 Mathews & Maxwell, Inc.

*Governmental Affairs Consulting*

Terry Mathews: 404-310-4173

terry.mathews@comcast.net

Scott Maxwell: 404-216-8075

maxwell.lobbyist@gmail.com

**Weekly Legislative Report #2**

**Week Ending January 19, 2024**

The General Assembly was in recess this entire week, thus there’s been no change to any of the bills we are tracking. Instead, as tradition holds, MLK week consisted of three days of budget hearings via joint sessions of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Governor Brian Kemp led off Tuesday morning, followed immediately by the official State Economist, Georgia State University’s Dr. Bob Buschman. A total of 40 agency heads subsequently appeared one after another to explain their respective portions of the Governor’s spending plan, then respond to questions from committee members. [Click here](https://www.house.ga.gov/Committees/en-US/CommitteeArchives88.aspx) for archived videos of the budget hearings. Click one of the following to find actual [FYA 24](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/document/docs/default-source/house-budget-and-research-office-document-library/2024_fiscal_year/amended_fy_2024_bill_gov_rec_%28hb_915%29.pdf?sfvrsn=d3ba99c4_2) or [FY 25](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/document/docs/default-source/house-budget-and-research-office-document-library/2025-fiscal-year/fy_2025_bill_gov_rec_%28hb_916%29.pdf?sfvrsn=7c2fcef6_2) budget bills.

Drawing on $16 billion in reserves, the Governor’s proposal for the FYA 24 budget through June 30th adds $5 billion to the existing annual budget. Much of that is one-time supplemental payments to teachers and state employees as well as investments in a new medical school at UGA and new dental school at Georgia Southern University (to be located in Savannah).

State Economist Buschman summarized his presentation by saying, “The economic outlook that went into the budget estimates is this: A mild recession is more likely than not beginning in the first half of this year.”

The Governor proposes a $36.1 billion budget for FY 25, which includes a $2,500 raise for teachers and a 4% increase (up to $3,000) for state employees. Money is also slotted to build and maintain state roads/bridges and to fund local transportation projects that require matches from cities and counties. His recommendations infuse additional funds into existing water/sewer infrastructure loan programs for local governments as well.

Kemp, speaking from Davos, Switzerland where he was on an Economic Development trip, told legislators his combined budgets include $1.8 billion for capital construction programs and maintenance. "This investment will be made without issuing a single additional dollar in general obligation debt, saving taxpayers millions in future debt service costs over the next two decades," he said.

One benefit of the huge income surpluses in recent years is that Georgia has been able to reduce its debt as a percentage of budgeted spending. The chart below, prepared by the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, shows how state budgets have been gradually reducing the percentage of funds dedicated to debt service since the great recession. Georgia is rated AAA by all three major investor rating agencies.



**Next Week**

The Legislature will be in session all five days next week with more than [50 committee meetings](https://www.legis.ga.gov/schedule/all?page=1) already posted. Monday will be Legislative Day 6.

**Legislative Tracking Report**

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 2024 Legislative Session is the second session of the 2023-2024 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated last session are carried over to the 2024 session. Bills tabled on the floor or pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2023 session have been recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

**Sections:**

[Aging](#bookmark=id.8i1s0pmxnvjd)

[Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources](#bookmark=id.gjdgxs)

[Business](#bookmark=id.swvtz5pqolsq) – Tort Reform

[City & County Governments & Regional Commissions](#bookmark=id.kl6x038chjym)

[Economic Development](#bookmark=id.6682jiae5rqy)

[Elections](#bookmark=id.8o9lsim9596h)

[Environmental & Natural Resources](#bookmark=id.8rq7ayowjagm)

[Government – General](#bookmark=id.gxdrj5yfu96w)

[Health – General](#bookmark=id.mjmtmuui81bd)

[Hospitals – CON (Certificate of Need)](#bookmark=id.y3d7acxb2e3r)

[Hospitals](#bookmark=id.6ay57uko887)

[Insurance](#bookmark=id.arsuw5wyi17k)

[Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities](#bookmark=id.oponukcdqgwf)

[Pharmaceuticals](#bookmark=id.kwve3q1wsdz7)

[Public Health](#bookmark=id.7ii0upoju9cg)

[Taxes](#bookmark=id.6jobf35iu0wh)

[Transportation](#bookmark=id.su2f624ly7n)

**Aging**

[HB 291,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64122) List of Providers who are Authorized to Participate in the Process for Appointments of a Guardian for an Adult (Rep. Mitchell Scoggins - R)

Relating to guardian and ward, so as to add to the list of providers who are authorized to participate in the processes for the appointment of a guardian for an adult, the modification and termination of such guardianship, and the appointment of emergency guardian; to add to the list of providers who are authorized to participate in the processes for appointment of a conservator for an adult, the modification and termination of such conservatorship, and the appointment of an emergency conservator; to provide for limitations on the powers and duties of certain emergency conservators. **Status:** Referred to Juvenile Justice Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Children and Families Cmte, Hearing Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Children and Families Cmte

[HB 327,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64204) Include Step-grandparent and Step-Grandchild relationship into incest definition (Rep. Mike Cameron - R)

Relating to incest, so as to include step-grandparent and step-grandchild relationship. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte, Sent to Rules, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, Senate Calendar, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 404,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64363) Safe at Home Act (Rep. Kasey Carpenter - R)

Relating to landlord and tenants, so as to provide for a duty of habitability for certain rental agreements. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 441,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64466) Authorize and Regulate Teledentistry (Rep. Katie Dempsey - R)

Relating to dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants, so as to authorize and regulate teledentistry in this state by licensed dentists pursuant to permits issued by the Georgia Board of Dentistry. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte, Hearing Held, Tabled, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health and Human Services Cmte

[HB 571,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64796) Update the GA Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias State Plan every Four Years (Rep. Deborah Silcox - R)

Relating to Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan, so as to provide that the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan be updated every four years; to provide for a progress report between updates; to revise provisions relating to membership on the advisory council. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations and Aging Cmte, Withdrawn, Referred to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, Recommitted to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte

