event such as a college football game.

Prior Authorization Parameters Approved

[SB 80](#) (Kay Kirkpatrick-R) found favor in both the House and Senate and now rests in the Governor's office. It's the somewhat complicated bill with the purpose to make it easier for patients and healthcare providers to obtain prior authorizations for medical procedures and prescriptions from a health insurance company.

Patient "Visitation" Bill Tabled

One of the session's most controversial bills ended up on the "table," rather than the "floor" last week. [HB 290](#) (Ed Setzler-R), deals with mandatory access to patients or residents in hospitals and

long-term care facilities. It was modified so significantly by the Senate that he disowned the bill in a committee hearing. The Senate, nonetheless, passed its modified version and sent it to the House where Setzler successfully reinstated his preferred language. The bill went back to the Senate, which then tabled the measure.

Telehealth Expansion

[HB 307](#) (Sharon Cooper-R) would revise the Georgia Telehealth Act in numerous administrative ways. Among other features of the bill, insurers would no longer be allowed to require a deductible for an in-person consultation before providing coverage for telemedicine services. Ratified by both chambers, the bill waits to be signed by the Governor - in person.

Plan B . . . If ACA is Repealed

Another bill on its way to the Governor is [HB 509](#) (Houston Gaines-R). It would require all insurers that offer comprehensive individual major medical insurance policies in the state to make available at least one reasonably priced plan to individuals with preexisting conditions . . . but only in the situation where the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) is repealed. Republicans have long sought to repeal the ACA (Obamacare) at the federal level, but doing so would also undo mandated coverage for preexisting conditions. This bill is an effort to soften such a potential blow in Georgia.

Paid Parental Leave

State employees, including school teachers, will be allowed to take three weeks of paid parental leave under [HB 146](#) (Houston Gaines-R) that passed both houses and is on the Governor's desk for signature. The leave can be taken by the mother or father after a birth, adoption or acceptance of a foster child.

Probation Periods Eased

According to the Georgia Justice Project, Georgia has more people on probation or parole than any other state, with about one in 18 residents on some type of community supervision. The average probation sentence in the state is 6.3 years, three times the national average of two years. Approximately 40% of probation sentences in Georgia are more than 10 years long. These facts led to the drafting of [SB 205](#) (Brian Strickland-R), a bill primarily changing administrative procedures that serve as stumbling blocks to exit state supervision. For example, the Georgia Department of Community Supervision testified that of 50,000 eligible cases for early sentence termination, only 213 persons automatically received notice of their "bid day," an appointment before a judge when they could make such a request. The bill passed the General Assembly and awaits the Governor's signature.

Cocktails to Go

Georgia restaurants struggled throughout the pandemic. [SB 236](#) (Matt Brass-R) seeks to help them recover by allowing establishments with a license to send two cocktails at a time home with an

order of food (beer and wine are already permitted). The cocktails must be sealed and stored in a glove compartment or trunk of the vehicle. On to the Governor's desk.

Gun Access Modifications Stalled

The General Assembly couldn't quite pull the trigger on [HB 218](#) (Mandi Ballinger-R), a bill that authorizes people with a concealed-carry license from another state to legally carry in Georgia if they are just visiting. Additionally, the bill permits probate court judges to create online and "by mail" application systems for weapons carry licenses, and restricts the creation of multi-jurisdictional databases of those who have applied for weapons licenses. The bill also requires law enforcement agencies to hold public auctions of confiscated guns at least once each year. The bill was not defeated, it just passed the House and Senate in different versions. Those differences could be worked out next year.

Sports Betting Needed a Bigger Majority

While the success of the Georgia Lottery has made the concept of legalized gaming increasingly acceptable in Georgia, finding the required two-thirds majority in both houses of the legislature proved yet again a daunting task. The most popular gaming issue this session was on-line sports wagering, pushed hard by all four of Atlanta's major league teams. A Constitutional Amendment, [SR 135](#) (Jeff Mullis-R) was approved in the Senate and by a House committee, but the whip count showed less than the necessary 120 House supporters on Day 40. The behind-the-scenes debate seemed to center more on how the proceeds from such gaming would be distributed among various state purposes, possibly including some outside of the Lottery's current beneficiaries. The resolution can be easily resurrected next year, and managers will be working to find a distribution of proceeds formula that attracts bipartisan support.

Concerned About Truck Traffic?

Okay, this is bigger than trucks on the highway. [HR 102](#) (Steve Gooch-R), which passed, creates the E-Commerce and Freight Logistics Commission, a follow-on of the Georgia Freight and Logistics Commission that expired last December after initiating numerous suggestions on how to improve the flow of freight through the state. With a huge increase in digital commerce driven by the pandemic, the legislature wanted to take a much broader view of what ultimately drives truck traffic, how rail fits in, how we meet consumer demands for goods, and how we manage logistics in general in a long-view manner.

Who's Your Nominee?

When [SB 222](#) (Carden Summers-R) was introduced, many in the Capitol's anterooms and hallways were quick to offer up their own nominations for someone to be named Georgia's "official state nut." Unfortunately, some of the state's most deserving personalities lost out to the economic arguments of the agricultural community which was able to just push through the eventual winner – the pecan. (We're confident that your nominee was at least a semi-finalist.)

Next Week and Beyond

While the General Assembly has folded its tents, Governor Brian Kemp has 40 days following adjournment (May 10th) in which to sign or veto bills, or they become law without his signature. Of course, there will continue to be plenty of upcoming opportunities for the lonely to engage with lawmakers. Fundraiser invitations have already been flooding the inbox. Also, there will be several standing committees, study committees, special committees and commissions holding meetings during the interim.

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.