[HB 582,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64812) Allow assisted living communities and PC homes to enroll in Medicaid (Rep. Sharon Cooper – R)

Relating to the regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to permit assisted living communities and personal care homes to enroll as Medicaid providers. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations and Aging Cmte

[HR 141,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64145) House Study Committee on Expanding Long-Term Care Options (Rep. Lee Hawkins - R)

A Resolution to create a House Study Committee on Expanding Long-Term Care Options, including Green House homes, financing renovations of older nursing homes, Medicaid reimbursements, and tax credits. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations and Aging Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Withdrawn and Recommitted to Human Relations and Aging Cmte

[SB 177,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64406) “Food Security Eradication Act” (Sen. Harold Jones - D)

Relating to agriculture, so as to enact the "Food Insecurity Eradication Act"; to create the Georgia Food Security Advisory Council; to provide for duties; to provide for appointments and reimbursements; to provide for reporting requirements. **Status:** Referred to Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Passed Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Recommitted to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte

[SR 323,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65334) Study Cmte on Improving Caregiver Services (Sen. Harold Jones - D)

A resolution to create the Senate Study Committee on Improving Family Caregiver Services to determine policy goals and identify legislative actions to improve family caregiving. **Status:** Referred to Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources**

[HB 71,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63631) Okefenokee Protection Act (Rep. Darlene Taylor - R)

Relating to surface mining, so as to prohibit the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Natural Resources Department from issuing, modifying, or renewing any permit or accepting any bond to conduct surface mining operations on Trial Ridge for future permit applications and amendments. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources and Environment Cmte

[HB 436,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64456) Revise Maximum Criminal Penalties for Surface Mining Violations (Rep. John Corbett - R)

Relating to surface mining, so as to revise the maximum criminal penalties for violations. The maximum fine shall be increased to $10,000 from $1,000. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources and Environment Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Natural Resources and the Environment Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Remitted to Natural Resources and Environment

[HR 438,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65184) House Study Cmte on the Okefenokee Swamp (Rep. Darlene Taylor - R)

A resolution to create the House Study Committee on the Okefenokee Swamp to understand the area and associated needs in order to thoughtfully plan for the protection and proper usage of the Okefenokee, including, but not limited to, describing the area it encompasses and its inhabitants and history, adequately planning for water and other resource use, establishing security measures, and identifying options and alternatives for construction and industrial development. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Natural Resources Cmte

**Business – Tort Reform**

[HB 271,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64073) Motor Carriers and their insurance carriers (Rep. Clay Pirkle – R)

Relating to motor vehicles and traffic, so as to repeal provisions authorizing joining of motor carriers and their insurance carriers in tort and contract causes of action. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 275,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64077) Limit liability relating to employers and insurance providers of commercial vehicle operators based upon history of driving incidents (Rep. Alan Powell - R)

Relating to general provisions relative to torts, so as to limit liability relating to employers and insurance providers of commercial motor vehicle operators based upon history of driving incidents. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 530,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64651) Protective Orders for Certain High-Ranking Officers (Rep. James Burchett – R)

Relating to depositions and discovery, so as to provide for protective orders for certain high-ranking officers; relating to state tort claims, so as to provide for designees of state government entities for service of process for civil actions. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Sent to Rules, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[HB 568,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64782) Liability of owners and occupiers of land & weapons carrier (Rep. Beth Camp – R)

Relating to provisions regarding liability of owners and occupiers of land, so as to provide that a person, business, or other entity that owns or legally controls a property and prohibits a lawful weapons carrier from possessing a weapon on such property shall assume absolute custodial responsibility for the safety of such lawful weapons carrier from certain threats. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[SB 136,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64220) Modify required revenue source for a development project involving workforce housing (Sen. Mike Dugan - R)

Relating to the calculation of development impact fees, so as to modify the required revenue source for a development project involving workforce housing. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled, Taken from Table, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[SB 186,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64446) “Georgia Landowners Protection Act” (Sen. Greg Dolezal - R)

Relating to the liability of owners and occupiers of land generally, so as to limit landowner liability regarding invitees, licensees, and trespassers; to provide for no landowner liability due to alleged constructive notice of prior crimes or violent nature; to provide for the apportionment of fault. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Insurance and Labor Cmte

[SB 191,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64475) Motor Vehicles and Traffic (Sen. Shawn Still – R)

Motor Vehicles and Traffic; authorizing joinder of motor carriers and their insurance carriers in tort and contract causes of action. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Transportation Cmte

[SB 192,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64474) Limit liability of Employers and Insurance Providers of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators (Sen. Lee Anderson - R)

Relating to general provisions relative to torts, so as to limit liability relating to employers and insurance providers of commercial motor vehicle operators based upon history of driving incidents. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[SB 200,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64499) “Civil Practice Act” (Sen. Bill Cowsert - R)

Relating to general provisions governing discovery under the "Civil Practice Act," so as to provide for a party or current or former high-ranking government or corporate officer of whom a deposition is sought to seek a protective order; to require a court to prohibit such deposition subject to exceptions; to provide such exceptions; to provide for modification or vacation of orders upon such motions. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[SB 203,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64503) Trucking Opportunity Act of 2023 (Sen. Jason Anavitarte – R)

Relating to industry services training program, so as to provide for tuition-free programs that relate to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle for veterans. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House, Referred to House Defense & Veterans Affairs Cmte

**City & County Governments and Regional Commissions**

[HB 42,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63545) Ad Valorem Tax; County Tax Commissioner Duties (Rep. Marvin Lim - D)

Relating to ad valorem taxation, so as to revise provisions concerning the duties of county tax commissioners with respect to the assessment and collection of municipal taxes and fees. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 72,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63633) Revise provisions relating to compensation and benefits for employees and members of governing bodies (Rep. Debra Bazemore - D)

Relating to home rule powers, so as to revise provisions relating to the compensation and benefits for employees and members of governing authorities; to provide for elections and other related matters. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 204,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63938) Georgia Municipal Court Clerks’ Council (Rep. Bill Yearta - R)

Relating to municipal courts, so as to create the Georgia Municipal Court Clerks' Council; to provide for definitions; to provide for the membership, powers, and duties of the council; to provide for funding of the council; to provide for the status of the council and its members. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Recommitted to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 269,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64071) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Rep. Shaw Blackmon - R)

Relating to meetings open to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and place, access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences, so as to authorize local workforce development boards, formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and their associated committees and local officials to conduct meetings via teleconference. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Government Oversight Cmte, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Government Oversight Cmte

[HB 283,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64085) To Change the Manner and method of imposing and collecting taxes on newly manufactured single-family structures (Rep. Beth Camp - R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to sales and use tax, so as to change the manner and method of imposing and collecting such taxes on new manufactured single-family structures; to provide for an exemption for pre-owned manufactured single-family structures. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte

[HB 290,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64121) Revise the Duties of the County Tax Commissioners (Rep. Mitchell Scoggins - R)

Relating to municipal taxation, so as to revise provisions concerning the duties of county tax commissioners with respect to the assessment and collection of municipal taxes and fees; to provide for terms and conditions. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Finance Cmte

[HB 415,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64379) Joint County and Municipal Sales and Use Tax (Rep. Deborah Silcox - R)

Relating to joint county and municipal sales and use tax (LOST), so as to revise a provision related to the call of elections. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 514,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64638) Housing Regulation Transparency Act (Rep. Dale Washburn - R)

Relating to zoning procedures, so as to provide for the length and renewal of moratoriums related to zoning decisions; to provide for legislative findings; to provide procedures for the levy, collection, use, and waiver of fees related to zoning decisions and related permits; to revise notice and hearing requirements for certain zoning decisions. **Status:** Referred to the Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Disagreed, Sent to Senate, Senate Insisted, House Insisted, House Conference Cmte Appointed: Representatives from the 144th, 175th and 33rd, Senate Conference Cmte Appointed: Senators from the 30th, 21st and 45th

[HB 516,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64630) Increase minimum amount for a public road contract that prohibits Negotiation (Rep. Derrick McCollum - R)

Relating to exercise of the power to contract by the Department of Transportation, so as to increase the minimum amount for a public road construction or maintenance contract that prohibits negotiation; to provide for exceptions to public comment and hearing on projects involving public-private partnerships in certain instances; to provide for an exception to vote approval for such projects. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Transportation Cmte

[HB 517,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64637) Georgia Homeowner Opportunity Act (Rep. Dale Washburn - R)

Relating to buildings and housing, so as to enact the "Georgia Homeowner Opportunity Act"; to prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations relating to or regulating building design elements as applied to one- or two-family dwellings. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 567,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64781) Peace officers to serve as authorized representatives of a property owner relating to enforcement of criminal trespass (Rep. Mike Cheokas - R)

Relating to general provisions relative to criminal trespass and damage to property and general provisions relative to provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, respectively, so as to provide for peace officers to serve as authorized representatives of a property owner or rightful occupant in certain instances relating to the enforcement of criminal trespass; to authorize the establishment of trespass enforcement programs by governing authorities of counties and municipal corporations; to provide for program standards. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Cmte

[HB 583,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64813) Authorize production and sale of homemade food items with certain exemptions, requirements, and disclosures (Rep. Leesa Hagan - R)

Relating to standards, labeling, and adulteration of food, so as to authorize the production and sale of homemade food items with certain exemptions, requirements, and disclosures; to provide for definitions; to provide for licensing and inspections; to provide for a civil penalty; to provide for conforming changes; relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to prohibit local regulation of homemade food items. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte

[HR 118,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63992) Amendment to the Constitution to authorize county tax commissioners to waive certain delinquent ad valorem property taxes. (Rep. Bill Yearta - R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize county tax commissioners, subject to local governing authority approval, to waive certain delinquent ad valorem property taxes, penalties, and interest for the purpose of placing non-revenue generating and tax delinquent property back to effective utilization status. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[SB 26,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63660) Development Authority and Community Improvement District Meetings to be held via teleconferencing (Sen. Greg Dolezal - R)

Relating to state government, so as to permit meetings and public hearings of development authorities and community improvement districts to be held by teleconference. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed as Amended, Sent to House, Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Passed House, Sent to Senate for Agree/Disagree

**Note:** Amended to include Workforce Development Boards

[SB 113,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64116) Transition of services and facilities from an existing municipality to a newly incorporated municipality (Sen. Randy Robertson - R)

Relating to incorporation of municipal corporations, so as to provide for the transition of services and facilities from an existing municipality to a newly incorporated municipality. **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte

[SB 114,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64118) Incorporate the City of Buckhead (Sen. Randy Robertson - R)

To incorporate the City of Buckhead City; to provide a charter; to provide for boundaries and powers of the city; to provide for effective dates. **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Senate Defeated 23 – 33

[SB 161,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64325) Protect Counties and Municipalities from Cyber Attacks (Sen. John Kennedy - R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to ensure that counties and municipalities are protected from cyber attacks directed at contractors and suppliers by requiring certain provisions in the county and municipal contracts; to amend Chapter 25 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to the Georgia Technology Authority, so as to ensure that state agencies are protected from cyber attacks directed at contractors and suppliers by requiring certain provisions in contracts entered into by the state and its agencies. **Status:** Referred to Science and Technology Cmte

[SB 171,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64375) Limit the length of a Development Authority Director’s Hold-over period following the expiration of the term of office (Sen. Max Burns - R)

Relating to development authorities, so as to limit the length of a director's hold-over period following expiration of term of office; to amend Code Section 36-62A-21 of the O.C.G.A., relating to required training on development and redevelopment programs, so as to require directors to do yearly continuing education; to amend Part 3 of Article 8 of Chapter 14 of Title 44 of the O.C.G.A., relating to mechanics and materialmen liens, so as to provide that such liens may attach to the usufruct interest of properties owned by or titled in a development authority or downtown development authority. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

[SB 188,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64465) To Prohibit Certain use Restrictions on Residential Dwellings (Sen. Russ Goodman - R)