Governor Kemp has until May 10th (40-days from sine die) to sign or veto passed legislation, or it becomes law without his signature.

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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate, Sent**

to House, House Passed as Amended by the House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, Motion made to Table, Tabled

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, [House Agreed, On to Governor](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Passed as Amended by the Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Disagreed](#)

[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**

[HR 406](#), GA Emergency Operations Plan (Rep. John LaHood-R)

A House Resolution urging the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan to prioritize the continuum of the long-term services and support system. Status: Referred to Public Safety & Homeland Security Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House.

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Withdrawn from General Calendar and Recommitted to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, [Senate Agreed, To Governor Kemp](#)

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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, To Governor Kemp

[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 328](#), Public utilities; one-time right of way permit fee (Rep. Martin Momtahan-R)
Relating to telephone service general provisions, so as to establish a one-time right of way permit fee and reduce annual right of way use fees as due compensation paid to municipal authorities by telephone companies that do not have retail, end user customers located within the boundaries of the municipal authority; to provide certain notice requirements; and to establish a civil penalty. **Status:** Referred to Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Cmte Tabled, Taken off Table, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Senate Passed as Amended, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, **House Agreed, To Governor Kemp**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, **House Agreed, To Governor Kemp**.

[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, Withdrawn from Government Oversight Cmte and Referred to Public Safety Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, [House Agreed, To Governor Kemp](#).

[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, On Senate Rules Calendar, Senate Tabled, [Passed Senate, To Governor Kemp](#).

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, To Governor Kemp

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Senate Passed, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [House Passed by Substitute](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, Senate Agreed as Amended by the Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed, On to Governor](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, On House Rules Calendar, House Recommitted to Rules

Cmte, Defeated in House, House Voted to Reconsider its Action, Reconsideration Passed, Recommitted to House General Calendar, House Adopted Reconsideration, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed House by Rules Cmte Substitute, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, Senate Agreed, To Governor Kemp,**

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

Note: [SB 202](#) became the Omnibus Election Reform bill. It incorporates much of the language from HB 531 as well as the language from other House and Senate bills that were introduced. SB 202 passed the Senate and House and was signed by Governor Kemp March 25, 2021.

[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-R)

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 the Table, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Special Cmte on Election Integrity, Multiple Hearings, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, Senate Agreed, To Governor Kemp, Governor Kemp signed March 25, 2021.

Note: SB 202 has become an Omnibus Election Reform bill. It incorporates some language (but not all) from many of the House and Senate bills that were introduced.

[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 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 Efstation-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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate Rules Cmte as Senate Rules Cmte Substitute, Senate Rules Calendar, Senate Tabled**

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 Recommited 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, Hearing Only

[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 Only, Passed by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Rules Calendar, House Recommitted back to Rules Cmte, House Rules Cmte Calendar, **Recommitted to Economic Development 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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Rules Calendar, House Recommitted back to Rules Cmte, House Rules Cmte Calendar, **Recommitted to Economic Development 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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, To Governor Kemp

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, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, To Governor Kemp

[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, **House Agreed, To Governor Kemp**

[SB 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 Only, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, [House Rules Cmte Substitute](#), [House Rules Calendar](#), [House Defeated 79-92](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, On Senate Rules Calendar, [Passed Senate](#), [Sent to House for Agree/Disagree](#), [House Agreed](#), [On to Governor](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, [House Agreed](#), [To Governor Kemp](#)

[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, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, [Senate Agreed](#), [Sent to Governor Kemp](#)

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, On Senate Rules Calendar, Tabled by the Senate, Taken off the Table, Senate Passed, Sent to Governor Kemp

[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 Only, **DEAD**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate, Sent to House, House Passed as Amended by the House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, Motion made to Table, Tabled**

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate, To Governor Kemp**

[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, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, **Senate Agreed, To Governor Kemp**

[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, Hearing Only

[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, Hearing Only

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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed Senate, To Governor Kemp**

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Withdrawn from General Calendar and Recommitted to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, **Senate Agreed, To Governor Kemp**

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 was added to SB 6.

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Rules Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Passed, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed, To Governor Kemp](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules 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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules 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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, [Senate Tabled](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Passed Senate Rules Cmte as Senate Rules Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed, To Governor Kemp](#)

Note: Language included to dedicate locomotive fuel tax to freight and logistics projects.

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, To Governor Kemp, Governor Kemp signed March 22, 2021.

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree, Senate Disagreed, Sent to House for Insist/Recede, House Insisted, Sent to Senate, [Senate Insisted and Senate Conferees Appointed: Senators John Albers, Chuck Hufstetler and Ben Watson, House Conferees: Reps. Jon Burns, Shaw Blackmon and Bruce Williamson, Senate Adopted the CCR, House Adopted CCR, To Governor Kemp](#)

[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, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, On House Rules Calendar, Defeated in the House

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 577](#), GDoT Annual House-Keeping Bill (Rep. Kasey Carpenter-R)

Relating to highways, bridges, and ferries and maximum speed limits, respectively, so as to provide for a proposal guaranty for bids upon certain projects; to provide for the licensing of airports; to provide for issuance of cease and desist orders and punishment; and to provide for posting of signage of maximum speed limits. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Passed Senate Rules Cmte as Senate Rules Cmte Substitute, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed, On to Governor](#)

[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**

[SR 84](#), Airport Joint Study Committee (Sen. Tyler Harper-R)

Create Joint Study Committee for airport infrastructure and improvements. **Status:** Referred to Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Rules Calendar, Senate Tabled, Taken off Table,

Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Passed House](#), [Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree](#), [Senate Agreed](#).

[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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Passed House](#), [Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree](#), [Senate Agreed](#).

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