Relating to local government, so as to prohibit certain use restrictions on residential dwellings that are used in residential rental agreements. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities

[SB 214,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64567) To Change the Number of Retail Dealer Licenses that a Person May Hold or Have a Beneficial Interest In (Sen. Shawn Still - R)

Relating to alcoholic beverages, so as to change the number of retail dealer licenses that a person may hold or have a beneficial interest in. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[SB 248,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64795) Ordinances for Governing and Policing Unincorporated Areas of Counties (Sen. Nikki Merritt - D)

Relating to general provisions regarding counties, so as to revise provisions relating to ordinances for governing and policing unincorporated areas of counties; to amend Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., relating to provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to authorize enhanced monetary penalties for repeated violations of certain county and municipal codes or ordinances. **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte

[SB 256,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64842) Municipalities to Enter Into Long-Term Leases Relating to Affordable Workforce Housing (Sen. Derek Mallow - D)

Relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to authorize counties and municipalities to enter into certain long-term leases relating to affordable workforce housing projects or undertakings. **Status:** Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte

[SB 257,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64843) “Business Enterprise” to include New Workforce Housing Construction and Workforce Housing Rehabilitation (Sen. Derek Mallow - D)

Relating to definitions relative to enterprise zones, so as to change the definition of "business enterprise" to include new workforce housing construction and workforce housing rehabilitation. **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte

[SB 263,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64914) Prohibit Local Governments from Disconnecting Interconnected Public Water Systems (Sen. Sam Watson - R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to prohibit local governments from disconnecting interconnected public water systems if it is likely to negatively impact the ability of users to acquire fire insurance. **Status:** Referred to the Insurance and Labor Cmte

**Economic Development**

[HB 353,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64264) Georgia Lottery for Education Act (Rep. Alan Powell - R)

To provide that administrative procedures and actions regarding bona fide coin-operated amusement machines shall be subject to Chapter 13 of Title 50. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte, Withdrawn and Recommitted to Regulated Industries Cmte, Referred to Lottery Oversight - Gaming Subcmte, Passed Subcmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed Senate, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree

[HB 380,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64294) Georgia Lottery Game of Sports Betting Act (Rep. Marcus Wiedower - R)

To authorize and provide for the regulation and taxation of sports betting; to provide for additional powers and duties of the Georgia Lottery Corporation; to amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the O.C.G.A., relating to gambling. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Higher Education Cmte

[HB 465,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64538) Georgia Lottery for Education Act (Rep. Alan Powell - R)

To provide that the sale of a master license which occurs under certain circumstances shall be performed by public auction. **Status:** Referred to the Regulated Industries Cmte

[HB 473,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64547) Local Governments to Operate Bingo Games to Offset Reduced Tax Collections (Rep. Buddy Deloach - R)

Relating to bingo, so as to authorize local governments to operate bingo-based games to offset reduced tax collections that result from the ownership by the State of Georgia of large amounts of forest lands; to provide legislative intent; to amend Code Section 48-14-1 of the O.C.G.A., relating to grants to counties containing more than 20,000 acres of state-owned land not subject to taxation, limit on amount of grants, evaluation and assessment, and procedure for billing State Forestry Commission, so as to revise grant awards to counties licensed to operate bingo games. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Regulated Industries Cmte

[HR 210,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64430) A Constitutional Amendment to authorize sports betting, pari-mutuel betting, and casino gambling (Rep. James Beverly – D)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia to authorize the Georgia General Assembly to provide by general law for sports betting, pari-mutuel betting, and casino gambling in this state; to provide for the regulation and allocation of revenues of such activities; matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte

[SB 172,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64376) Regulate and Tax Sports Betting in Georgia (Rep. Bill Cowsert - R)

Relating to state government, so as to authorize and provide for the regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state; to provide for additional powers and duties of the Georgia Lottery Corporation; to amend Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., relating to revenue and taxation, so as to exempt wagers placed as part of sports betting. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte

[SB 174,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64397) “Georgia Lottery for Education Act” (Sen. Clint Dixon - R)

To provide that administrative procedures and actions regarding coin-operated amusement machines shall be subject to Chapter 13 of Title 50. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

**Elections**

[HB 200](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63905) Municipalities to use instant runoff voting for their elections (Rep. Joseph Gullett - R)

Relating to primary and general elections, so as to provide the option for the use of instant runoff voting in local elections. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 426,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64443) Revise provisions about the Retention and Preservation of Ballots and Election Documents (Rep. Shaw Blackmon - R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to revise provisions related to the retention and preservation of ballots and other election documents; to remove provisions for keeping such ballots and documents under seal. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[SB 122,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64148) Provide Qualifications of Members of Performance Review Boards (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick - R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for the qualifications of members of performance review boards; to provide for ballots and ballot labels to be securely stored; to provide for construction; to revise provisions related to the retention and preservation of ballots and other election documents; to remove provisions for keeping such ballots and documents under seal; to provide for electronic document inspection upon certification of election results. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte

[SB 189,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64471) To count text portions of ballots for vote tabulation and recount purposes (Sen. Max Burns - R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that the text portions of ballots produced by ballot marking devices shall be counted for vote tabulation and recounts purposes instead of any machine coding. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte

[SB 226,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64685) Require Unique Bar Codes and Alphanumeric Accountability Numbers on Individual Absentee Ballots (Sen. Marty Harbin - R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to require unique bar codes and alphanumeric accountability numbers on individual absentee ballots; to revise provisions regarding the preparation and mailing of absentee ballot envelopes; to revise provisions regarding the opening of absentee ballots; to revise provisions relating to validation of provisional ballots. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte

**Government – General**

[SB 180,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64416) “Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act” (Sen. Ed Setzler - R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for the preservation of religious freedom; to provide for legislative findings and determinations; to provide for the granting of relief. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

**Health – General**

[HB 82,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63666) Limit eligibility for rural physician tax credit to physicians (Rep. Mack Jackson - D)

Relating to state income tax credits, so as to limit eligibility for the rural physician tax credit to persons who qualify; to create a new tax credit for rural physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Finance Cmte

[HB 140,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63770) Three-year pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of certain pediatric disorders (Rep. Lee Hawkins - R)

Relating to the health insurance plan of state employees, so as to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcus infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the state health benefits plan. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HB 196,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63901) Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission (Rep. Alan Powell - R)

Relating to access to medical cannabis, so as to provide that the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission shall be subject to the Administrative Procedure Act and laws governing open meetings and open records. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Withdrawn and Recommitted to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Hearing Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed as Amended, Sent to Senate, Senate Disagreed

[HB 308,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64154) Revise Tax Credits for Certain Medical Preceptor Rotations (Rep. Mark Newton - R)

Relating to income taxes, so as to revise a tax credit for certain medical preceptor rotations; to add dentistry; to increase the value of the tax credit; to revise definitions; to extend the sunset provision for such tax credit; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Finance Cmte

[HB 445,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64517) Administration of Anesthesia by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (Rep. Karen Mathiak - R)

Relating to nurses, so as to revise a provision relating to the administration of anesthesia by certified registered nurse anesthetists. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HB 455,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64528) Professional Programs to Address Career Fatigue and Wellness in Healthcare Professionals (Rep. John LaHood - R)

Relating to general provisions relative to professions and businesses, so as to provide that professional programs that are established to address career fatigue and wellness in healthcare professionals are not obligated to report to licensing boards except in certain circumstances; to provide for definitions; to provide for immunity; to provide that certain documents and information of professional programs are not discoverable. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passes House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[HB 470,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64544) Georgia Candor Act (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

Relating to medical and other confidential information, so as to allow for voluntary open communications related to healthcare under rules of evidence; to provide for definitions; to provide that certain open communications shall not be subject to future disclosure; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to amend Chapter 33 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health records, so as to revise definitions; to revise provisions relating to the furnishing of copies of health records; to revise provisions relating to the costs of furnishing health records. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 552,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64724) To Provide License by Endorsement for Certain Military Spouses (Rep. Sandra Scott - D)

Relating to general provisions regarding professions and businesses, so as to provide for military spouses licensed in other states to practice certain professions and occupations to obtain a license by endorsement to practice in this state. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte

[HB 557,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64729) Authorize certain nurses and Physician Assistants to Prescribe Schedule II Controlled Substances (Rep. Ron Stephens - R)

Relating to physicians, assistants, and others, so as to authorize physicians to delegate the authority to advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances; provide for requirements; to provide for automatic approval of nurse protocol agreements and job descriptions under certain conditions. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree/Disagree, House Agreed As Amended, Sent to Senate, Senate Disagreed, Senate Conference Cmte Appointed: Senators from the 20th, 32th and 52th, House Conference Cmte Appointed: Reps. from the 164th, 158th and 47th

[HB 575,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64805) Professional and Business Licensee may Request a Review of an Occupational Regulation (Rep. Joseph Gullett - R)

Relating to general provisions relative to professions and businesses, so as to provide that a licensee may request a review of an occupational regulation; to provide for definitions; to provide for the procedure by which a licensee may request a review; to provide for duties of an occupational licensing board that receives a request for a review; to establish criteria by which to conduct the review; to provide for a private right of action; to provide for the standard of review. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte

[HB 576,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64806) Prohibit Discrimination for Potential Organ Transplant Recipients due to their Vaccine Status (Rep. Joseph Gullett - R)

Relating to general provisions regarding health, so as to prohibit certain health care providers and facilities from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the vaccine status of the potential recipient. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[SB 157,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64316) Create Preclearance Process for Individuals with Criminal Records Applying to Licensing Boards (Sen. Brian Strickland - R)

Relating to education, food, drugs, and cosmetics, health, insurance, and professions and businesses, respectively, so as to create a preclearance process in the licensing of individuals with criminal records who make an application to or are investigated by certain licensing boards and commissions. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Taken from Table, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Recommitted to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte

[SB 238,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64768) Georgia Healthcare Professionals Data Systems (Sen. Mike Hodges - R)

Relating to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, so as to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System; to provide for definitions; to provide for collaboration with state licensing boards; to provide for a publicly accessible website; to provide for collection of data from state licensing boards; to provide for specified data. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

**Hospitals -- CON (Certificate of Need)**

[HB 606,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64877) Revising Certificate of Need Requirements for Dual-Surgical Ambulatory Surgical Centers. (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

Relating to state health planning and development, so as to revise definitions relative to certificate of need; to revise exemptions from certificate of need requirements; relating to certain dual-specialty ambulatory surgical centers. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[SB 99,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64040) Certificate of Need Exemptions for Acute Care Hospitals in Rural Counties (Sen. Greg Dolezal - R)

Relating to exemptions from certificate of need requirements, so as to provide an exemption for acute care hospitals established in rural counties that meet certain criteria. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Health Cmte

[SB 162,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64324) Eliminate Certificate of Need Requirements for all Health Care Facilities Except Certain Long-Term Care Facilities (Sen. Ben Watson - R)

Relating to health, so as to eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services; to amend Code Section 50-18-70 of the O.C.G.A., relating to legislative intent and definitions relative to open records laws. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

**Hospitals**

[HB 101,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63709) Change Definitions Related to Tax Credits (Rep. Clint Crowe - R)

Relating to income taxes, so as to change certain definitions regarding such taxes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Senate Finance, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules

**Note:** Amended to include a rural hospital tax credit.

[HB 286,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64092) Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act (Rep. Michelle Au - D)

To require a healthcare plan to reimburse for ambulance service provided to a covered person by a nonparticipating ambulance provider; to provide for arbitration; to provide for a covered person's financial responsibilities. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[HB 487,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64565) Expand Punishment for Assault and Battery Offenses upon all Healthcare Workers (Rep. Mark Newton - R)

Relating to assault and battery and related offenses against persons, so as to expand enhanced punishment for aggravated assault and aggravated battery committed upon emergency health workers to all healthcare workers in a hospital or healthcare facility. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute

[HB 558,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64730) Pilot Program for Hospitals to Purchase and Sell Charity Care Credits (Rep. Todd Jones - R)

Relating to the care and protection of indigent and elderly patients, so as to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to conduct a simulated exchange for hospitals to purchase and sell charity care credits to meet their charity care requirements; to provide for definitions; to provide for the design of the simulated exchange; to provide for a report; to provide for penalties for nonparticipation. **Status:** Referred to Special Cmte on Healthcare

[HB 745,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65385) Provide Requirements for Nurse Staff in Hospitals (Rep. Trey Kelley - R)

Relating to regulation and construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, so as to provide requirements for nurse staffing in hospitals; to require a written nurse services staffing plan; to provide for an official nurse services staffing plan; to provide for the establishment of nurse staffing committees; to provide for annual reporting of staffing information to the Department of Community Health; to provide for anonymous reports and investigations of unsafe staffing conditions; to establish an advisory commission. **Status:** Referred to the Health Cmte

[SB 16,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63644) “Georgia EMS Reform Act” (Sen. John Albers - R)

Relating to emergency medical services, so as to amend provisions relative to the Emergency Medical Systems Communications Program administered by the Department of Public Health; to provide for legislative findings, determinations, and declarations; to authorize local entities to establish boundaries for the provision of emergency medical services. **Status**:Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 81,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63959) “Georgia Community Midwife Act” (Sen. Tonya Anderson - D)

relating to professions and businesses, so as to provide for the licensure and regulation of community midwives; to amend Code Section 43-26-12 of the O.C.G.A., relating to exceptions to the operation of the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," so as to provide for an exception relating to the practice of midwifery. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte,

**Insurance**

[HB 63,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63622) Require insurance policies for groups of 20 or more to furnish claims experience (Rep. Noel Williams Jr. - R)

Relating to furnishing claims experience to policyholders, so as to require insurers providing policies for groups of 20 or more to timely furnish claims experience at the request of a group policyholder; to allow such insurers that use other methods to apply to the Commissioner for approval of the use of an alternative form of claims experience reporting. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, House Withdrawn, and Recommitted, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Insurance and Labor Cmte

[HB 279,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64081) To Provide Discount Insurance for Property Owners who build Weather-resistant Properties (Rep. Matthew Gambill – R)

Relating to property insurance, so as to provide for an insurance premium discount or rate reduction for property owners who build a new residential or commercial property or who retrofit an existing residential or commercial property located in this state that better resists tornado, hurricane, or other catastrophic windstorm events; to provide for applicability. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Insurance and Labor Cmte

[HB 294,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64131) Provisions Related to the Administration of Certain Rehabilitation Policies by a Ceding Insurer placed into Liquidation (Rep. Buddy Deloach - R)

Relating to procedure for rehabilitation, so as to provide for the administration of contracts reinsuring life, disability income or long-term care policies or annuities issued by a ceding insurer that has been placed into liquidation; to provide for the Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association to elect to assume the rights and obligations of a ceding insurer; to provide for duties, rights, and obligations of such association, the reinsurer, and the receiver; to provide for time restrictions for certain actions; to provide for mandatory negotiation; to provide for arbitration; to provide for construction. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Referred to Insurance, Life, and Health Subcmte, Passed Subcmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House

[SB 224,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64683) Georgia Citizens’ Life Insurance Bill of Rights (Sen. Marty Harbin - R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for certain protections for life insurance policyholders and beneficiaries; to provide for an owner of a life insurance policy or annuity to have a right to be represented by a local agent when such policy or annuity is sold; to provide for such owner to have a right to be represented by a local agent when such agent does not have a contract with such company; to provide such owner with an annual notice report on such policy or annuity; to provide for enforcement. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

[SB 225,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64684) Unclaimed Life Insurance Benefits Act (Sen. Marty Harbin - R)

To require an insurer to conduct a quarterly search of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' policy locator; to provide for annual reporting to the Commissioner of Insurance. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte

[SB 266,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64918) To provide fiduciary duty to invest retirement assets solely in the financial interests of participants and their beneficiaries ( Sen. Marty Harbin - R)

Relating to retirement and pensions, so as to provide for a fiduciary duty to invest retirement assets solely in the financial interests of participants and their beneficiaries; to provide for duties; to provide for a definition; to revise the minimum and maximum allowable benefit multiplier for current and future retirees of the Public School Employees Retirement System. **Status:** Referred to Senate Retirement Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Taken from Table, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Retirement Cmte

**Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities**

[HB 4,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63472) Create and Maintain Electronic Inpatient Psychiatric Bed Registry (Rep. Sandra Scott - D)

Relating to general provisions related to examination and treatment for mental illness, so as to require the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to create, operate, and maintain an electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HB 41,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63544) Emergency Involuntary Treatment for Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Dependency (Rep. Marvin Lim - D)

Relating to mental health, so as to revise procedures regarding emergency involuntary treatment for mental health and alcohol and drug dependency, to require that certain documents become part of the patient’s clinical record. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte, Hearing Held

[HB 184,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63876) Include a Specific Federal Regulation for Mental Health Parity Requirements (Rep. Marvin Lim - D)

Relating to insurance, so as to include a specific federal regulation under mental health parity requirements. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[HB 520,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64634) Revise Tenant Selection relating to Mental Health (Rep. Todd Jones – R)

Relating to housing authorities, so as to revise provisions relating to tenant selection; to amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 7 of Title 17 of the O.C.G.A., relating to demurrers, motions, and special pleas and exceptions relative to insanity and mental incompetency, so as to repeal provisions relating to proceedings upon a plea of mental incompetency to stand trial which were deemed unconstitutional and enact new provisions relating to the same subject; to amend Title 37 of the O.C.G.A., relating to mental health, so as to provide for the development of state-level guidance to standardize terminology relating to serious mental illness. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Referred to Subcmte, Hearing Held

[HB 913,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66004) Relating to mental health (Rep. Imani Barnes – R)

Relating to mental health, so as to provide for the establishment of a grant program for the purpose of creating emergency psychiatric assessment, treatment, and healing (EmPATH) units in hospitals; to provide for administration of such grant program; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for certification of EmPATH. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[SB 198,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64497) Create Georgians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Innovation Commission (Sen. Sally Harrell - D)

Relating to governing and regulation of mental health, so as to create the Georgians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Innovation Commission; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for members and officers; to provide for meetings, agendas, quorum, and compensation; to provide for the commission's duties and powers; to provide for consultation with subject matter experts designated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Community Health; to provide for subcommittees. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

**Pharmaceuticals**

[HB 343,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64237) “Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Patients Act” (Rep. Mark Newton - R)

Relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to provide for definitions; to require pharmacy benefits managers to calculate defined cost sharing for insureds at the point of sale; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for violations; to provide for limitations; to provide for annual reporting; to provide for confidentiality. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Withdrawn and Recommitted to Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Hearings Held

[HB 546,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64718) Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act (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 tests that have been cleared or approved under a certificate of waiver by the FDA and remove an exemption for COVID-19 tests. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[HR 95,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63871) Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

Resolution to designate the fourth Wednesday in February as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Committee, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Public Health Cmte

[HR 449,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65214) Designating Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day (Rep. Sharon Cooper – R)

A Resolution designating Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day**. Status:** Referred to Public Health, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Public Health Cmte

**Public Health**

[HB 66,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63625) Grant Program for physicians and nurse practitioners (Rep. Mandeisha Thomas - D)

Relating to the Department of Public Health, so as to provide for the establishment of a grant program to provide funding for liability premiums for physicians and nurse practitioners under certain conditions and to provide for eligibility requirements. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HB 69,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63628) Georgia Triple Threat SNAP Act (Rep. Mandisha Thomas - D)

Relating to general provisions for public assistance, so as to provide for a pilot program to provide a monthly supplemental benefit of $75 to certain federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients who have been diagnosed with high glucose, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 143,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63776) Include Continuous Glucose Monitors as a Pharmacy Benefit for Medicaid Recipients (Rep. Danny Mathis - R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to require the Department of Community Health to include continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 191](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63896), Increase Tax Rate on a Pack of Cigarettes (Rep. Ron Stephens - R)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to increase the rate of the tax on each pack of cigarettes; to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Hearing Held,

[HB 192,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63897) Increase tax rate on Consumable Vapor Products (Rep. Ron Stephens - R)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to increase the rate of the tax on consumable vapor products; to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte,

[HB 201,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63906) Authorize Dept. of Public Health to Increase Valvular Heart Disease Awareness (Rep. Kim Schofield – D)

Relating to general provisions regarding health, so as to authorize the Department of Public Health to carry out projects to increase education, awareness, or diagnosis of valvular heart disease and to reduce the incidence of sudden cardiac death caused by valvular heart disease; to provide for priority of projects for target populations; to provide for coordination with other state agencies; to provide for the collection and publishing of data regarding best practices for healthcare providers. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 213,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63950) Require Information to Parents to Students about Meningitis and Flu Vaccines (Rep. Katie Dempsey - R)

Relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, so as to revise provisions relating to required information to parents of students regarding meningococcal meningitis and influenza and their respective vaccines. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte, Withdrawn and Referred to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Withdrawn, and Recommitted to Public Health Cmte

[HB 226,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63980) Medicaid to Cover Treatment for Person living with HIV (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to require the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a demonstration project to provide treatment services under Medicaid to persons in this state living with HIV. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, House Postponed, Withdrawn and Recommitted to Rules Cmte, Withdrawn from Rules and Recommitted to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Public Health Cmte

[HB 235,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63989) To Provide Breast Milk Storage and Breast Feeding for a Delivered Child (Rep. Sandra Scott - D)

Relating to inmate policies, so as to provide for policies for breast milk storage and the breastfeeding of a delivered child; to require the provision of breast pumps by the Department of Public Health; to provide for requirements for prenatal and postpartum care. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Cmte

[HB 266,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64068) Medical Freedom Act (Rep. Charlice Byrd - R)

Relating to control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to repeal the authority of the Department of Public Health and all county boards of health to require persons to submit to vaccinations against or other measures to prevent contagious or infectious diseases. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 287,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64096) Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations Act (Rep. Mandisha Thomas - D)

Relating to standards, labeling, and adulteration of food, so as to provide for the operation of microenterprise food kitchens; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for the issuance of permits; to provide for qualifications for permits; to provide for rules and regulations regarding sanitation, equipment, and maintenance; to provide for inspections; to provide for operating requirements; to provide for fees; to provide for limitations on permits; to provide for statutory construction. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte

[HB 496,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64602) Georgia Prenatal Equal Protection Act (Rep. Emory Dunahoo - R)

Relating to crimes and offenses, so as to provide for an exception for defendant mothers of unborn children. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 521,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64635) Medicaid Coverage of Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing (Rep. Scott Hilton - R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for Medicaid coverage of rapid whole genome sequencing; to define a term; to provide for eligibility criteria; to provide for coverage criteria; to provide for necessary approvals and administrative actions. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 570,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64784) Healthy Food Development Program (Rep. Mike Cameron - R)

Relating to general provisions relative to the Department of Human Services, so as to provide for the establishment of the Healthy Food Development Program; to provide for a short title; to provide definitions; to provide for various benefits; to provide requirements; to provide for a grocery ambassador. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte

[HB 844,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65784) Dietetics Practice Act (Rep. Ginny Ehrhart – R)

Relating to professions and businesses, so as to repeal and reenact Chapter 11A, the "Dietetics Practice Act"; to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB883,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65967) County boards of health to conduct meetings via teleconference (Rep. Devan Seabaugh - R)
Relating to meetings open to the public, so as to authorize county boards of health to conduct meetings via teleconference. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 897,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65986) To repeal authority of DPH and county boards (Rep. Jordan Ridley – R)

Relating to control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to repeal the authority of the Department of Public Health and all county boards of health to require persons to submit to vaccinations against or other measures to prevent contagious or infectious diseases; to repeal authorities and related provisions. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[SB 9,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63567) Kathleen Cominski Act (Sen. Michael Rhett - R)

Relating to emergency response within public offices, so as to require that there is at least one functional automated external defibrillator on site in every state office building at all times for use during emergencies within these spaces. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 22,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63654) Prohibit the sale of, purchase of, and the offering of samples of hemp products to minors (Sen. Kay Kilpatrick - R)

Relating to offenses against public health and morals concerning hemp farming to prohibit the purchase of, sale of, and the offering of samples of hemp products by or to any individual under the age of 18 years old. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Reconsidered, Tabled, Taken from Table and Recommitted to Rules Cmte

[SB 34,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63692) Prohibit food delivery services from committing unfair, unsafe, and unhealthy practices (Sen. Elena Parent - D)

Relating to food service establishments, so as to prohibit a third-party food delivery service from committing unfair, unsafe, and unhealthy practices in this state. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Tabled, Recommitted to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte

[SB 50,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63783) Schools with grades nine through twelve may provide lifeguarding and aquatic safety instruction (Sen. Max Burns - R)

Relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide that local boards of education which operate a school with grades nine through 12 may provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety; to provide for Carnegie unit curriculum credits. **Status:** Referred to Education and Youth Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Education Cmte

[SB 109,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64098) Include Glucose Monitors as Pharmacy Benefit for Medicaid Recipients (Sen. Shelly Echols - R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to require the Department of Community Health to include continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients; to provide for coverage criteria; to provide for certain consultations by treating practitioners. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte**,** Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate

**Note:** Amended to include White-Bagging legislation.

[SB 293,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65177) Operational Policies and Procedures of DPH to apply to local personnel (Sen. Ben Watson - R)

Relating to county boards of health, so as to provide that operational policies and procedures of the Department of Public Health apply to local personnel; to authorize the department to establish health districts; to revise the manner of selection and qualifications of district health directors; to provide for a chief medical officer for a health district under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Cmte

[SB 296,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65241) The Appointment of a State Surgeon General (Sen. Sonya Halpern - D)

Relating to the Department of Public Health, so as to provide for the appointment of a state surgeon general; to provide for qualifications and duties. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

**Taxes**

[HB 162,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63829) [State Income Tax Refund (Rep. Lauren McDonald – R)](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63829)

Income tax; one-time tax credit for taxpayers who filed returns for both 2021 and 2022 taxable years. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules, Passed Senate, Sent to Governor, signed by the Governor Kemp Signed March 14, 2023.

[HB 239,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64003) Tax Credits to Include Aggregate or Mineral Mining Facilities (Rep. Bruce Williamson - R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, exemptions, and credits relative to state income tax, so as to expand the credits allowable for purchases and acquisitions of qualified investment property for manufacturing and telecommunications facilities to include aggregate or mineral mining facilities. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 489,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64590) Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act (Rep. Mitchell Horner - R)

To provide for an aggregate annual limit; to require annual performance audits; to require waiving of taxpayer confidentiality as a condition of the tax credit; to publish certain information in each performance audit; to prohibit the transfer, sale, or assignment of certain tax credits on or after a certain date. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 581,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64811) To Revise Deadlines, Selection Criteria, and Required Contents for Certain Annual Economic Analyses (Rep. Shaw Blackmon - R)

Relating to the economic analysis of certain tax benefits of law or proposed law, and analysis on performance and outcomes of Code Section 33-1-25, so as to revise the deadlines, selection criteria, and required contents for certain annual economic analyses conducted by the Department of Audits and Accounts. **Status:** Referred to Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte

**Transportation**

[HB 307,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64153) Provisions of electricity to propel motor vehicles (Rep. Alan Powell – R)

Public Service Commission; exclude the provision of electricity to propel motor vehicles through electric vehicle charging equipment. **Status:** Referred to Technology and Infrastructure Innovation

[HB 406,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64365) Regulation of electricity for electric vehicles (Rep. Rick Jasperse – R)

Regulation of the provision of certain electricity used as a motor fuel in electric vehicles. **Status:** Referred to Technology & Infrastructure Innovation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Tabled, Recommitted Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte

[HB 617,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64888) Development and Maintenance of a State-Wide Freight and Logistics Implementation Plan (Rep. Jasperse - R)

Relating to highways, bridges, and ferries, so as to provide for the development and maintenance of a state-wide freight and logistics implementation plan; to provide for responsibilities and duties of the Planning Division and director; to provide for standards and considerations for such plan; to require annual reporting to the General Assembly; to provide for legislative intent and declarations; to provide for the creation of a Georgia Freight 2050 Program subject to appropriation by the General Assembly; to provide for purposes of such program; to identify intended funding for such program. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 828,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65684) To provide for the method of selecting the DoT Commissioner (Rep. Jason Ridley – R)

To provide for the selection of the GDoT Commissioner by the General Assembly. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte

[HB 848,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65836) To authorize the enforcement of excess vehicle weight violations Rep. Darlene Taylor – R)

Relating to Motor Carrier Compliance Division and dimensions and weight of vehicles and loads, respectively, so as to authorize the enforcement of excess vehicle weight violations through the use of an automated vehicle weight detection system. **Status:** Referred to Motor Vehicles Cmte

[HR 652,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/65687) Constitutional Amendment to change DoT Comm. selection process. (Rep. Jason Ridley – R)

A Resolution proposing as amendment to the Constitution to change the selection process for the commissioner of transportation. **Status**: Referred to Transportation Cmte

[SB 165,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64332) Provide an Allowable Variance for Weight Limitations upon a Vehicle or Load (Sen. Russ Goodman - R)

Relating to dimensions and weight of vehicles and loads, so as to provide for an allowable variance for weight limitations upon a vehicle or load; to repeal certain exceptions which allow for excess weight for vehicles and loads. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte

[SB 167,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64334) Exclude the provision of electricity to propel motor vehicles (Sen. Randy Robertson - R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to exclude the provision of electricity to propel motor vehicles through electric vehicle charging equipment from the regulatory authority of the Public Service Commission. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte